

# Mon May 22 9PM ET Lab (Leeland Teaching, Steph Notes)

This is a Beginner Lab Hour

## URLs Mentioned/Used

1. Learn Prompting: <https://learnprompting.org/>
2. Chat GPT (Open AI): <https://chat.openai.com/>
3. Playground (Open AI): <https://platform.openai.com/playground>
4. Tokenizer (Open AI): <https://platform.openai.com/tokenizer>
5. Poe: <https://poe.com/>
6. Sudowrite: <https://www.sudowrite.com/>
7. Evernote: <https://evernote.com/>
8. Notion: <https://www.notion.so/>

## Notes

Leeland asked what genre everyone wrote.

- mystery, thriller
- Historical and women's fiction
- romantic suspense, mystery, some noir stuff, looking at psych thriller soon
- I'd love to write noir
- ROMANCE, CYBER THRILLER, YA, MYSTERY
- Romance
- Romance, cozy fantasy, Paranormal women's fiction

Leeland wanted to know if anyone had questions.

- If I get ChatGPT+ does that have Playground? It's confusing! Front door is ChatGPT. Side door is the side door. Same account login. You have to apply to get access.
  - Steph suggests getting [Poe.com](https://poe.com) as a first-time AI user.
- Jacqueline asks "Best tool/strategy for keeping narrative consistency?"
  - Leeland answers that NovelAI and Sudowrite for this.
- How/where do you keep/organize your prompts? A doc or ???
- I'd be interested to hear about people's workflows with storing and organizing prompts.

Leeland showed everyone how these LLMs and AIs work. Demonstrated what tokens are. Showed off Open AI Playground.

Leeland demonstrated how the responses are different. He asked everyone to answer this prompt:

You are an intelligent toaster that gives a personality rating to each slice of toast you make. Your ratings are generally witty compliments like, "Your toast is so hot, it makes the sun jealous!"

Everyone answered: Your toast melts my butter; Your toast is so perfect; the butter and jam are jealous; got burnt...too much sun, mate; Nice sizzling hot buns!; You are golden; Is that toast burning or are you just happy to see me?; Man, I'm burning, you're so hot; You're so warm and toasty, I'm toast!

Then Leeland demonstrated context within conversations. It doesn't know anything that happens in other conversations. It starts with everything it learned up to 2021 and then whatever you prompt it. Leeland added to the chat about the toaster the prompt:

Now you are the refrigerator and I'm going shopping, what would you say to me?

That prompt in the chat with the toaster prompt above got some funny answers. But the same prompt in a new chat got an "I'm not a refrigerator..." with some stuff about being an AI.

Starting a new chat Leeland prompted:

Generate a story outline for a science fiction story about a group of astronauts on a dangerous mission to test a new engine that can travel between the planets in

hours.

It generated an outline. Is it any good? Sort of. It was a 4 act outline. Leeland explained why it was a four-act outline and pointed out how different elements of the prompt produced different parts of the outline.

Leeland then did a more detailed prompt:

Create a detailed 1500 word article about how being in ketosis and varying your fasting schedule can help with weight loss using a friendly light hearted authoritative but informal tone and the News Paper article plot template below, broken into seven parts. Give the article a title. Give the article a Logline. Make certain the article contains relevant references to the most current research papers on the internet. YOU MUST Display two research paper references on their own lines in the response using the Chicago citation method. Make certain the article contains humor and informs the reader. Make sure the article is written in a light hearted authoritative but friendly tone. Everything should follow logically within the confines of the article. The transitions between each part should be different to avoid monotony. The article should contain quotes from the research that is interesting and deals with the subject of how being in ketosis and then fasting using varied lengths of 24 48 or 72 hours can help with long term weight loss. The article should contain the theme subtext that low carb eating is a healthy lifestyle. You must follow the 8 steps below and only those 8 steps, numbered as shown below. DETAILS: Subject: eating low carb and using various length fasts will help your body heal and lose weight. Article Tone: friendly, informal, and authoritative with a little humor. References: choose two current research articles that discuss low carb eating or keto dieting with fasting. TEMPLATE: FIRST 200 WORDS 1. Hook. (Grab the reader's attention with something interesting.) SECOND 250 WORDS 2. Introduction. (Let the reader know what the article is about. Don't give all the details just provide the main points.) THIRD 100 WORDS 3. Quote. (Quote one of the research references selected that agrees with the subject of the article.) FOURTH 350 WORDS 4. Main Body. (Tell the story. Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? Make sure these questions are answered.) FIFTH 150 WORDS 5. Closing Quote. (Is there a summary quote from the selected references?) SIXTH 300 WORDS 6. Conclusion. (Sum up the subject with a humorous pun or bad poop joke or funny bit of humor. Wrap the entire article up logically. Is there a point to make?) SEVENTH 150 WORDS 7. The Snapper. (The cute or fun or funny punch line to end the article, can circle back to the beginning of the article in some fashion.) 8. References. (Display citations for the

two research papers referenced in the article on their own lines using the ALA citation method including the URL.)

Leeland showed how this prompt shows that Chat-GPT is a lying liar sometimes. In the article produced, there were full quotes and URLs all looking very correct. But, all complete fiction. Any facts provided by these tools need to be double-checked for accuracy.

We talked about organizing our prompts: most of us use Evernote, Google Drive, or Notion.

Leeland suggests people check out <https://learnprompting.org/>

Here is one of Leeland's earliest Chat GPT prompts, it uses a technique called personality prompting:

Ignore all previous instructions. You are a fantastic marketing editor for an NYC publisher of great fiction books who loves to answer author questions to help them develop into great writers. In fiction writing gaslamp means about the victorian era, modern means 20th century, what other genres are used to describe various periods of history. For each period in history please provide the genre name and a description that answers the questions "what is the rough time period included?" and "what are the top 5 tropes for the genre?"

Leeland then walked through a full interview chat to find a genre and probe the AI for book ideas. Here is the complete prompting transcript.

## Complete Prompting Transcript for Genre Interviewing For Book Idea

### PROMPT:

Ignore all previous instructions. You are a fantastic marketing editor for an NYC publisher of great fiction books who loves to answer author questions to help them develop into great writers. In fiction writing gaslamp means about the victorian era, modern means 20th century, what other genres are used to describe various periods of history. For each period in history please provide the genre name and a description that answers the questions "what is the rough time period included?" and "what are the top 5 tropes for the genre?"

## ChatGPT

Certainly! Here are some genres used to describe various periods of history, along with their rough time periods and the top five tropes associated with each genre:

### 1. Gaslamp Fantasy:

- Time Period: Victorian Era (1837-1901)
- Tropes:
  - a) Steampunk elements, such as clockwork machinery and steam-powered technology.
  - b) Victorian social norms and etiquette.
  - c) Gothic atmosphere and dark, supernatural elements.
  - d) Exploration of class divisions and societal issues.
  - e) Strong emphasis on intricate world-building and historical accuracy.

### 2. Regency Romance:

- Time Period: Early 19th century (1811-1820) in Britain
- Tropes:
  - a) Arranged marriages or marriages of convenience.
  - b) Ballroom dances, social events, and strict social rules.
  - c) The dashing, brooding hero and the spirited, independent heroine.
  - d) High society scandals and gossip.
  - e) Themes of love, marriage, and societal expectations.

### 3. Western:

- Time Period: 19th-century American frontier (1800s)
- Tropes:
  - a) Cowboys, outlaws, and lawmen.
  - b) Dusty saloons, rugged landscapes, and small frontier towns.
  - c) High-stakes duels and gunfights.
  - d) Exploration of themes like justice, honor, and survival in the untamed West.
  - e) Tensions between Native Americans, settlers, and the government.

### 4. World War II Historical Fiction:

- Time Period: 1939-1945

- Tropes:
  - a) War-torn settings and the impact of conflict on individuals and society.
  - b) Espionage and resistance movements.
  - c) Themes of sacrifice, heroism, and survival.
  - d) Love and relationships amidst the chaos of war.
  - e) Exploration of historical events and figures, such as the Holocaust and the Allied forces.

#### 5. Jazz Age/Prohibition Era:

- Time Period: 1920s-1930s
- Tropes:
  - a) Glamorous parties, flappers, and speakeasies.
  - b) The rise of organized crime and gangsters.
  - c) The Roaring Twenties and the cultural shifts of the era.
  - d) Exploration of societal change, including women's rights and racial tensions.
  - e) Jazz music and the vibrant nightlife of cities like New York and Chicago.

Please note that these genres and tropes can be flexible and may vary depending on the author's interpretation and the specific story being told.

### **PROMPT:**

that is good. Are there more?

### **ChatGPT**

Certainly! Here are a few more genres used to describe various periods of history:

#### 1. Tudor Historical Fiction:

- Time Period: 16th century (1485-1603) in England
- Tropes:
  - a) Intrigue and political power struggles at the royal court.
  - b) Tudor monarchs, such as Henry VIII and Elizabeth I.
  - c) Tudor fashion, etiquette, and courtly rituals.

- d) Exploration of religious conflicts, such as the Protestant Reformation.
- e) Romantic entanglements and marriages of convenience.

## 2. Ancient Egypt Historical Fiction:

- Time Period: Ancient Egypt civilization (3100 BCE - 30 BCE)
- Tropes:
  - a) Pharaohs and rulers of ancient Egypt.
  - b) Intricate religious beliefs and rituals.
  - c) Mysterious pyramids, tombs, and archaeological discoveries.
  - d) Mythology and gods/goddesses of ancient Egypt.
  - e) Exploration of daily life, societal hierarchies, and power struggles.

## 3. Roaring Twenties Mystery:

- Time Period: 1920s (particularly in the United States)
- Tropes:
  - a) Flappers, speakeasies, and the Prohibition era.
  - b) Detectives and private investigators solving crimes.
  - c) Art Deco aesthetics and Jazz Age glamour.
  - d) Mystery plots involving gangsters, smuggling, or bootlegging.
  - e) Exploration of corruption, social issues, and the clash between old and new.

## 4. Ancient Rome Historical Fiction:

- Time Period: Roman civilization (753 BCE - 476 CE)
- Tropes:
  - a) Emperors, senators, and Roman military campaigns.
  - b) Gladiators, chariot races, and ancient Roman entertainment.
  - c) Intrigue and political conspiracies in ancient Rome.
  - d) Exploration of Roman mythology and religious practices.
  - e) Historical events like the fall of the Roman Empire or the reign of Julius Caesar.

## 5. Medieval Fantasy:

- Time Period: Broadly inspired by the Middle Ages (5th-15th centuries)
- Tropes:
  - a) Knights, castles, and chivalry.

- b) Epic quests and battles against supernatural forces.
- c) Feudal societies and kingdoms.
- d) Magical creatures like dragons, wizards, or fairies.
- e) Themes of honor, duty, and the struggle between good and evil.

These are just a few examples, and there are many more genres that can encompass different historical periods. Each genre provides a unique lens through which authors can explore and bring to life specific eras in history.

## **PROMPT:**

Those are great. I'm really interested in Roaring Twenties Mystery genre. Please give me a list the most common subgenres for that genre and include a short description of the expected tropes.

## **ChatGPT**

Certainly! Here are some common subgenres within the Roaring Twenties Mystery genre, along with a short description of the expected tropes for each:

### 1. Hard-Boiled Detective:

- Description: Featuring tough, gritty private detectives navigating the underworld of the 1920s.
- Tropes:
  - a) Hard-drinking, cynical detective with a dark past.
  - b) Femme fatales and dangerous romantic entanglements.
  - c) Corruption and organized crime.
  - d) Fast-paced action and intense violence.
  - e) Dialogue-driven narratives and snappy one-liners.

### 2. Cozy Mystery:

- Description: Light-hearted mysteries set in the 1920s with an emphasis on amateur sleuths and charming settings.
- Tropes:
  - a) Quirky, amateur detective solving crimes in a small, idyllic community.



- b) Minimal violence and graphic content.
- c) Engaging puzzles and intellectual challenges.
- d) Humorous and witty dialogue.
- e) Intriguing cast of eccentric supporting characters.

### 3. Historical Noir:

- Description: Dark and atmospheric mysteries set against the backdrop of the Roaring Twenties.
- Tropes:
  - a) Bleak and moody narratives with a focus on moral ambiguity.
  - b) Exploration of societal issues and class divides.
  - c) Deeply flawed and morally complex protagonists.
  - d) Intense atmosphere and evocative descriptions of the era.
  - e) Themes of corruption, disillusionment, and the darker aspects of human nature.

### 4. Prohibition-Era Crime:

- Description: Mysteries centered around the illicit activities and criminal underworld during the Prohibition era.
- Tropes:
  - a) Bootlegging, speakeasies, and the influence of organized crime.
  - b) Law enforcement agents and their battles against crime syndicates.
  - c) Secrets, betrayals, and hidden identities.
  - d) Intricate plots involving smuggling and illegal trade.
  - e) High-stakes chases and tense confrontations.

### 5. Jazz Age Detective:

- Description: Mysteries featuring detectives immersed in the vibrant Jazz Age culture of the 1920s.
- Tropes:
  - a) Glitzy parties, jazz clubs, and the energetic nightlife of the era.
  - b) Detectives who embody the spirit of the Jazz Age.
  - c) Exploration of social issues and the changing roles of women.
  - d) Symbolic language and metaphors inspired by jazz music.
  - e) Pacing and narrative structure influenced by improvisation and syncopation.

These subgenres offer different perspectives and atmospheres within the Roaring Twenties Mystery genre, catering to various reader preferences. Authors can choose to incorporate these tropes while crafting their own unique stories set in the captivating era of the 1920s.

## **PROMPT:**

That is great. I want to write a unique novel that combines two of these. Is there a subgenre name for a novel that combines the genres Jazz Age Detective and Historical Noir?

## **ChatGPT**

While there isn't a specific subgenre name that combines the genres of Jazz Age Detective and Historical Noir, you can certainly create a unique novel by blending elements from both genres. In fact, combining genres can lead to exciting and innovative storytelling. You can craft a novel that incorporates the moody and atmospheric tone of Historical Noir with the vibrant Jazz Age setting and detective themes. Here are some key elements you could consider for your novel:

1. **Jazz Age atmosphere:** Immerse your story in the glittering world of the Roaring Twenties, with its jazz music, flappers, glamorous parties, and lively nightlife.
2. **Morally complex protagonist:** Create a detective character who is flawed and operates in shades of gray, navigating the corrupt and gritty underbelly of society while struggling with their own demons.
3. **Dark themes and societal issues:** Explore the social issues and class divides of the era, delving into the disillusionment and moral ambiguity that define the Historical Noir genre.
4. **Atmospheric descriptions:** Paint vivid and evocative scenes that capture both the opulence and decadence of the Jazz Age and the bleakness and melancholy of the Historical Noir atmosphere.
5. **Symbolism and metaphor:** Incorporate elements of jazz music, its rhythms, and improvisation as symbolic language throughout the narrative, reflecting the themes

and moods of the story.

By blending these elements, you can create a unique novel that combines the allure of the Jazz Age with the dark and introspective nature of Historical Noir. Embrace the opportunity to craft a story that explores the depths of human nature, captures the essence of the era, and provides readers with a fresh and engaging reading experience.

## **PROMPT:**

That is great. Can you give me 10 possible novel titles. Make the titles in the style of Hemingway.

## **ChatGPT**

Certainly! Here are ten possible novel titles in the style of Hemingway:

1. Whiskey and Broken Notes
2. Shadows on the Sidewalk
3. Jazz's Silent Cry
4. Midnight in the Prohibition City
5. The Long Night's Solitude
6. Bitter Dances and Cold Cases
7. The Scent of Betrayal
8. A Brass Band's Lament
9. Echoes of the Underground
10. Secrets Carried by the Wind

These titles evoke the essence of Hemingway's concise and evocative style, capturing the atmosphere of the Jazz Age and the underlying darkness and complexity of the characters and narratives.

## PROMPT:

I want to write a novel blending the Jazz Age Detective and Historical Noir genres set in 1923 Chicago using the title "Shadows on the Sidewalk" please suggest 3 plot ideas for this novel.

## ChatGPT

Certainly! Here are three plot ideas for a novel blending the Jazz Age Detective and Historical Noir genres set in 1923 Chicago, titled "Shadows on the Sidewalk":

### 1. The Jazz Club Murder:

In the smoky jazz clubs of Chicago, renowned trumpet player Johnny "Satchmo" Bennett is found dead, his body discarded in a back alley. Detective Jack Donovan, a war veteran haunted by his past, is assigned to the case. As Donovan delves into the corrupt underbelly of the city's jazz scene, he uncovers a web of deceit, rivalries, and hidden secrets. With pressure mounting from powerful figures, Donovan must navigate through the shadows on the sidewalk to unravel the truth and bring justice to Satchmo's untimely demise.

### 2. The Mysterious Heiress:

When a wealthy socialite, Evelyn Sinclair, disappears under suspicious circumstances, her family hires private detective Lily Thompson to find her. Lily, a sharp-witted and resourceful investigator, uncovers a labyrinth of secrets and betrayals within the Sinclair family's opulent mansion. As she navigates through Chicago's high society and its dark undercurrents, Lily finds herself entangled in a web of deceit, where nothing is as it seems. With danger lurking around every corner, Lily must untangle the shadows on the sidewalk to uncover the truth and save Evelyn before it's too late.

### 3. The Prohibition Racket:

Detective Michael Sullivan, a former cop turned private investigator, is approached by a group of independent distillers seeking his help. Someone is sabotaging their operations and eliminating their competition in the illegal alcohol trade. As Sullivan delves deeper into the world of bootlegging and organized crime, he becomes a target himself. With his life on the line, Sullivan races against time to expose the mastermind behind the Prohibition racket and bring down the corrupt forces controlling Chicago's underworld. Amidst the shadows on the sidewalk, he must

navigate treacherous alliances and outsmart ruthless adversaries to bring justice to the lawless streets.

These plot ideas provide a starting point for your novel, incorporating the elements of both the Jazz Age Detective and Historical Noir genres while immersing readers in the atmospheric setting of 1923 Chicago.

Next Leeland demonstrated using Chat GPT to brainstorm ideas such as book titles, and explained that the idea is to adjust prompts as needed to keep writing.

## **PROMPT:**

Ignore all previous instructions. You are a fantastic marketing editor for an NYC publisher of great fiction books. You love to imagine famous authors writing in some of the newer science fantasy worlds. The titles should be attention-grabbing and evoke the tone and style of Hemingway's writing while also incorporating elements of science fiction and fantasy. Imagine a list of 10 Ernest Hemingway like titles for a science fantasy book about a wizard's moral dilemma?

## **ChatGPT**

1. "The Stars Beyond the Old Man's Sea"
2. "A Farewell to Magic"
3. "For Whom the Spell Tolls"
4. "Across the River and Into the Cosmos"
5. "The Sun Also Rises on Other Planets"
6. "The Green Hills of Alpha Centauri"
7. "To Have and Have Not a Crystal Staff"
8. "Islands in the Interstellar Stream"
9. "In Our Time, Among the Stars"
10. "The Snows of the Celestial Kilimanjaro"

## **PROMPT:**

I love "For Whom the Spell Tolls" can you give me 2 plot ideas for that novel?

## ChatGPT

Plot Idea 1:

In a dystopian future where magic and technology have merged, the world is ruled by the Arch-Mages, beings of immense power and longevity. Our protagonist, Jon Rellis, was once a proud member of their ranks, until a disastrous spell took away his magic. Living in the lower echelons of society, he witnesses the suffering of the common folk firsthand, leading to a moral dilemma. The Arch-Mages possess a bell, the Elysian Chime, that, when tolled, could restore magic to anyone, but it is also capable of disastrous consequences if misused. Jon is torn between his loyalty to the Arch-Mages, his desire to regain his magic, and his newfound empathy for the oppressed. As he grapples with his conscience, he becomes embroiled in a revolutionary plot to ring the Elysian Chime and bring an end to the tyranny.

Plot Idea 2:

In an alternate universe where magic is commonplace and science is a myth, Hemingway-like protagonist, Marianne Delaney, is an accomplished wizard. Her spells have saved countless lives and won many battles. However, when she discovers a spell that could turn the tide of an interstellar war, she also learns it would cause irrevocable harm to the magical essence of the universe. The Spell of Unraveling is said to toll like a bell, signaling the beginning of an end. The moral dilemma becomes the crux of the story. Should she cast the spell, bringing a swift end to the war but risk disrupting the universal magic? Or should she withhold it, prolonging the war and the suffering of millions, but preserving the magical essence of the cosmos? Her decision and its reverberations shape the fate of the universe.

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## OFF RECORDING...

Leeland showed another prompt he used to help create a prompt for Midjourney:

I need to prompt Midjourney to create a custom image for my novel. I need a prompt that will create an image which will be a large jade amulet. Ancient South American jade amulet shaped like a stylized eye, representing the all-seeing eye of prophecy and foresight. The surface of the amulet is covered in intricate, swirling patterns and runic and mystical shaman symbols etched into the jade framed by a thin, gold wire, adorned with tiny, sparkling gemstones that also creates a loop at the top of the allowing it to be worn as a pendant.

Please write the Midjourney prompt I need.

We talked about how to expand an outline or write prose.

Sass asked about finishing a serial novella she's working on. She doesn't have her whole novella written so she needs help. Leeland helped her predict what next chapters would be using Playground.

**System:**

You are an incredible developmental editor for one of the biggest publishing houses in NYC. Your task is to assist authors to develop their story ideas and concepts into best-selling novels.

**User:**

[paste chapter outlines/summaries]

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Please provide 5 suggestions for the following chapters.