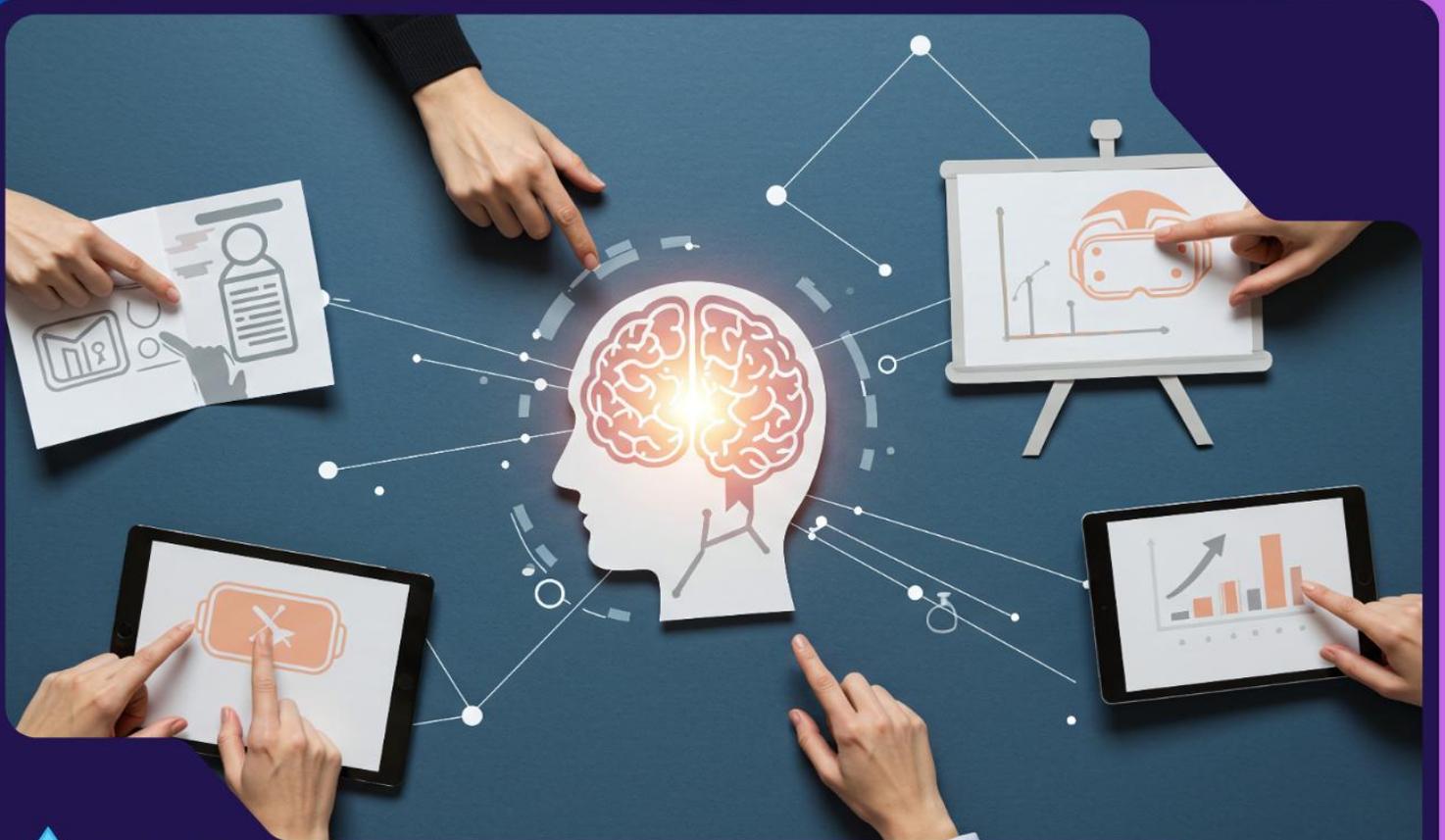


AUTHOR Essentials

AI Creative Brainstorming Guide.



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Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be a great tool to help you come up with ideas for a book. You can ask AI to suggest character traits, settings or possible titles, or to help you explore themes and questions. You will still be the author – the AI is just giving you ideas to shape and develop yourself. This guide shows you how to use AI tools safely and responsibly without risking your work being rejected by publishers.

1. Understanding AI tools

Text-based AI (like ChatGPT)

Text chat models can answer questions, suggest ideas and help you research topics quickly. You can ask them to:

- List settings or plot twists from different cultures.
- Explain how a medieval castle works or what a rainforest looks like.
- Give you a list of unusual names or occupations for characters.

Voice-enabled AI (ChatGPT Voice)

Voice input allows you to speak your question and hear the AI's reply. This can feel more like a conversation and may be easier when brainstorming on the go. Remember to speak clearly and be polite; the AI will respond based on how you ask.

2. Legal and ethical boundaries

Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing (KDP)

Amazon's official content guidelines distinguish between AI-generated and AI-assisted content. AI-generated means the tool wrote the text, drew the images or translated the book. In such cases, you must tell Amazon when you publish on kdp.amazon.com. The rules say:

- You must inform Amazon if your book contains AI-generated text or images kdp.amazon.com.
- AI-assisted content, where you wrote the work yourself and only used AI to edit, refine, brainstorm or check errors, does not need to be disclosed kdp.amazon.com. Brainstorming ideas with ChatGPT falls into this AI-assisted category kdp.amazon.com.
- You are responsible for making sure all AI-generated or AI-assisted material respects copyright and other rights kdp.amazon.com.

Kobo Writing Life

Kobo's rules are stricter. Their help centre states they reserve the right to remove eBooks that contain AI-generated content kobowritinglife.zendesk.com. Their terms of service also explain that Kobo will *not* use your book to train generative AI; they only use algorithms to categorise and promote your book, check suitability and generate keywords or advertising cdn.kobo.com. In short:

- Do not submit a book to Kobo if the text itself is AI-generated kobowritinglife.zendesk.com.
- You can still use AI for brainstorming, editing or marketing ideas, as this is considered AI-assisted.
- Kobo uses AI to tag and recommend your book, but promises not to train generative models on your text cdn.kobo.com.

Ethical use

- Never ask AI to write large sections of your book for you; you must be the author. Use AI to get ideas or facts, then rewrite them in your own words.
- Check facts from reliable sources; AI may make mistakes. If you need historical or scientific accuracy, cross-reference with books, websites or experts.
- Avoid copying other writers' work. AI models can sometimes echo existing texts; always ensure your final story is original.

3. How to brainstorm with AI safely

Here are practical ways to brainstorm while staying within legal and ethical guidelines. Each technique includes an example prompt you could ask an AI like ChatGPT.

4.1 Developing character backstories

AI can help you think about your characters' histories, motivations and quirks. Ask it to:

- Suggest childhood events that shaped your character.
- Propose fears, hobbies or dreams that influence their actions.
- Explain how different cultural backgrounds might affect a person's worldview.

Prompt example:

"I have a 16-year-old protagonist living in a coastal village. Can you suggest three past events that made them distrustful of outsiders?"

Important: Treat these responses as seeds. Choose the ideas that fit your story, then shape them yourself. You can also combine or change them. This ensures the final character is your own creation.

3.2 Creating names and titles

AI can propose catchy titles or unusual character names. Ask it to generate lists based on themes or keywords. For example:

- Prompt: "Give me five book title ideas for a mystery set in an abandoned manor with a time-travel twist."
- Prompt: "Suggest ten-character names inspired by Victorian England for both male and female characters."

Pick what you like and adapt as needed. Make sure the final title is unique by searching online and checking bookstore sites.

3.3 Researching settings and plot elements

You can ask AI to summarise information about places, professions or technologies. This helps you build believable worlds quickly.

- Prompt: “Explain how hot-air balloons work in simple terms.”
- Prompt: “What might a herbalist in ancient China know about plants?”

Use the AI’s answer as a rough introduction, then consult books or reputable websites for accurate details.

3.4 Exploring themes and conflicts

If you have a theme like betrayal or redemption, ask the AI to outline typical conflicts or moral dilemmas. This can inspire subplots and character arcs.

- Prompt: “What internal conflicts might a character face when choosing between loyalty to family and following their own dreams?”
- Prompt: “How does the theme of forgiveness appear in classic literature?”

Again, refine any suggestions to suit your story’s unique perspective.

3.5 Imagining scene ideas

AI can list possible events or twists you could include. Be specific about genre and tone.

- Prompt: “In a sci-fi novel, suggest three surprising ways the main character could discover their own planet is artificial.”
- Prompt: “For a romantic comedy set in a bookshop, propose a cute scenario involving a lost cat.”

4. Real-world examples

Many authors use AI to speed up brainstorming.

For instance:

- An author writing fantasy might ask ChatGPT to brainstorm magical school subjects and then select a few to develop fully.
- A non-fiction writer could request a bullet list of potential chapter headings about mindfulness and choose the most appealing ones.
- A children’s writer might get AI suggestions for silly character names like “Captain Whizzbang” or “Lady Lollipop,” then adapt them.

These uses are AI-assisted because you still curate and write the final content yourself. According to Amazon’s guidelines, such brainstorming does not need to be reported kdp.amazon.com. Kobo’s policies similarly allow your own writing even if you use AI for ideas cdn.kobo.com.

5. Creating visuals

When planning your book, you may want concept art or mood boards. AI image generators can help, but your own creativity is key. Specify the style and elements you want.

Where images help:

- Visualising a fantasy world's landscape, city or costume designs.
- Designing a book cover concept to guide a professional designer.
- Creating a character mood board to capture personality or era.

Image prompt example

For a brainstorming scene, you might use a generative AI to illustrate a young writer brainstorming with technology. Here is a structured prompt you could use:

Role: Digital illustrator.

Instructions: Create a modern, friendly illustration of a teenage writer seated at a desk with an open notebook and a laptop. Floating around are icons representing ideas (lightbulbs, question marks, paper planes). The setting is a cosy bedroom with a bookshelf. The AI assistant is depicted as a soft, glowing chatbot bubble on the screen.

Output: Square image at 1024×1024 pixels with clean lines and bright colours.

Constraints: Include space on the notebook where a user could later add text; avoid showing any brand logos or real people; keep the composition clear without clutter.

Use an AI image tool with this prompt to generate your concept art. Always check the terms of the image tool to ensure you can use the output commercially.

6. Final tips

- **Keep originality:** Use AI only as a helper. You are responsible for crafting your story and its characters.
- **Check guidelines:** Stay updated on publishing platforms' rules; they may change. Amazon requires disclosure of AI-generated content, but not AI-assisted brainstorming kdp.amazon.com. Kobo does not allow AI-generated books and will remove them kobowritinglife.zendesk.com.
- **Cite your sources:** If the AI provides factual information or quotes, verify with real sources and attribute where necessary.
- **Keep improving:** Use AI suggestions as starting points, then develop deeper, more complex ideas. Good stories come from your imagination, experience and hard work.

With these guidelines, you can confidently use tools like ChatGPT to brainstorm while respecting ethical and legal boundaries. Enjoy creating your book!