

Reckonquest — Concept Poster

Print this and pin it up — an at-a-glance map of the Reckonquest cast and the ideas each one carries. Come back to it whenever you want to remember who teaches what.

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Meet the cast — and what each one teaches

Character	What they carry
Reck	Systematic guess-and-check — makes a reckoned guess, checks it, makes the next guess smarter (the pre-algebra bridge)
Lettie	Set up the equation — names the unknowns ('let x = the chickens') and writes the relationships
Retta	Work backwards — starts from the goal and reverses the steps
Kindra	Recognize the schema — spots 'this is a coin problem' before solving (schema-based instruction)
Doodle	Draw a diagram — draws the bar/tape diagram of the relationships
Vetta	Look back / check — substitutes the answer back and asks 'does this make sense?'
Tad	Simplify to a smaller case — solves a tiny version first (2 heads before 100)
Tagg	Track the units — labels every number ('6 = legs, not chickens'), structure over key-words
Genny	Generalize — writes the rule that works for any numbers once the specific riddle is solved
Cass	The scaffold keeper (mentor) — runs understand → plan → execute → look-back and normalizes not knowing the way in

Key ideas at a glance

The big concepts this cast helps you master:

- systematic guess-and-check → 2-variable systems (the chickens-and-cows riddle)

- name the unknowns and write the relationships (let $x = \dots$)
 - schema-based instruction — recognize the problem type and label every number (anti-key-word)
 - draw a bar/tape diagram of the relationships
 - translate 'in N years / N years ago' into equations
 - count + value constraints, unit-labeling (coins, stamps)
 - combined rates — work done per unit time (painters, hoses, machines)
 - weighted averages / concentration mixing
 - start from the goal and reverse the steps
 - solve a tiny version first to see the structure
 - constraint + logical elimination in classic brain-teasers
 - substitute back + reasonableness (the look-back step)
 - write the rule that works for any numbers
 - two equations, two unknowns — substitution and elimination
 - which solving route fits which problem
 - mixed-family review across the whole solving scaffold
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