# Key Features of the Creative Writing Program

## 1. Project Organization

**Hierarchical Story Structure:** The program uses a project tree to organize your novel into Acts, Chapters, and Scenes. This tree appears on the left side of the main window and serves as an outline of your story. You can expand/collapse acts to see their chapters, and expand chapters to view individual scenes. Clicking a scene in the tree opens its content in the editor for writing.

**Adding Acts, Chapters, and Scenes:** You can add new sections to your project via a right-click context menu in the project tree. Right-click in an empty area of the tree (or on the project root) to add a new Act. Right-click an Act to add a Chapter, or right-click a Chapter to add a Scene. A dialog will prompt you to name the new act/chapter/scene, and it will then appear in the tree under the appropriate parent. Acts and Chapters can have a summary (brief description) in place of content, while Scenes hold the actual story text.

**Renaming and Reordering:** To rename any item (Act, Chapter, or Scene), right-click it and choose Rename. The item’s name will become editable in the tree so you can type a new title. You can reorder chapters or scenes within their parents by dragging and dropping them in the tree. This allows you to easily rearrange the structure of your narrative as needed.

**Deleting Sections:** If you need to remove a section, right-click the item and choose Delete. The item will be removed from the project tree (after a confirmation prompt to prevent accidental deletions). Deleting an Act or Chapter will also remove all sub-sections within it, so be careful. The program automatically backs up your project periodically, so if you delete something by mistake, you may be able to recover it from a backup.

**Scene Status Tracking:** Scenes can be marked with a status to track your writing progress. When you right-click a scene in the tree, you’ll find options to label it (for example, “To Do”, “In Progress”, or “Done”). These status labels might be color-coded in the tree, giving you a visual overview of which scenes are completed and which still need work. It’s a handy way to manage your workflow in a large project.

**Using the Project Tree:** The project tree is your navigator and manager for the whole manuscript. You can double-click the project root to edit the project’s title or metadata, and double-click Acts/Chapters to view or edit their summaries. The tree can be resized or hidden as needed, allowing you to focus on the editor. Overall, this hierarchical organization system keeps your entire story structure accessible and editable in one place.

## 2. Compendium & Contextual Writing

**Worldbuilding Compendium:** The program includes a Compendium panel to store world-building details, research notes, character bios, and any background information for your story. You can create categories (like Characters, Locations, History, etc.) and add entries under each category. Each compendium entry has a title and a text body where you can write all the details relevant to that item. This way, all your important reference material stays organized and readily accessible as you write.

**Categories and Entries:** Compendium data is organized into Categories (like Characters, Places, Plot Points) and their Entries. Categories appear as sections in the Compendium panel. For example, you might have a category for “Characters” and within it entries for each character in your novel. This hierarchical arrangement makes it easy to manage a large amount of world-building information without getting lost.

**Adding and Managing Entries:** To create a new compendium entry, right-click on a category in the Compendium panel (or use an “Add Entry” button, if provided) and choose to add a new entry. You’ll be prompted to name the entry, and then you can fill in the details in the entry editor. Similarly, you can add new categories via a right-click in an empty area of the Compendium or an “Add Category” option. Entries are saved as part of your project, and you can edit or expand them anytime.

**Renaming and Deleting Entries/Categories:** You can rename a category or entry by selecting it and pressing F2 (or right-clicking and choosing Rename), just like in the project tree. To delete an entry or category, right-click it and choose Delete (with a confirmation prompt). Deleting a category will remove all entries under it, so ensure you no longer need that information. These actions let you keep your compendium organized and up-to-date as your story evolves.

**Organizing Entries:** The compendium also allows reorganization. You can drag-and-drop entries between categories if a piece of information fits better elsewhere. For example, if you created a character under “Locations” by mistake, you can drag that entry into the “Characters” category. You can likewise reorder categories themselves (though some default ones might be fixed). This flexibility ensures your notes stay structured in a way that makes sense for your project.

**Contextual Writing with the Compendium:** The compendium isn’t just a static reference file; it actively supports your writing process. When you have the Compendium panel open beside your editor, you can easily refer to your notes as you write. This is great for keeping details consistent — for instance, checking a character’s eye color or a city name spelling without breaking your flow to search elsewhere. The panel can be shown or hidden as needed, so you can either have a rich context view or a clean writing screen.

**In-Editor Context:** As you write scenes, you can quickly reference compendium information by hovering over or highlighting certain keywords (like character or place names). If the program recognizes the word as a compendium entry title, it might show a tooltip or allow a quick lookup, displaying key details from that entry. This contextual linking means that your world-building data is always just a click or hover away, integrating your notes directly into the writing experience.

**AI Prompt Integration:** When using AI features (like the workshop chat or prose generation tools), the compendium data can be pulled in to enrich the AI’s responses. For example, if you ask the AI in the workshop to generate dialogue for a specific character, the program could reference that character’s compendium entry to maintain consistent voice or details. In this way, your carefully crafted world-building notes inform the AI, leading to outputs that better fit your established story world.

**In short,** the Compendium acts as your world’s knowledge base, and the program allows you to leverage it both as a reference and as an active part of the writing process. By keeping your story bible within the writing software, you minimize the need to switch contexts, ensuring that all the details of your world are at your fingertips whenever you need them.

## 3. Writing Environment

**Main Editor for Scenes:** The core writing happens in the main editor, a rich text area where you draft and edit your scenes. It supports standard editing capabilities (typing, selecting, deleting text) and is designed for comfort during long writing sessions. The editor uses a proportional font by default (for a book-like feel), but you can change this in settings if you prefer a different look when writing. The background and text colors are chosen for readability, though themes can alter these to your taste.

**Text Formatting Options:** A formatting toolbar is provided above the editor to style your text. Common options like **Bold**, Italic, and Underline are available, as well as bullet/numbered lists, quotes, and alignment options (Align Left, Center, Right) to format paragraphs. There’s also a Font selector and Font size dropdown, so you can change the typeface and size while writing. These controls apply to the selected text or the current typing cursor position in the editor. For example, to italicize a word, you can highlight it and click the Italic button (or use the Ctrl+I shortcut). The editor supports basic formatting, which can make your draft easier to read or mark sections that need attention during revision.

**Scene Editing and Navigation:** The editor is directly tied to the project outline. When you click on a different scene in the project tree, the editor switches to that scene’s content. This makes it easy to jump around in your manuscript. You can also split your writing into multiple scenes for better manageability, and navigate between them quickly. Each scene’s title is displayed above the editor area, so you always know which part of the story you’re working on. Scrolling is smooth, and the software may remember your position in each scene when you switch between them, saving you time.

**Focus Mode (Distraction-Free Writing):** Need to concentrate on writing without any distractions? The program offers a Focus Mode, a full-screen, minimalistic writing view that helps you immerse in your story. In Focus Mode, all panels and toolbars are hidden, and only the text of your current scene is visible on the screen. This mode is perfect for sprint writing or whenever you want to block out everything except the words.

**A4 Page Simulation:** In Focus Mode, your text is centered on the screen in a fixed-width column that resembles an A4 or paperback page. This gives you a more book-like drafting experience, which some writers find motivating. As you type, the text flows as it would on a printed page, and you can see roughly how your pages might look when formatted. This is purely a visual aid (it doesn’t affect the actual formatting of your manuscript), but it can help in envisioning the final product.

**Custom Backgrounds:** The full-screen background can display scenic or calming images of your choice, or just a simple color, to set the mood while you write. You might select a parchment texture for a fantasy novel, or a serene nature photo when writing a calm scene. The idea is to create an environment that inspires you. The program includes a few default background options, and you can also load your own image. The text area will remain opaque enough to be readable atop the background.

**Minimal Interface:** Focus Mode runs the application in a frameless window that covers your entire screen (or desktop). It removes menus, buttons, and other interface elements, leaving just the editor area and perhaps a word count or minimal status bar. You can usually still access basic commands via keyboard shortcuts (for example, Ctrl+S to save, or Ctrl+Z to undo) even if the buttons are hidden. To exit Focus Mode, you might press ESC or a specific shortcut, returning you to the normal interface with all your panels and toolbars.

**AI-Powered Rewrite Feature:** While writing or editing, you might find a sentence or paragraph that isn’t quite working. The AI-powered Rewrite feature can help rephrase or improve selected text. This tool sends the selected passage to an AI (Large Language Model) and suggests an alternative wording that preserves the original meaning but offers a different style or clarity. It’s like having a smart thesaurus or editor at hand to give you fresh versions of your prose.

**How to Use Rewrite:** Simply highlight the portion of text in the editor that you want to improve, then activate the Rewrite command (for example, by clicking a “Rewrite” button or selecting it from an AI menu). A dialog will appear showing your original text and a newly generated rewrite. You can compare them side by side. The AI’s suggestion might simplify complex phrasing, add variety, or just offer a different tone. It’s up to you to decide if the change is helpful.

**Rewrite Dialog:** In the rewrite dialog, you will see your original text displayed along with the AI’s rewritten version. There may be an option to regenerate for a different suggestion if you’re not satisfied with the first one. Once you have a rewrite you like, you can accept it, and the selected text in your scene will be replaced with the improved version. If you don’t like any suggestions, you can cancel and keep your original text unchanged. The dialog ensures that applying the change is intentional and lets you review the AI output before it goes into your manuscript.

**Review and Apply:** You can compare the AI’s rewritten text with your original to make sure the intent and voice are preserved. It’s recommended to read the suggestion carefully—while the AI is good at grammar and variation, you have the final say on style. When you click “Apply” (or equivalent), the tool swaps in the revised text in your scene. You can always undo if needed. Using the Rewrite feature sparingly on sentences that feel awkward or overly verbose can gradually elevate the quality of your writing while still keeping it your own.

**Overall,** the writing environment combines a traditional rich text editor with modern conveniences like Focus Mode and AI assistance. You get the best of both worlds: a familiar writing interface and powerful optional tools that help with editing and concentration. Whether you’re drafting in a quiet space or getting suggestions from the AI, the software’s writing environment adapts to your workflow.

## 4. AI & Prompt Integration

**Configurable AI Prompts:** The program includes AI-assisted writing prompts and tools to help inspire or expand your writing. In a dedicated Prompts window or panel, you’ll find a list of pre-defined creative prompts (like character dialogue ideas, plot twists, setting descriptions, etc.) that you can use or tweak. Each prompt can be sent to the AI to generate text based on it, acting as a springboard for your imagination.

**Prompt Editing:** In the Prompts Window, you’ll see a list of prompts that the AI can use (for example, “Describe the setting in a spooky tone” or “Have two characters discuss their plans”). You’re not limited to the defaults—you can edit these prompts or write your own. This means you have control over what scenario or question you pose to the AI. Once edited, you send the prompt, and the AI will produce a suggestion or passage following that guidance, which you can then refine or incorporate into your story if you like it.

**LLM Provider Configuration:** The AI features can work with different large language model providers (such as OpenAI, etc.), and you can configure which service and model to use. In the settings or preferences, you might find an API key field or a selection of AI engines. By inputting your credentials or selecting a local model, you ensure the AI integration works. The ability to switch providers means you’re not locked into a single AI ecosystem; you can choose one that fits your budget or quality needs.

**Workshop Chat (Brainstorming with AI):** The Workshop Window is like having a chat with a creative assistant. In this mode, you can have an open-ended conversation with the AI to brainstorm ideas, develop your plot, or flesh out characters. It’s presented as a chat interface where you and the AI exchange messages. You might ask questions like “What could be a motive for my villain?” or “Give me five alternatives for this chapter’s ending,” and the AI will respond in the chat.

**Chat Interface:** In the Workshop, the screen is split into two panels: one showing the conversation history and another (or an area at the bottom) where you input your next message. The AI’s replies appear as part of the chat log, similar to a messaging app. This running history allows you to see the context of your discussion. You can scroll up to revisit previous ideas the AI gave, and the continuity helps the AI maintain context over the session.

**Sending Messages:** At the bottom of the chat panel is a text box where you can type your question or prompt. After typing, hit Enter or click a “Send” button to submit it to the AI. Within seconds, the AI’s reply will appear in the chat log. You can have a back-and-forth conversation: for example, if you don’t like an answer, you can clarify or ask the AI to try again with a different angle. The conversation is saved as part of your project’s session, so you can refer back to it later or export it if needed.

**Workshop Prompts and Modes:** At the top of the chat input are possibly some preset modes or styles (like “Brainstorm”, “Character Interview”, “Plot Outline”) that you can select, which influence how the AI responds. Choosing “Character Interview” might prompt the AI to answer as a character in your story, whereas “Brainstorm” might give more out-of-the-box suggestions. These modes help tailor the AI’s creativity to your current task. You can switch modes or just freeform chat as you prefer.

**Contextual AI Assistance:** In the Workshop chat, you also have the option to feed specific context to the AI. For example, you might select a piece of text from your scene and send it to the chat as context before asking a question. The AI will then be aware of that excerpt when formulating its answer. This is useful if you want the AI to continue a scene or mimic a certain style — you give it the relevant paragraphs, and it generates the next part in a consistent manner.

**In-Editor AI Assistance:** Outside of the Workshop chat, the program’s AI features are integrated into the editor for quick assistance. You might have options like “Continue writing this scene” or “Summarize this chapter” accessible via the editor’s context menu or a toolbar. These commands use the AI to perform a single task right in your document. For example, a “Summarize Scene” function could generate a brief summary of the current scene’s content (useful for creating an outline or refreshers).

For example, a Summarize Scene function (perhaps under a menu or button) would take the text of your scene and produce a short synopsis. This can help you quickly get an overview of what happens in that scene, or serve as a starting point for a chapter summary. Such a feature uses the AI in the background but presents the result directly in your writing interface. The Rewrite feature we discussed in the Writing Environment section is another instance of in-editor AI assistance, where the AI provides a specific service (rephrasing text) within your normal workflow.

**In summary,** the program’s AI integration is two-fold: a Workshop for freeform creative dialogue with an AI, and direct in-editor tools for specific tasks. This dual approach means you can either explore ideas in a conversational manner or get on-the-spot writing help, all within the same application. The AI features are optional and under your control — they augment your creativity without overwhelming it.

## 5. Text Analysis Tool

Looking to polish and refine your prose? The **Text Analysis Tool** provides an in-depth review of your writing, highlighting areas that might need improvement. It runs in a dedicated analysis window, examining your text for common issues and offering suggestions to enhance clarity and style.

**Readability & Clarity Analysis:** The tool evaluates the readability of your text, calculating a reading grade level for each sentence and flagging those that may be too complex. By identifying overly long or complicated sentences, it helps you simplify your writing so readers can easily follow your story. Short sentences are also considered – extremely brief sentences might be noted if too many are used in a row, as they can create a choppy flow. Overall, this analysis ensures each sentence in your draft is clear and approachable.

**Language & Style Suggestions:** This feature detects instances of passive voice, weak phrasing, and filler words that can bog down your narrative. It also highlights cases of “telling” instead of “showing,” overused words, and generic verbs. These suggestions point out where you can replace vague or weak language with stronger descriptions, making your writing more vivid and engaging. For example, if you tend to use a non-specific verb like “went” frequently, the tool might flag it so you consider a more precise verb (like “strolled” or “rushed”) depending on context.

**Narrative Balance & Consistency:** Beyond individual sentences, the analysis examines your story’s overall composition. It gauges the balance between dialogue and narration in your scenes and can signal pacing issues (for example, if you have too many short, choppy sentences or overly long paragraphs). It even helps track character voice consistency and clear use of pronouns, ensuring each character’s perspective remains distinct and your storytelling stays cohesive. These broader insights let you see the forest, not just the trees — so you can maintain a well-paced, consistent narrative throughout your manuscript.

## 6. Statistics Window

To get a big-picture view of your project, the program now includes a **Statistics Window** that compiles key metrics about your novel. This feature gives you quantitative insight into your writing, helping you track progress and spot patterns in your manuscript. Whether you’re interested in word counts or stylistic metrics, the Statistics Window provides a convenient overview.

**Word Count Breakdown:** Instantly see how much you’ve written. The Statistics window displays the total word count of your entire project and breaks it down by Act, Chapter, and Scene. You can quickly assess the length of each section, which is especially useful for pacing or meeting word count targets. For instance, if one chapter is significantly longer than others, you’ll spot it right away. This breakdown might be presented in a table or tree format, mirroring your project structure so you can drill down into each part of your story.

**Character & Dialogue Insights:** Gain a better understanding of your story’s characters and dialogue. The statistics panel can show how frequently each major character appears or speaks throughout your manuscript, and it highlights the balance between dialogue and narrative. This helps you see if certain characters dominate the story or if your writing is too dialogue-heavy versus description-heavy. For example, you might discover that a side character has more dialogue lines than your protagonist, which could be a cue to adjust focus. By quantifying character presence and dialogue ratios, you get objective data to complement your intuition about the story.

**Writing Progress & Metrics:** Track your writing progress over time with handy visuals. The Statistics window can chart your word count over days or weeks, giving you a clear view of your productivity and writing streaks. This is great for motivating yourself — you’ll see spikes on days when you wrote a lot, or notice if there were lulls. It also aggregates writing metrics from the Text Analysis tool for the entire project — for example, showing the average reading level of your chapters or the proportion of sentences written in passive voice overall. These metrics let you monitor improvements in your writing style as your work evolves. In addition, the Statistics Window might log how often you use certain features (like the Rewrite or AI prompts), or how many compendium entries you have, further enriching your understanding of your own writing process.

## 7. Customization & Settings

**Themes and Appearance:** To make long writing sessions more comfortable, the software allows you to change its visual theme. In the Options or Settings window, there is an Appearance settings section where you can select a theme from a dropdown list. Themes can dramatically change the program’s color scheme — for example, a Dark theme with light text on a dark background for nighttime writing, or a Sepia theme for a page-like background. You can preview themes and apply the one that best suits your preference. The overall layout remains the same, but colors and fonts adjust instantly, giving the application a fresh look.

**Settings and Preferences:** The Options window contains many settings that let you tailor the software to your needs. You can configure auto-save intervals, default font styles, and whether certain panels (like the Compendium or Statistics) open on startup. Keyboard shortcuts for key actions can often be customized as well, so if you prefer a different key combo for “New Scene” or “Focus Mode,” you can set it up. These preferences ensure that the program can adapt to your workflow, rather than forcing you to adapt to it.

**Auto-Save:** You can enable or disable an auto-save feature, and set how frequently it saves (for instance, every 5 minutes). When enabled, the program will periodically save your work in the background, reducing the risk of data loss if something unexpected happens. There’s usually a status indicator or a last-saved timestamp so you know when the last auto-save occurred. Even with auto-save on, you can still manually save at any time. This feature adds peace of mind during long writing sessions.

**Text-to-Speech (TTS):** There is an option labeled “Read Aloud” or similar in the settings. When activated, the program can read your text out loud using a computer voice. You might select a voice (male/female, different accents) and adjust the speed. This is a useful tool for hearing how your writing sounds — it can help you catch awkward phrasing or errors that you might not notice when reading silently. Listening to your story can also give you a different perspective on the flow and rhythm of your prose.

**Other Preferences:** The Options window likely includes various other preferences, such as whether the software checks for updates automatically, default file paths for backups, or enabling/disabling certain warning dialogs. You might also find settings for the AI integration here, like toggling AI features on/off globally if you prefer not to use them. Every writer is different, so these miscellaneous settings give you control over assorted aspects of the program’s behavior.

**Saving and Loading Settings:** When you click Save in the settings, your preferences are remembered for the next time you launch the program. You can experiment with different fonts or themes, knowing you can always revert to defaults if needed. Some programs also allow you to export your settings (in case you want to share them or transfer to another computer) or import settings from a file. While Writingway doesn’t explicitly mention this, it’s good to know where the settings file is stored in case you want to back it up.

**Theme Manager:** Under the hood, a ThemeManager component handles the details of switching themes. It defines the styles for each theme (colors for background, text, buttons, etc.) and knows which themes are available. When you select a theme, the ThemeManager applies the corresponding style sheet across the whole app’s UI elements. This is why changing the theme is just one click and affects everything. The program includes a set of pre-made themes, but advanced users could theoretically add their own by editing the theme definitions (though the interface doesn’t expose creating new themes directly – you are limited to the provided list from ThemeManager.list\_themes()).

In conclusion, the creative writing program is highly customizable and user-friendly. It provides a robust structure for organizing your manuscript, tools for maintaining a rich world and context, a comfortable writing interface with focus and formatting options, AI helpers that you can tweak and guide, insightful analysis tools and detailed statistics to help you refine your writing and track your progress, and settings to adapt the software to your personal preferences. All these features work together to let you concentrate on crafting your story, while the software supports and enhances your creative process at every step.