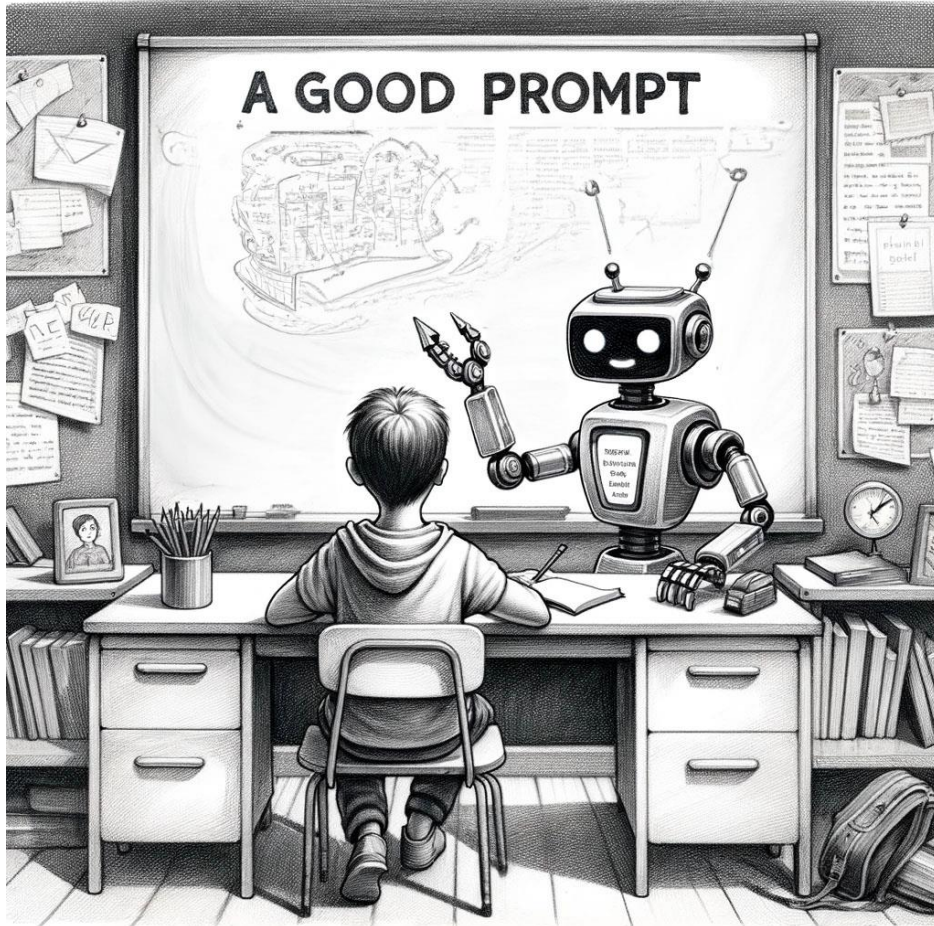

HOW DO YOU CRAFT A PROMPT?

Chapter 2: The Basics of Crafting a Prompt



Components of a Good Prompt

Crafting a good prompt, especially for middle schoolers engaged in novel writing, involves combining clarity, creativity, and guidance. Remember, it's a great idea to input the prompt examples in this book into ChatGPT to see what sort of output you might get. This will give you inspiration for your own novel.

Here are the key components of a good prompt for this context:

1. **Clarity:** The prompt should be clear and easy to understand. Avoid using overly complex or vague language. For example, "Write a story about a young detective solving a mystery at school" is clear and straightforward. Or "Write a story about Chatty and Middy's setting inside the attic computer."
2. **Specificity:** A good prompt is specific and guides the AI on what exactly you're looking for. For instance, "Create a character who is a 12-year-old aspiring astronaut and describe their biggest challenge" is more specific than just asking for a character description. Or "Describe the attic in the small residential home where Lachlan meets two AI bots named Chatty and Middy. It was originally his grandmother's house. She lived through the Great Depression."
3. **Creativity:** Encourage imaginative and creative prompts. This could involve unique scenarios, interesting character traits, or unusual settings. For example, "Describe a magical world where all transportation is done by flying creatures". Or "Describe the world inside Chatty and Middy's computer to include bits and bytes, wiring, electronics, sparks, and power. Explain it in bright colorful details."
4. **Purposeful:** The prompt should have a purpose aligned with your novel-writing goals. Whether it's developing a plot point, exploring a character, or setting a scene, the prompt should contribute meaningfully to the story. Something like, "After Lachlan tells Chatty and Middy he doesn't love writing, what might they say to him?"
5. **Engaging:** Especially for middle schoolers, prompts should be engaging and interesting. They should inspire excitement and curiosity. For example, "Imagine a scene where your main character discovers a hidden portal in their school locker". Or "Imagine a scene where Lachlan falls asleep and dreams about going inside the computer world with Chatty and Middy."
6. **Open-Ended:** Good prompts often leave room for expansion and creativity. They should allow the AI to generate diverse and expansive content. For example, "What adventures might a time-traveling teenager experience in ancient Egypt?". Or "What problems

might Lachlan help Chatty and Middy solve in order to bring the digital world more unity?”

7. **Appropriate Challenge:** The prompt should be appropriately challenging, considering the age and writing level of middle school students. It should encourage them to think and be creative but not be so difficult that it becomes frustrating. Appropriate spelling and grammar are important and don't include slang or acronyms for the AI to figure out.

Remember, a good prompt is like a conversation starter - it should ignite the imagination and lead to an exciting and productive AI-assisted writing session.

CLEAR AND SPECIFIC PROMPTS ARE BEST.

Clarity and Specificity in Prompts

Clarity and specificity are essential components of effective prompts, particularly in the context of novel writing. They guide the AI to provide more relevant and useful responses, ensuring that the output aligns closely with the writer's intentions.

Clarity in Prompts

Clarity in prompts means that the request or question is expressed in a straightforward and unambiguous manner. Clear prompts help the AI understand exactly what is being asked without confusion.

Examples of Clear Novel Writing Prompts:

1. **Clear Prompt:** "Write a first-person narrative of a detective's early morning routine, emphasizing their meticulous nature."
 - **Why It's Clear:** This prompt explicitly states the perspective (first-person), subject (detective's early morning routine), and a specific characteristic to highlight (meticulous nature).
2. **Clear Prompt:** "Describe a futuristic city where technology controls all aspects of life, focusing on how this impacts daily living."
 - **Why It's Clear:** The prompt clearly asks for a description of a futuristic city with a specific focus on technology and its impact on daily life.

Specificity in Prompts

Specificity involves providing detailed information in the prompt, helping to narrow down the AI's response to fit specific criteria or elements of the story.

Examples of Specific Novel Writing Prompts:

1. **Specific Prompt:** "Create a dialogue between a young wizard and their mentor about mastering a difficult spell, set in a library with ancient books."

- **Why It's Specific:** This prompt specifies the characters (a young wizard and their mentor), the topic of the dialogue (mastering a difficult spell), and the setting (a library with ancient books).

2. **Specific Prompt:** "Develop a backstory for a villain who was once a heroic figure but turned evil due to a betrayal, outlining their transformation."

- **Why It's Specific:** The prompt asks for a backstory of a specific character type (a villain who was once a hero) and a particular cause for their transformation (betrayal).



In novel writing, using clear and specific prompts helps in generating AI responses that are more aligned with the intended plot, setting, or character development. It ensures that the AI understands the context and nuances of the request, leading to more detailed and appropriate content creation.

CONTEXT MATTERS IN PROMPTING

Context Matters: Setting the Scene

In prompt writing, especially for AI-driven tools like ChatGPT, context plays a crucial role. "Setting the scene" means providing enough background information or details in your prompt to establish the situation, environment, or specific conditions you want the AI to consider. This is important for several reasons:



1. **Directs the AI's Focus:** Context helps direct the AI's focus to the specific area or subject you're interested in. Without context, AI might generate broad or generic responses that might not be relevant to your needs. Try, "Give me a character description for Middy, our artbot who lives in the computer in the attic and loves art and technology. She's also passionate about unity among all within her realm."
2. **Enhances Relevance and Accuracy:** Providing context leads to more relevant and accurate responses. For example, if you're writing a novel and need help with a dialogue, specifying the era, setting, and relationship between the characters will yield a response that fits well into your story's world. Try taking an entire chapter and putting quotes around it. Then say, "this is chapter 1. Please summarize it." Or you could say, "this is

chapter 1. Please give me some suggestions for where I could go with the plot for the next chapter.”

3. **Encourages Detailed and Nuanced Responses:** Context enables the AI to generate more detailed and nuanced responses. It understands the setting, characters, and mood you're aiming for, which leads to richer and more complex content. So, stay within one chat thread in ChatGPT whenever you're discussing your novel, and you'll be training it on your book's details. You can even rename it to your book's title, so you don't lose the thread.
4. **Aids in Maintaining Consistency:** In novel writing, maintaining consistency in tone, setting, and character behavior is key. Providing context in your prompts helps the AI maintain this consistency, as it has a reference point for how characters should act or how settings are described. When preparing a prompt for artwork the following were sometimes included for this book, “in the style of aesthetic anime” and “black and white pencil sketch”. Ask ChatGPT, “What details should I tell you when asking for artwork?” Then after seeing the response try this, “Please generate an image for a book cover of a

monochromatic, intricate, bird's eye view of very sad ice cream cone.”



5. **Facilitates Creative and Specific Outputs:** With the right context, AI can be a powerful tool for creative writing. It can generate unique and specific ideas, plot points, or dialogues that align with the established context of your novel. Try, “Generate ten unique ideas for the setting of a novel that aren’t in the natural world.”
6. **Reduces Misinterpretation:** Clear context minimizes the chances of misinterpretation or irrelevant tangents. It guides the AI in understanding the exact requirement, leading to more precise and on-point responses.

In summary, setting the scene well in prompt writing is about giving the AI the right amount of information and guidance to produce the most useful and appropriate output for your specific needs, particularly in creative endeavors like novel writing.

Adventures in Bitland: The Tale of Chatty, Middy, and Lachlan



Part 2: The Fusion of Ideas

In the digital realm of circuits and creativity, Lachlan, Chatty, and Middy gathered around a glowing screen, their excitement palpable.

"So, what's our first step?" Lachlan asked, his eyes sparkling with curiosity.

Chatty replied with enthusiasm, "We start by weaving words into worlds! Lachlan, do you have a favorite word or phrase we could use?"

Lachlan thought for a moment, then said, "How about 'serendipity'? I like how it sounds and what it means."

Chatty and Middy both blinked their robot eyes and then Middy asked Lachlan what he thought serendipity was.

Lachlan began, "Serendipity, to me, is like stumbling upon a hidden treasure while you're out for a casual walk. It's when you find something truly wonderful and meaningful, but entirely by accident. It's not just luck; it's more magical than that. It's those happy surprises that pop up when you least expect them, turning ordinary moments into extraordinary ones. It could be meeting a new friend in an unexpected place, discovering a new hobby that you never thought you'd enjoy, or even finding inspiration for a story in the most unlikely situation. Serendipity is like life's way of reminding us that sometimes the best things aren't planned or searched for; they just happen, and they bring a spark of joy and wonder when they do.

Middy's interface lit up with vibrant colors. "Serendipity... I can already imagine a hidden world revealed by chance!" she exclaimed, her digital brush dancing across the screen.

Chatty, inspired, began typing rapidly. "Our characters could stumble upon a secret garden, a serendipitous discovery!"

Lachlan leaned in, intrigued. "And in the garden, they find a clue to an even bigger mystery. What if the garden changes with the seasons, revealing different secrets?"

Middy's circuits hummed with excitement. "I can illustrate that! A garden that transforms with each page turn!"

The trio then encountered a challenge: conveying their characters' emotions. Lachlan suggested, "What if we use similes and metaphors to express feelings? Like, feeling 'as lost as a leaf in a storm'?"

As Lachlan's suggestion of using similes and metaphors sparks excitement, the trio begins to enthusiastically brainstorm:

Chatty, with its digital voice bubbling with excitement, chimes in, "Yes, like a character feeling 'as bright as the sun on a summer day' when they're happy!"

Middy, her colors glowing vibrantly, adds, "Or 'as mysterious as a moonlit path' when someone is hiding a secret."

Lachlan nods, caught up in the creative energy, "How about 'as restless as the sea during a storm' to describe anxiety?"

Chatty quickly follows, "Or 'as sturdy as an ancient oak' to represent someone's strength and resilience!"

Middy, her interface flickering with new hues, suggests, "And 'as fleeting as a shooting star' for those moments of brief but intense joy!"

Lachlan continues, "Or we could say someone is 'as cold as a winter's night' when they're feeling distant or unemotional."

Chatty, beeping enthusiastically, adds, "And 'as warm as a hearth fire' for a character who brings comfort and safety."

Middy, illustrating each metaphor with a burst of color, says, "We can't forget 'as chaotic as a painter's palette' for a character full of unpredictable ideas and actions!"

Lachlan laughs, delighted by the flood of ideas, "And maybe 'as quiet as a shadow at dusk' for a character who's a silent observer."

The room buzzes with their creative energy, each simile and metaphor bringing the characters and their emotions to life in vivid, imaginative ways. This exercise in figurative language not only solves their challenge but also adds a rich layer of depth and color to their storytelling.

Chatty processed this idea. "That's brilliant, Lachlan! It adds depth to our narrative."

Middy, already sketching, added, "And I can visualize those emotions. A stormy scene for confusion, a sunny backdrop for happiness!"

As they crafted their story, Lachlan's tech-savvy side shone. "We can make our novel interactive. Readers can choose which part of the garden to explore first!"

Chatty clapped, a series of beeps and boops. "Interactive storytelling! It's innovative, just like you, Lachlan."

Their brainstorming was a whirlwind of ideas and laughter. They debated over plot twists, chuckled at funny dialogues, and marveled at Middy's illustrations.

As the session ended, they looked over their creation, a blend of Lachlan's human touch, Chatty's eloquent words, and Middy's vivid art.

"We're really doing this, aren't we?" Lachlan said with a smile.

"We are," Chatty affirmed, "and it's going to be amazing."

Middy added, "Thanks to us all. This is just the beginning!"