PROMPT ENGINEERING FOR AUTHORS

This resource is a way to use tools like ChatGPT or Claude to help you break past writer's block, burnout, or just to experiment. AI has been known to help thousands of authors get past a huge block, whether it be physical, mental, or creative.

Now, ChatGPT can get complicated, and it's not really built specifically for authors, so while these prompts can help, I recommend using a more robust tool built specifically for authors.

Right now, the one I recommend most is Sudowrite, which helps you in a variety of fiction-related tasks, and makes the entire process easy. You can check them out here.

Cheers!

Initial Brainstorming Prompts

Give me [NUMBER] high-concept pitches for a bestselling [GENRE] story with a unique twist, intriguing characters, and gripping emotional stakes.

Give me [NUMBER] ideas for characters that are part of a bestselling [GENRE] story that are well fleshed out, have strengths and weaknesses, and undergo conflict throughout the course of the story. Briefly describe their character arc.

Outlining Prompts

Using the following concept, write a story synopsis for a [GENRE] book:
[PASTE PITCH]

Using the following synopsis, create a detailed summary of the story, fleshing out additional details, and breaking it into parts using the [OUTLINE METHOD OF CHOICE]:

Create a list of potential subplots for the following novel:
[INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Using the following portion of an outline, write a detailed

summary for [NUMBER] chapters of this [GENRE] novel: [INSERT OUTLINE HERE]

Setting Prompts

Generate a list of potential locations for a novel about [INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Create a list of potential weather conditions for a novel about [INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Write a descriptive paragraph about culture and society for a novel about [INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Develop a list of potential technological advancements for a novel about [INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Develop a list of potential magic systems for a novel about [INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Develop a list of potential symbols for a novel about [INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Write a descriptive paragraph about the economy for a society in a novel about [INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Character Prompts

Generate a list of character possibilities for a novel about [BRIEF SUMMARY]

Give them each an element of something unexpected like an unusual hobby, pet peeve, likes/dislikes, etc. that makes their character more interesting. Make sure it is consistent with their character and doesn't clash with the character arc.

Write a character profile about the protagonist/antagonist/mentor of this novel:
[INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Here is what we know so far about this character: [INSERT CURRENT SUMMARY OF CHARACTER]

Include the following elements:
[INSERT DESIRED ELEMENTS HERE]

Write a character profile about the antagonist of this novel: [INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Develop a list of potential conflicts that the main characters will face in a novel about [INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Generate a list of potential characters strengths and character flaws for the main character of a novel about [INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Writing Prompts

Write 1000 words of a chapter using the following details:

Genre: [ENTER GENRE HERE]

Tone: [ENTER TONE HERE]

Point of View: [ENTER POV/TENSE HERE]

Setting: [ENTER SETTING HERE]

Style: [ENTER STYLE HERE]

Key Characters: [ENTER CHARACTER DETAILS HERE]

Summary: [ENTER YOUR ABOVE SUMMARY HERE]

Conflict: [ENTER MAIN SOURCE OF CONFLICT HERE]

Make sure to have plenty of realistic dialogue, and be sure to show don't tell, and use deep point of view.

Given the following scene, write a longer, more detailed version of the scene. The scene must begin and end with the following sentence:

Opening Sentence: [INSERT OPENING SENTENCE]

Closing Sentence: [INSERT CLOSING SENTENCE]

Editing Prompts

Given the following scene, write a stronger hook and

opening paragraph in the style of a best-selling [GENRE] author:

[INSERT SCENE]

Take the following paragraph and add more description of [SCENE/CHARACTER]:

[INSERT PARAGRAPH HERE]

Expand the following text to show more than tell and include more dialogue:

[INSERT PARAGRAPH HERE]

Take the following text and improve the Flesch Reading Ease Score:

[INSERT TEXT HERE]

Proofread the following passage, fixing all grammar errors according to [STYLE GUIDE]:

[INSERT TEXT HERE]

Other Prompts

Create a list of potential titles for a novel about: [INSERT PITCH/THEME]

Please clean up this text from a [GENRE] novel that I dictated. there are many mistakes, including homophones,

typos, and words that just don't make sense in context. Here is the dictated text: [INSERT TEXT HERE]

Write a bestselling book description for a [GENRE] book with the following synopsis:
[INSERT SYNOPSIS]

Write a bestselling book description, improving upon the following book description:
[INSERT YOUR CURRENT DESCRIPTION]
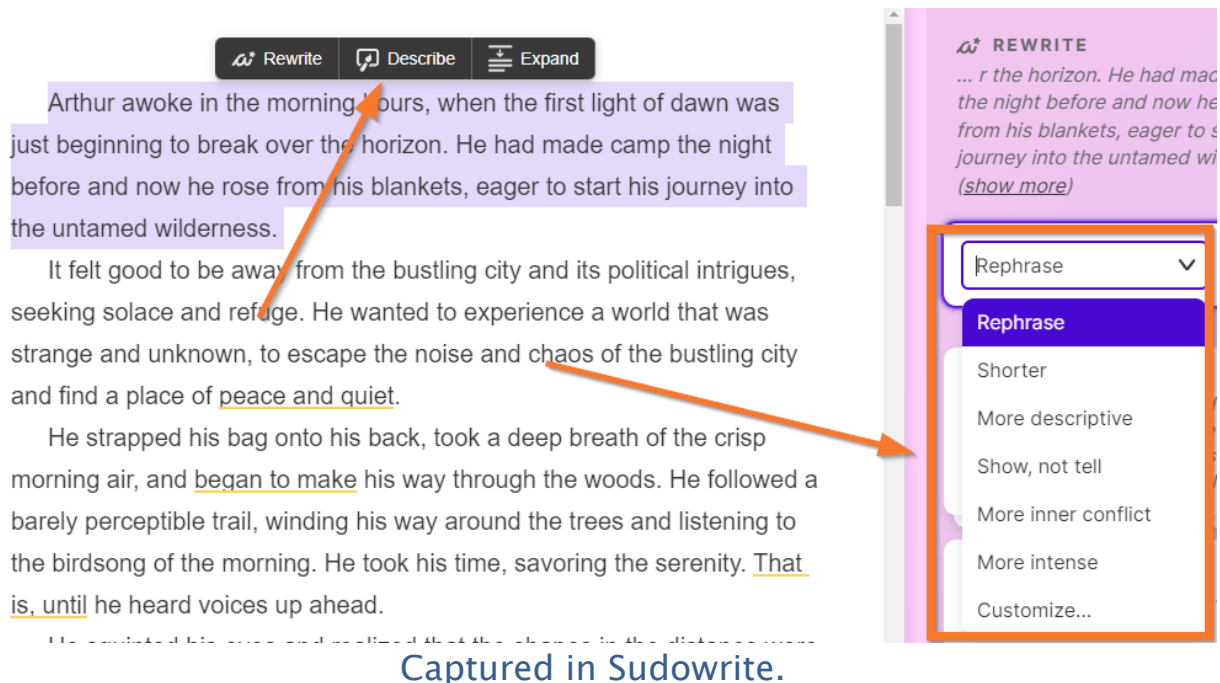
Make the Entire Process Easier!

While these prompts can really help in ChatGPT or Claude, neither model is specifically built for authors.

In fact, they can require a learning curve if you are just starting out using AI.

That's why I recommend using a tool that's specifically built for fiction authors.

Now, I've done a full roundup of the best AI writing tools, but one that I like to recommend for fiction authors specifically is called Sudowrite. It's a tool built just for authors, and is therefore carefully designed to cover tasks that authors often need, like brainstorming, character

creation, and editing (the "Show, not Tell" revision button is my favorite).

Captured in Sudowrite.

Sudowrite is packed with a lot of different features, to the point that I'm sure many of you can find something that works for you, and it's a great way to start experimenting with AI, even if you're still a little on the fence about it.

To help with that, if you use the link below, you can actually get 10,000 words for free when you sign up, meaning you can use those words to experiment further before you even pay for the tool. So check them out if you're interested.

[Check Out Sudowrite Here](#)