



# Choosing Your Writing Toolkit

## A Free Checklist from AI for Authors Circle

Use this checklist to work out which combination of tools suits your writing workflow. Tick the boxes that apply, then match your answers to the recommended setups at the end.

### Section 1: Your Writing Style

- I like to plan and plot before I write (Plotter)
- I prefer to write by the seat of my pants and discover the story as I go (Pantser)
- I do a bit of both — a loose plan but flexibility to change direction (Plantser)
- I write non-fiction (guides, memoirs, how-to books)
- I write fiction (novels, novellas, short stories)
- I write in multiple genres or formats

### Section 2: Must-Have Features

#### Writing and Drafting

- Distraction-free writing mode
- Chapter and scene organisation
- Cloud sync (access from any device)
- Offline access (write without internet)
- Word count targets and progress tracking

#### Planning and Plotting

- Visual story arc mapping
- Character profile cards
- Worldbuilding tools (maps, timelines, systems)
- Story structure templates (Hero's Journey, Save the Cat, etc.)



- Scene cards or corkboard view

### **Editing and Feedback**

- Grammar and spelling checks
- Style and readability analysis
- Pacing and repetition feedback
- Track changes / editor collaboration
- Beta reader sharing

### **Formatting and Publishing**

- Ebook formatting (EPUB)
- Print formatting (PDF)
- Live formatting preview
- Export for Amazon KDP
- Export for IngramSpark / wide distribution
- Professional-looking chapter headings and drop caps

### **AI Assistance**

- AI brainstorming and idea generation
- AI scene expansion or description help
- AI research assistance
- AI outlining and structure suggestions
- I prefer NO AI features in my writing tool

### **Section 3: Your Budget**

- Free tools only — I am just starting out
- Small budget — under £50 one-time or under £10/month
- Moderate budget — up to £150 one-time or up to £20/month



- Flexible budget — I will invest in the right tools

#### **Section 4: Your Platforms**

- Windows PC or laptop
- Mac (desktop or laptop)
- Chromebook
- Linux
- iPad or iPhone
- Android tablet or phone
- I want to write from any browser on any device

#### **Section 5: Your Publishing Goals**

- Ebook only
- Print only
- Both ebook and print
- Amazon KDP exclusively
- Wide distribution (IngramSpark, Kobo, Apple Books, etc.)
- I am not sure yet

#### **Section 6: Your AI Stance**

- I do not want AI involved in my writing process at all
- I am happy to use AI for brainstorming and idea generation only
- I would use AI for research, fact-checking, and worldbuilding support
- I would use AI for editing feedback and style improvement
- I am open to AI-assisted scene writing, used lightly and ethically
- I want to learn more about ethical AI use before deciding



## Recommended Setups

Match your answers above to one of these suggested combinations:

### **The All-in-One Author (Best for Most Authors)**

#### **Atticus + ProWritingAid**

You want to write, format, and publish from one tool, with strong editing support. No subscriptions on the core writing tool. Works on every platform.

Total cost: ~£117 one-time (Atticus) + ~£70/year or ~£350 lifetime (ProWritingAid)

### **The Plotter's Dream**

#### **Atticus + Plottr + ProWritingAid**

You plan everything before you write. You want visual story arcs, scene organisation, and character tracking alongside your writing and formatting tool.

Add Plottr to the setup above for visual plotting.

### **The Worldbuilder**

#### **Atticus + Campfire Writing + ProWritingAid**

You write fantasy, sci-fi, or complex fiction with detailed worlds. Campfire's modular system lets you build characters, maps, timelines, magic systems, and more.

Add Campfire modules as needed (from ~£1.60/month per module, or lifetime options available).

### **The Ethical AI Author**

#### **Atticus + Claude or ChatGPT + ProWritingAid**

You want AI support for brainstorming, research, and overcoming creative blocks, but you keep your voice and creative decisions firmly in your own hands.

AI tools: Free tiers available, or subscription for advanced features.

### **The Budget Author**

#### **Google Docs or Reedsy Studio + ProWritingAid (free tier)**

You are just starting out and need free tools. Total cost: Free.

Upgrade path: Move to Atticus when you are ready to invest.



## The Fiction Experimenter

### Atticus + Sudowrite + ProWritingAid

You write fiction and want light AI assistance for brainstorming and scene expansion. Use Sudowrite carefully and ethically.

Add Sudowrite: from ~£15/month.

### Your Personal Toolkit

Based on your answers, write down your chosen setup:

**Writing and Drafting:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Planning and Plotting:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Editing and Feedback:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Formatting and Publishing:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AI Assistance (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Estimated Total Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Ethical AI Reminders

Before using any AI tool in your writing process, remember:

1. AI is a tool, not an author. Your voice, your craft, and your creative decisions make your book worth reading.
2. Always review, edit, and curate AI-generated content. Never publish unedited AI output.
3. Be transparent with readers about your use of AI in your creative process.
4. Use AI for support tasks: brainstorming, research, overcoming blocks, worldbuilding, accessibility.
5. Follow industry guidelines such as ALLi's five principles: Clarity, Consent, Compensation, Curiosity, and Creativity.
6. Check platform requirements. Amazon KDP requires disclosure of AI-generated content.

*This checklist is provided free by AI for Authors Circle. Join our community for ethical AI techniques, writing tutorials, and author support at [www.aiforauthorscircle.com](http://www.aiforauthorscircle.com)*