

APPENDIX G - Best Practice Prompts

A Comprehensive Guide to AI-Assisted Fiction Craft Development

Before each AI Session it is essential that you re-seed the AI's memory with your story bible. IA's do not 'remember' from previous sessions. They only store patterns.

Writer beware. When you make prompt-response based changes in your manuscript, those may change the AI's output from previous prompts. This can trap you into a never ending AI response loop

Best practice is to structure your queries in the order that effectively evaluates YOUR story. Smaller inputs, such as individual chapters, should be conducted prior to asking for an evaluation of a full manuscript.

PART 1: Understanding the Tool

AI Context Window Capabilities

Claude Sonnet 4.5, the preferred AI for fiction writers, and other AIs operate with a limited [200,000 for Claude Sonnet] token context window. In practical terms that consists of:

- **Approximate capacity:** 150,000-170,000 words of plain text
- **Typical novel:** 80,000-100,000 words (well within limits)

- **Multiple documents:** You can upload several short stories, chapters, or reference materials in a single session
- **Persistence:** The context remains active throughout your session but does not carry between separate conversations

Important note: Tokens include both your input (prompts, manuscripts) and the AI's output. Very long responses consume window space. For maximum efficiency with novel-length works, consider focused analyses of specific elements rather than requesting comprehensive critiques of everything at once.

How AI Processes Fiction vs. Other Content

Understanding this distinction helps you craft better prompts:

General content processing (reports, articles, technical writing):

- Focuses on clarity, accuracy, logical structure
- Evaluates against objective standards
- Prioritizes information transfer

Fiction processing (what you're asking for):

- Evaluates emotional resonance and reader experience
- Recognizes genre conventions and expectations
- Analyzes craft choices and their effects
- Considers subtext, implication, and ambiguity as features, not bugs

- Understands that "rules" are conventions to be mastered, then broken purposefully

When you ask AI to evaluate fiction, you're requesting it to simulate a sophisticated reader's experience while applying craft knowledge. The AI doesn't *feel* emotions, but it can recognize patterns that typically evoke them and identify where those patterns succeed or fail.

What Makes Fiction Analysis Different

Fiction analysis requires the AI to operate in multiple modes simultaneously:

1. **Reader simulation:** Tracking the experience of moving through your narrative
2. **Craft analysis:** Identifying technical elements (POV consistency, pacing rhythms, dialogue mechanics)
3. **Genre awareness:** Recognizing conventions and expectations
4. **Cultural context:** Understanding references, implications, and resonances
5. **Emotional mapping:** Tracking intended vs. likely emotional effects

This complexity means your prompts need to be more specific than "Is this good?" The more precisely you define what you're asking for, the more useful the response.

PART 2: Core Prompt Architecture

The Anatomy of an Effective Fiction Prompt

The most effective fiction prompts contain these elements (not all required for every task):

1. CONTEXT SETTING

- What type of work is this? (genre, length, stage of development)
- What's your goal for this piece?
- Who's the intended audience?

2. SPECIFIC FOCUS

- What aspects do you want analyzed?
- What concerns do you have?
- What are you trying to achieve?

3. DEPTH INDICATOR

- Comprehensive critique vs. quick assessment
- Line-level detail vs. big-picture overview
- Examples desired vs. general observations

4. FRAMEWORK REQUEST

- Craft terminology you want used
- Specific methodologies (Save the Cat, Hero's Journey, Three-Act Structure)
- Comparison points (similar works, genre standards)

5. OUTPUT PREFERENCES

- Organization (by element, by severity, chronologically through text)
- Balance of strengths vs. weaknesses
- Actionable suggestions vs. diagnostic only

Essential vs. Optional Elements

Always include:

- What you're submitting (even if obvious from attachment)
- Primary question or focus area
- Desired depth level

Include when relevant:

- Genre and subgenre
- Target audience specifics
- Stage of development (first draft vs. final polish)

- Previous feedback you're responding to
- Specific concerns or problem areas

Optional but often useful:

- Word count or length
- Comp titles (works similar to yours)
- Elements you're intentionally experimenting with
- Areas you're confident about (to skip or minimize)

How Specificity Affects Output Quality

Vague prompt:

"Please review this story."

Result: Generic feedback touching on multiple elements at surface level, likely missing your actual concerns.

Specific prompt:

"This is a 4,500-word science fiction short story in third-person limited POV. I'm concerned the middle section (paragraphs 15-30) loses momentum. Please analyze the pacing in that section specifically: scene/sequel rhythm, sentence length variation, and whether the flashback disrupts forward momentum. I'd like specific examples with paragraph references."

Result: Targeted, detailed analysis of exactly what you need, with concrete examples you can act on.

The principle: Specificity doesn't limit the AI—it focuses its attention on what matters to you. You can always ask follow-up questions to expand scope.

PART 3: Task Specific Prompt Structures

A. MANUSCRIPT CRITIQUE

Deep-Dive Comprehensive Critique

Template:

I'm submitting [LENGTH] [GENRE] [FORMAT - novel/novella/short story] titled "[TITLE]" for comprehensive critique. This is a [DRAFT STAGE - first/second/final] draft.

Target audience: [SPECIFIC AUDIENCE]

Intended effect: [What emotional/intellectual response you're aiming for]

Please provide detailed analysis of:

1. [ELEMENT 1 - e.g., character development and arc]
2. [ELEMENT 2 - e.g., plot structure and pacing]
3. [ELEMENT 3 - e.g., dialogue authenticity]
4. [Additional elements as needed]

For each element:

- Identify specific strengths with examples

- Note weaknesses or missed opportunities with paragraph/page references
- Explain the craft principle at work
- Suggest concrete revision approaches

Pay particular attention to: [YOUR SPECIFIC CONCERNS]

Please organize feedback by story element rather than chronologically, and prioritize issues by impact on reader experience.

Lighter Feedback Request

Template:

Quick assessment needed for [LENGTH] [GENRE] piece titled "[TITLE]".

Main questions:

1. [SPECIFIC QUESTION 1]
2. [SPECIFIC QUESTION 2]
3. [SPECIFIC QUESTION 3]

Brief overview is fine - I'm looking for direction rather than detailed line edits.

B. CRAFT ELEMENT ANALYSIS

Deep-Dive Element Study

Template:

I'm analyzing [SPECIFIC CRAFT ELEMENT] in my [LENGTH] [GENRE] piece "[TITLE]".

Context: [Brief story synopsis if not providing full text]

Specific focus: [PRECISE ASPECT OF THIS ELEMENT]

Please examine:

1. How this element functions throughout the piece
2. Where it succeeds and why (with examples)
3. Where it falters and why (with examples)
4. How it compares to genre conventions
5. Concrete techniques for improvement

I'm particularly interested in: [SPECIFIC CONCERN OR QUESTION]

Lighter Element Check

Template:

Quick check on [ELEMENT] in attached [LENGTH] piece.

Specific question: [ONE FOCUSED QUESTION]

Just need to know if I'm on the right track or if this needs significant rework.

C. CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT WORK

Deep-Dive Character Analysis

Template:

Character analysis for [CHARACTER NAME] in [WORK TITLE].

Background: [Brief character description - role, arc intention, thematic function]

Please analyze:

1. Character consistency - does the character's behavior/speech/thought align with established traits?
2. Character arc - is there clear development from beginning to end? Is it earned?
3. Motivation clarity - are the character's wants/needs/fears clear and compelling?
4. Relatability vs. uniqueness - is this character recognizably human while still distinct?
5. Function in story - does this character serve plot, theme, both, or become extraneous?

Specific concerns: [YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS CHARACTER]

[Optionally: Please compare to [COMPARISON CHARACTER] from [OTHER WORK] in terms of [SPECIFIC ASPECT]

Lighter Character Check

Template:

Quick character question about [CHARACTER] in [LENGTH] [GENRE] piece:

[ONE SPECIFIC QUESTION ABOUT THE CHARACTER]

Context: [Minimal necessary context if not providing full manuscript]

D. PLOT/STRUCTURE EVALUATION

Deep-Dive Structure Analysis

Template:

Plot/structure analysis for [WORK TITLE], [LENGTH] [GENRE].

Story framework: [If using specific structure - Three Act, Hero's Journey, Save the Cat, etc. - identify it; if not, say "organic structure"]

Please evaluate:

1. Story structure - identify major plot points and their placement; do they fall at effective moments?
2. Cause and effect chain - does each event logically lead to the next? Where are the weak links?

3. Subplot integration - do subplots enhance main story or distract? Do they resolve satisfyingly?
4. Tension escalation - does conflict/stake intensity build appropriately or plateau?
5. Pacing distribution - is story time allocated appropriately to setup/conflict/resolution?

Specific concerns: [YOUR STRUCTURAL WORRIES]

[Optional: Please compare structure to [COMPARISON WORK] which uses similar framework]

Lighter Structure Check

Template:

Structure question for [LENGTH] [GENRE] piece:

[SPECIFIC STRUCTURAL QUESTION]

[Minimal context if needed]

E. GENRE CONVENTIONS AND READER EXPECTATIONS

Deep-Dive Genre Analysis

Template:

Genre analysis for [WORK TITLE], [LENGTH] [PRIMARY GENRE] [with SECONDARY GENRE if applicable].

Comp titles: [2-3 published works in similar space]

Please evaluate:

1. Genre signals - does the opening establish genre expectations clearly?
2. Convention adherence - which genre conventions do I honor, which do I subvert, and does each choice work?
3. Audience expectations - based on genre, what will readers expect for [tone/pacing/ending/character types]? Do I deliver or productively frustrate these expectations?
4. Market positioning - based on current genre trends, where does this fit?
5. Cross-genre balance - [if applicable] do I blend genres smoothly or create tonal whiplash?

Specific concerns: [QUESTIONS ABOUT GENRE CHOICES]

Lighter Genre Check

Template:

Quick genre question about [WORK]:

[SPECIFIC QUESTION ABOUT GENRE ELEMENT]

Context: [Minimal necessary context]

F. WORLD-BUILDING COHERENCE

Deep-Dive World-Building Analysis

Template:

World-building analysis for [WORK TITLE], [LENGTH]
[GENRE - particularly relevant for SF/F/Historical].

World type: [Original fantasy world/Alternate history/Future Earth/Historical period/etc.]

Please evaluate:

1. Internal consistency - do the rules of this world remain stable? Where do I violate my own logic?
2. Information delivery - how do I convey world details? Is exposition smooth or intrusive?
3. Necessary vs. gratuitous detail - what world-building serves story/character/theme vs. what's just worldbuilder's indulgence?
4. Immersion - does the world feel lived-in and real? Where does the illusion break?
5. Cultural authenticity - [if applicable] do the social structures, power dynamics, belief systems feel organically developed?

Specific concerns: [YOUR WORLD-BUILDING QUESTIONS]

[Optional: Include separate world-building document if you have detailed notes you want evaluated against manuscript]

Lighter World-Building Check

Template:

Quick world-building question for [WORK]:

[SPECIFIC QUESTION]

Context: [Brief relevant world info]

G. STYLE AND VOICE ASSESSMENT

Deep-Dive Style Analysis

Template:

Style and voice analysis for [WORK TITLE], [LENGTH]
[GENRE].

Intended style: [Describe your stylistic goals -
lyrical/sparse/journalistic/colloquial/elevated/etc.]

Please evaluate:

1. Voice consistency - does the narrative voice remain steady or shift inappropriately?
2. Sentence-level craft - analyze rhythm, syntax variety, word choice precision
3. Style/content alignment - does the prose style support the story's emotional tenor and themes?
4. Distinctive vs. transparent - where does style draw attention to itself (good or bad)? Where does it disappear to serve story?

5. Influence vs. originality - what other writers does this evoke?
Is that intentional? Does my voice emerge clearly?

Specific concerns: [YOUR STYLE QUESTIONS]

[Optional: Compare to [AUTHOR/WORK] if you're consciously
working in that tradition]

Lighter Style Check

Template:

Quick style question for [LENGTH] [GENRE] piece:
[SPECIFIC STYLE QUESTION]

H. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Deep-Dive Comparative Study

Template:

Comparative analysis: My [WORK TITLE] vs. [COMPARISON
WORK(S)]

My work: [Length, genre, brief description]

Comparison work(s): [Title, author, why you chose it/them]

Please compare:

1. [ELEMENT 1] - how does my approach differ? What can I
learn?

2. [ELEMENT 2] - where am I successful in similar ways? Where do I fall short?

3. [ELEMENT 3] - where do I diverge intentionally? Does the divergence work?

I'm not asking you to judge my work as better or worse overall, but to help me understand where I'm succeeding at what I'm attempting and where I can learn from how this other writer solved similar problems.

Specific focus: [PARTICULAR ASPECT YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND]

Lighter Comparative Check

Template:

Quick comparison: my [WORK] vs. [COMP WORK]

Specific question: [ONE FOCUSED COMPARATIVE QUESTION]

PART 4: ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

Iterative Refinement (How to Dig Deeper)

Fiction critique rarely ends with a single exchange. The most valuable insights often emerge through follow-up questions that narrow focus or explore surprising observations. Here's how to structure iterative refinement:

Initial Broad Critique → Follow-up Deep Dives → Implementation Check

Example Progression:

Round 1 - Initial Prompt:

Comprehensive critique of my 8,000-word crime story "Night Deposit", focusing on pacing, character voice, and whether the twist lands effectively.

Round 2 - Following Up on Observations:

You mentioned the protagonist's voice shifts in the confrontation scene (paragraph 47). Can you analyze that scene specifically? I think I might be slipping from his working-class Chicago dialect into my own middle-class Southern patterns. Show me specific lines where this happens and what authentic Chicago working-class speech patterns would sound like in those moments.

Round 3 - Testing Solutions:

I've revised paragraph 47 based on your analysis. Here's the new version [paste revision]. Does this fix the dialect slip while maintaining the emotional intensity? What else needs adjustment?

Round 4 - Broader Application:

Based on what we learned about my dialect consistency problems, scan the full manuscript for other places where I might be slipping out of this character's voice. Don't give me every instance—just flag the three most problematic sections.

Principles for Effective Follow-Up:

1. **Narrow from broad to specific:** Start with comprehensive view, then zoom into problem areas
2. **Test solutions:** Submit revisions for evaluation before moving forward
3. **Apply insights broadly:** Once you understand a pattern in one scene, check if it repeats elsewhere
4. **Know when to stop:** Not every observation requires deep diving. Choose what matters most for your story's success

Avoiding Contamination Between Projects

It is important to keep your own writing style separate from others' work you might submit for evaluation. Here are strategies to maintain that boundary:

Strategy 1: Session Separation

- Use separate conversations for your work vs. others' work
- Don't mix analysis of your manuscript with someone else's in the same session
- If you've been working on someone else's story, start a fresh conversation before submitting your own work

Strategy 2: Explicit Boundaries in Prompts

This manuscript is written by [OTHER AUTHOR NAME], not by me. Please analyze it on its own terms without referencing my writing style, preferences, or previous work we've discussed. Keep this evaluation completely separate from your knowledge of my fiction.

Or conversely:

This is my own work. Please apply your knowledge of my style, preferences, and ongoing projects when analyzing this. You may reference patterns you've observed in my other writing.

Strategy 3: Clear Identification System

Develop a consistent way to identify authorship in your prompts:

- **Your work:** "This is my [length] [genre] story..."
- **Others' work:** "This is a [length] [genre] story by [Name], a member of my writing group..."

Strategy 4: Memory Management

If you notice AI responses referencing your style when analyzing someone else's work (or vice versa), immediately clarify:

You just compared this to techniques I use in my writing. This piece is by [Other Author], not me. Please re-analyze it without reference to my work or style.

Managing Multiple Manuscripts

When you're working on multiple projects simultaneously, these strategies help maintain clarity:

Strategy 1: Conversation Titling

Give each conversation a clear, distinctive title related to the specific project. This helps you return to the right context later.

Strategy 2: Reorientation Prompts

When returning to a manuscript after time away, remind the AI of context:

We previously discussed my novel "Fracture Lines" — the 65,000-word psychological thriller about forensic accountant Sarah Chen. I'm now returning with revisions to Chapter 7 based on your earlier feedback about pacing. Here's the revised chapter. Does this address the issues we identified?

Strategy 3: Project-Specific Reference Documents

For complex projects (novels, series), consider creating a reference document you can upload alongside manuscript sections:

[Project Reference Sheet]

Title: The Mercy of Sparrows

Genre: Literary Mystery

Length: 92,000 words

Structure: Dual timeline (present investigation / past events)

POV: First person present (investigation) / Third person past (historical)

Status: Second draft, focus on timeline convergence issues

Previous feedback themes: Timeline balance, revelation pacing, subplot integration

Current concern: Chapters 15-20 revision based on earlier structural analysis

Strategy 4: Cross-Project Learning

When you discover something valuable while working on one project, you can ask how it applies to others:

In our discussion of "Echo Chamber," we identified that I tend to front-load exposition. Does this pattern appear in my thriller "Pressure Point"? If so, which scenes should I examine?

Getting Consistent Feedback Across Sessions

Since context doesn't persist between conversations, maintaining consistency requires deliberate strategies:

Strategy 1: Bring Forward Key Insights

When starting a new session about a continuing project, summarize previous key findings:

Context: We previously analyzed my novel "Blackwater Station" (SF western, 78,000 words). You identified three main issues:

1. Genre signals mixed in opening—confusing readers
2. Map-magic climax felt forced rather than organic to character
3. Supporting character Diego's arc incomplete

I'm now submitting the revised opening three chapters addressing issue #1. Please evaluate whether the genre fusion is clearer and what remains problematic.

Strategy 2: Request Consistency Checks

In our last session, you noted my protagonist Sarah tends toward passivity in the first act. I've revised those scenes. Please check whether I've overcorrected—is she now implausibly proactive for her established character?

Strategy 3: Build on Previous Analysis

You previously analyzed the pacing in my story "Night Deposit" and found the middle section (paragraphs 20-35) dragged. I've cut 800 words from that section. Please evaluate:

1. Does the pacing improve?
2. Did I cut anything essential?
3. What's the impact on overall story rhythm?

Strategy 4: Reference Specific Previous Recommendations

In our March discussion, you suggested my dialogue would benefit from more subtext and less on-the-nose emotion stating. I've been working on this. Please evaluate this new story specifically for dialogue subtext—am I improving or still stating emotions too directly?

PART 5: COMMON PITFALLS AND SOLUTIONS

Pitfall 1: Asking "Is This Good?"

The Problem: This question is too vague to generate useful feedback. "Good" varies by genre, audience, authorial intent, and dozens of other factors.

The Solution: Ask specific, craft-focused questions:

Don't ask: "Is this story good?"

Do ask: "Does the pacing support the building dread I'm aiming for in this horror story, or does it feel slow?"

Do ask: "Is the protagonist's arc clear and earned, or does her final choice feel unmotivated?"

Do ask: "Does this opening establish genre expectations effectively for adult fantasy readers?"

Pitfall 2: Accepting First-Pass Generic Feedback

The Problem: Without specific prompting, AI may provide surface-level observations that don't help revision.

The Solution: Push for depth and specificity through follow-up:

Initial vague response: "The character development could be stronger."

Your follow-up: "Can you identify specifically which character choices feel unmotivated or inconsistent? Provide paragraph references and explain what's missing."

Your follow-up: "You said 'character development could be stronger.' What specific techniques would strengthen it? Show me an example from the text where character could be developed more fully and how I might revise that passage."

Pitfall 3: Asking About Everything at Once

The Problem: Requesting analysis of plot, character, pacing, dialogue, theme, style, and more in a single prompt often produces superficial coverage of each element.

The Solution: Prioritize and sequence your requests:

Don't ask: "Please analyze plot, character, pacing, dialogue, theme, style, world-building, and POV in my 90,000-word novel."

Do ask: "Please analyze the plot structure and character arcs in my 90,000-word novel. I'll request feedback on other elements in subsequent sessions."

Then, after addressing structural issues, move to other elements:

Follow-up: "Now that we've addressed plot structure, please analyze dialogue authenticity and character voice distinction in the same manuscript."

Pitfall 4: Providing Insufficient Context

The Problem: AI doesn't know your genre, audience, intentions, or constraints unless you specify them.

The Solution: Include context even when it seems obvious to you:

Insufficient: "Here's my story. What do you think?"

Sufficient: "Here's my 5,000-word hard science fiction story intended for Analog magazine's readership (adult SF readers who appreciate technical accuracy). I'm concerned the orbital mechanics explanation in paragraphs 12-15 is either too detailed or not clear enough. Please evaluate whether this exposition works for this specific audience."

Pitfall 5: Treating AI Feedback as Gospel

The Problem: AI provides pattern-based analysis, not creative judgment. It can identify where you deviate from conventions but can't tell you whether that deviation is brilliant or broken.

The Solution: Use AI feedback as one data point among many:

- **Evaluate suggestions against your artistic vision:** Does this recommendation serve your story's goals?

- **Consider your genre and audience:** Is the AI applying general fiction rules to a genre with different conventions?
- **Seek human feedback too:** AI complements but doesn't replace human readers and workshop partners
- **Trust your instincts:** You know your story better than any analytical tool

Example of appropriate skepticism:

AI says: "This ending may frustrate readers because the main conflict isn't resolved."

You consider: "I'm writing literary fiction where ambiguity is valued. However, the AI's concern might indicate I haven't earned this ambiguity—maybe I need to make the thematic resolution clearer even if plot remains open."

Result: You don't add a tidy plot resolution, but you do strengthen the thematic elements that make ambiguity satisfying.

Pitfall 6: Over-Polishing Too Early

The Problem: Requesting detailed line-editing feedback on first-draft material wastes time, since major revisions will change those lines anyway.

The Solution: Match feedback depth to draft stage:

First draft: Focus on structure, character arcs, plot logic, major pacing issues **Second draft:** Add focus on scene-level craft, dialogue effectiveness, consistency **Later drafts:** Request detailed line-level feedback, prose rhythm, style consistency

Pitfall 7: Ignoring Patterns Across Feedback

The Problem: You address each piece of feedback as isolated rather than recognizing underlying patterns.

The Solution: Look for recurring themes in feedback:

If AI notes:

- "Dialogue in paragraph 23 feels expository"
- "Paragraph 47 conversation states emotions directly"
- "Exchange in paragraph 89 sounds like the author explaining theme"

Recognize the pattern: You have a tendency toward on-the-nose dialogue throughout.

Ask the broader question: "I'm noticing a pattern in your feedback about my dialogue being too expository or explicit. Can you scan the full manuscript and identify the three most problematic instances of this tendency? I'll use these as models for self-editing the rest."

Pitfall 8: Forgetting the Human Element

The Problem: Becoming over-reliant on AI feedback and losing connection to human readers' actual responses.

The Solution:

- Use AI for craft analysis and technical feedback

- Use human readers for emotional response and engagement questions
- Test AI suggestions with human readers before committing to major revisions
- Remember that AI can tell you *if* something typically works, not whether it works *for your specific readers*

Pitfall 9: Not Capturing Insights for Later Use

The Problem: Valuable insights from AI analysis get lost when you move to new conversations.

The Solution: Maintain a craft learning document:

[My Ongoing Craft Weaknesses Log]

DIALOGUE:

- Tendency toward expository dialogue in high-emotion scenes
- Need to increase subtext, decrease explicit emotion-stating
- Watch for dropping into my voice instead of character voice under stress

PACING:

- Middle sections tend to sag—need more external conflict to propel
- Scene/sequel ratio skews too heavy on sequel (reflection)
- Cut internal monologue by 30% on second draft

STRUCTURE:

- Strong openings, weak midpoints
- Resolution tends to feel rushed—need to allocate more story time to final act
- Subplot integration needs work—they feel tacked on rather than woven through

This document helps you:

- Apply lessons learned to new projects
- Provide context when starting new AI feedback sessions
- Track your growth as a writer

Pitfall 10: Prompt Overcomplication

The Problem: Creating prompts so detailed and complex that they confuse rather than clarify.

The Solution: Aim for clarity over comprehensiveness:

Overcomplicated: Please analyze my 12,000-word story considering Freytag's pyramid, the Hero's Journey, Save the Cat beat sheet, Dwight Swain's scene/sequel structure, Jack Bickham's scene structure, and also examine whether I'm following Vonnegut's shapes of stories, and also check if my dialogue follows Mamet's principles while also incorporating subtext as described by Linda Seger, and verify my character arc against both flat and change arcs as defined by K.M. Weiland, and...

Clear: Please analyze the structure of my 12,000-word story. I'm most concerned with whether the major plot points land at effective moments and whether tension escalates appropriately. Use whatever structural framework you think best applies."

When in doubt, start simple and add complexity through follow-up questions.

CONCLUSION: USING THESE STRUCTURES EFFECTIVELY

These prompt structures aren't formulas to be rigidly followed—they're frameworks to adapt based on your needs. The key principles underlying all effective fiction prompts:

1. **Clarity:** Say exactly what you want analyzed
2. **Context:** Provide genre, length, intent, audience
3. **Specificity:** Focus on particular elements or concerns
4. **Depth indication:** Signal whether you want comprehensive or targeted feedback
5. **Actionability:** Request concrete examples and revision suggestions, not just observations

As you use these structures, you'll develop your own variations that match your working style. The goal isn't to memorize templates but to understand what makes a prompt effective for fiction analysis.

Remember: AI is a tool for deepening your understanding of craft and identifying patterns in your work. It doesn't replace your

creative judgment, your revision skills, or your human readers. Use it to see your work from new angles, to identify blind spots, and to accelerate your craft learning—but always in service of your own artistic vision.

The most successful use of AI in fiction writing comes from knowing exactly what you want to learn and asking for it precisely. These structures give you the language to do that.

Final Note: As AI capabilities evolve and you work with these tools more extensively, you'll discover which prompt structures work best for your specific needs. Keep notes on what produces the most useful feedback for you. Your most effective prompts will be the ones you refine through practice, adapted to your unique working process and the particular challenges of your fiction.