

# Vibe Writing: Bridging Traditional Literary Craft and AI-Assisted Creativity – Parallels with Karpathy’s “Vibe Coding” Paradigm

## Abstract:

Vibe writing refers to a creative writing approach that foregrounds mood, atmosphere, and emotional tone (“vibe”) as the primary drivers of a text’s impact. This report explores vibe writing in two contexts: (1) the traditional literary sense of consciously crafting a piece to evoke a specific feeling in readers, and (2) the emerging AI-assisted paradigm where writers collaborate with large language models (LLMs) to achieve a desired vibe. We draw direct parallels to vibe coding, a term introduced by Andrej Karpathy to describe a new AI-driven programming workflow. Vibe coding entails using conversational prompting and iterative refinement with AI to “code by feel,” letting the machine handle implementation details (Willison, 2025). By analogy, AI-assisted vibe writing allows authors to “write by feel,” using natural language prompts and feedback loops to have AI generate and refine prose. We define vibe writing in both contexts and define Karpathy’s vibe coding concept, then examine how core principles of vibe coding—conversational prompting, iterative refinement, scaffolding, emotional feedback, use of AI personas, etc.—are adapted in AI-assisted writing workflows. Detailed examples of writer–LLM interactions are provided, illustrating both strong and weak approaches to prompting for a target vibe. We include diagrams and tables comparing major LLM-based writing tools (ChatGPT, Claude, Sudowrite, NovelAI, etc.), analyzing their support for vibe-centric writing. Benefits (speed, creativity, overcoming writer’s block, consistency of tone) and limitations (quality control, coherence challenges, ethical concerns) of AI-assisted vibe writing are discussed. Key ethical issues such as originality, authorship, and bias are examined in depth. Finally, we consider future trajectories for vibe writing, noting that potential innovations are explored further in Appendix A. The target audience of AI researchers, creative writers, and industry professionals is provided a comprehensive, academic-style overview of vibe writing’s evolution, current practices, and outlook, framed by the rise of vibe coding.

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## 1. Introduction

In both software development and creative writing, the notion of working “by vibe” has recently gained traction as AI technologies enable more intuitive, high-level workflows. Vibe coding is a neologism coined in early 2025 by computer scientist Andrej Karpathy to describe coding with the help of AI in a conversational, almost visceral manner (Willison, 2025). Instead of manually writing and debugging every line of code, a developer “gives in to the vibes”—verbally describing desired features or changes, accepting AI-generated code suggestions, and iteratively refining the program by interacting with an AI assistant (Willison, 2025). The programmer in this paradigm focuses on what the code should feel or behave like, rather than the low-level how, effectively treating English descriptions as the new source code (Business Insider, 2025; Wikipedia, 2025). This radical approach, though unconventional, has

been made possible by advanced large language models capable of generating substantial code from natural language. It emphasizes speed, exploration, and an almost artistic flow in coding, albeit with acknowledged trade-offs in rigor (Willison, 2025).

Analogous ideas are now permeating creative fields. In writing, authors and technologists have begun asking: can we write by vibe the way Karpathy suggests we code by vibe? The term vibe writing has started appearing in discussions of generative AI and creativity (Ask Perplexity, 2025), extending the ethos of vibe coding to narrative, poetry, and other text domains. Broadly construed, vibe writing in an AI context means leveraging AI co-writers such that the human writer’s primary concern is shaping the atmosphere, tone, and emotional resonance of the piece, rather than crafting each sentence manually. The writer provides conversational prompts, feedback, and guidance about the vibe—for example, “Make this scene more nostalgic” or “The overall tone should feel eerie yet whimsical”—and the AI does the heavy lifting of producing and modifying the prose to match those vibe-oriented directives.

Crucially, the concept of vibe writing also has roots in traditional literary practice. Long before AI, skilled authors have aimed to imbue their works with a distinctive mood or vibe that deeply connects with readers. Phrases like “no plot, just vibes” have entered the popular lexicon to describe stories or novels that are light on action but heavy on atmosphere and feeling (McMichael, 2023). In 2023, for instance, ELLE magazine noted the rise of “no plot, just vibes” novels and how they give authors space to play with mood and voice, offering readers an immersive emotional experience even in the absence of intricate plot mechanics (McMichael, 2023). Clearly, the vibe of a written work—its emotional coloring and ambient feel—has always been a key part of storytelling. What’s new in the 2020s is the advent of AI tools that can actively assist in creating and maintaining that vibe through the writing process.

This report explores vibe writing from these two perspectives—the traditional literary approach and the AI-assisted approach—and draws parallels to Karpathy’s vibe coding framework. In Section 2, we define vibe writing in the classical sense, reviewing how writers establish mood and atmosphere in text and why this is central to reader engagement. Section 3 introduces vibe coding as defined by Karpathy, detailing its principles and how it shifts the human role in programming. Building on those foundations, Section 4 formally defines AI-assisted vibe writing and examines how the core principles of vibe coding are adapted to creative writing. We break down key elements like conversational prompting, iterative refinement, scaffolding via outlines, “emotional error correction” (i.e., adjusting output when the tone is off), and the use of AI personas or style presets, explaining each with examples. In Section 5, we provide illustrative examples of an author interacting with an LLM in a vibe-writing workflow, including sample prompts and AI outputs. Both successful (strong) and less successful (weak) interactions are shown to highlight best practices.

We then survey the landscape of AI writing tools in Section 6, comparing major platforms and models in terms of their capabilities for vibe-centric writing. A comparative table summarizes attributes of general LLM-based services (e.g., OpenAI’s ChatGPT, Anthropic’s Claude, Google’s Bard) versus specialized creative writing tools (e.g., Sudowrite, NovelAI, Jasper) and open-source models. We analyze how these tools support iterative prompting, tone control, and long-form consistency, citing recent evaluations where available. In Section 7, the discussion turns to the benefits and opportunities of AI-assisted vibe writing. We consider how this approach can enhance productivity and creativity,

democratize writing for those with ideas but lacking polished writing skills, and enable new forms of interactive storytelling. Conversely, Section 8 details the limitations and challenges: from maintaining coherence and emotional consistency in AI-generated text (Zhu et al., 2024), to the necessity of human oversight to avoid generic or incorrect outputs, to the current technical limitations of LLMs (context length, tendency to digress, etc.). We pay special attention to the emotional consistency challenge—ensuring an AI-written piece doesn’t unintentionally drift in tone or betray the established mood, which is analogous to a known issue in long-form AI story generation (Zhu et al., 2024).

Ethical and societal considerations are addressed in Section 9. We discuss intellectual property questions (e.g., the Authors Guild lawsuit against OpenAI over training on copyrighted novels (Molony, 2025)), authorship and attribution debates (e.g., the Writers Guild of America’s stance that AI cannot be credited as an author of a screenplay (Guardian News, 2023)), and concerns about bias, originality, and the authenticity of vibe when using AI. We also note historical precedents—such as authors’ skepticism of word processors in the 1980s (Molony, 2025)—to contextualize the current discourse on AI in writing. In Section 10, we look ahead to future trajectories of vibe writing, with specific innovative ideas reserved for Appendix A. An appendix at the end provides additional concepts for consideration.

Overall, our aim is to provide a comprehensive, structured examination of vibe writing in theory and practice, marrying insights from literary theory, AI prompt engineering, and user experience research. By drawing explicit parallels with vibe coding, we highlight how lessons from AI-assisted programming can inform AI-assisted writing. The report is written in an academic yet accessible style, with citations to current literature and industry examples, to serve both researchers and practitioners interested in the evolving relationship between human creativity, emotional expression, and artificial intelligence.

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## 2. Vibe Writing in Literary Tradition

Long before the emergence of AI assistants, authors have been deliberately crafting the vibe of their works—that is, the prevailing atmosphere, emotional tone, and affective undercurrent that a reader experiences. In literary studies, this relates to concepts of mood, tone, and ambience in a text. Effective storytelling often transcends conveying a sequence of events (plot) and instead immerses the reader in a particular feeling. Recent cultural discourse encapsulates this idea with the popular phrase “no plot, just vibes,” celebrating works where the richness of character feeling and setting atmosphere outweighs dramatic story turns (McMichael, 2023). Examples include character-driven contemporary novels focusing on introspection and milieu, which BookTok (the TikTok community of readers) has championed as “vibes-centric” reading experiences (McMichael, 2023). Even classic literature like Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway* or J.D. Salinger’s *Franny and Zooey* has been re-appraised through this lens as being “light on plot but heavy on vibes” (McMichael, 2023)—meaning their enduring appeal lies in the moods and existential textures they evoke.

What do we mean by the vibe of a piece of writing in traditional terms? Rob Tyrie (2025) describes it as the “specific feeling, atmosphere, or emotional resonance” that writing can establish in a reader

(Tyrie, 2025). In practice, vibe-centric writing involves a conscious effort by the author to connect with readers on an affective level, creating an immersive emotional landscape rather than just transmitting information or story events (Tyrie, 2025). Several literary techniques contribute to this:

- **Deep Character Interiorization:** Understanding characters deeply—their emotional backstories, desires, anxieties—and conveying those internal states. By pulling readers into a character’s inner world, the author can make the emotional vibe of scenes more tangible. For example, showing a protagonist’s subtle reactions (a clenched fist, a trembling exhale) can instill the vibe of anger or fear without explicitly stating it (Tyrie, 2025).
- **Show, Don’t Tell:** This classic principle is crucial for vibe. Rather than telling the reader “Alice was sad,” a vibe-oriented writer shows Alice’s tears catching the glow of a dusky sunset and her hand lingering on an old photograph—inviting the reader to feel sadness organically (Tyrie, 2025). Vivid sensory descriptions of behaviors and settings allow the mood to emerge implicitly. This aligns with the idea of affect in narrative theory: evoking feelings through imagery and implication.
- **Sensory Detail and Imagery:** Rich descriptions involving sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste make the atmosphere palpable (Tyrie, 2025). To create a creepy vibe, for instance, an author might describe the “soft scrape of a branch against the window in the silent midnight, like a hesitant whisper.” Such sensory details immerse readers in the scene’s mood. The more concrete and multi-sensory the writing, the more the vibe “surrounds” the reader.
- **Consistent Tone and Style:** Maintaining a cohesive tone from beginning to end helps reinforce the intended vibe (Tyrie, 2025). If a story aims for a melancholic vibe, the narration might consistently use reflective, somber language and avoid jarringly upbeat or comic interjections. Shifts in tone are possible (and can be powerful), but they should be deliberate (e.g., a light-hearted moment in a sad novel can heighten the subsequent sorrow through contrast). An uncontrolled tone shift can break the vibe. Thus, writers often revise to ensure tonal consistency, essentially performing emotional continuity editing on their work.
- **Emotional Pacing (Tension and Release):** Just as plot has pacing, emotional arcs have rises and falls. Building a vibe might involve gradually increasing tension or melancholy to a peak, then giving the reader a cathartic release. For example, a horror story might slowly amplify an eerie vibe through minor uncanny details, leading to a frightful climax. Managing this emotional progression is part of vibe writing—it prepares the reader psychologically (Tyrie, 2025).
- **Authentic Voice and Style:** Experimenting with different narrative voices or writing styles can enhance the vibe (Tyrie, 2025). For instance, a whimsical vibe might be achieved through playful, lyrical prose full of metaphors, whereas a gritty vibe might use terse, rugged language. Some authors are celebrated for the consistent vibe of their style—consider how the dreamy, meandering sentences of Marcel Proust’s prose sustain a reflective, nostalgic atmosphere.

Philosophers and essayists have noted that the mood of writing can be integral to its meaning (Tyrie, 2025). The vibe is not just embellishment; it often carries thematic weight. In a philosophical treatise, a contemplative or urgent tone might underscore the author’s argument on an affective level (Tyrie, 2025). In fiction, the vibe can create empathy and connection—readers feel what characters feel, which can make the narrative more impactful (Tyrie, 2025). Authors frequently set out at the start with an

intended emotional takeaway (e.g., hope, dread, bittersweet longing) and then make stylistic choices to embed that into every scene (Tyrie, 2025). As Tyrie (2025) observes, by 2025 there is a broad cultural recognition that effective communication “involves not just conveying information but also creating a specific feeling or atmosphere” (Tyrie, 2025). In other words, a story’s vibe is part of its content.

To summarize, traditional vibe writing is the art of evoking affect and atmosphere through language. It is a skill honed by study of craft and intuition. Even without calling it “vibe writing,” seasoned writers have internalized these techniques: they know when a scene they wrote feels off (the vibe is wrong) and revise it, much as an audio engineer adjusts frequencies to get the right sound texture. This human-driven process relies on the writer’s sensitivity to language and emotional nuance. In the next sections, we will see how AI can participate in this process—but it is important to note that the foundational elements remain the same. AI or not, writing with a conscious handle on vibe means paying attention to tone, emotion, and reader experience at every step.

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### 3. Karpathy’s “Vibe Coding” Paradigm

Before translating these ideas to AI-assisted writing, it is helpful to understand vibe coding, the concept introduced by Andrej Karpathy that inspires the “vibe” metaphor in creative workflows. Vibe coding is an AI-dependent programming technique where the developer shifts from writing code to directing code via natural language prompts (Wikipedia, 2025). In February 2025, Karpathy described vibe coding as “a new kind of coding... where you fully give in to the vibes, embrace exponentials, and forget that the code even exists” (Willison, 2025). In practice, this means using an AI coding assistant (such as Cursor’s code composer with an LLM backend) to generate and modify code conversationally, rather than typing and editing code manually in the traditional way.

In Karpathy’s workflow, he interacts with the AI primarily through voice commands (using OpenAI’s Whisper for speech-to-text) and natural language instructions (Willison, 2025). For example, instead of searching through a CSS file to adjust a UI padding, he might simply tell the AI, “decrease the padding on the sidebar by half,” and accept the code change it suggests (Willison, 2025). He reports no longer carefully reviewing diffs or meticulously debugging line-by-line. If an error occurs (e.g., the code doesn’t compile or a runtime error is thrown), he copies the error message into the prompt and asks the AI to fix it, often without additional commentary (Willison, 2025). In his words, “When I get error messages I just copy paste them in with no comment, usually that fixes it” (Willison, 2025). If the AI’s solution doesn’t work, he might ask for a different fix or even “ask for random changes until it goes away” (Willison, 2025). This almost haphazard trial-and-error, mediated by AI, is reminiscent of a debugging process driven by intuition and experimentation (“vibes”) rather than systematic analysis.

Over time, the codebase grows in functionality—sometimes to the point where it exceeds Karpathy’s immediate understanding. He notes that the code “grows beyond my usual comprehension; I’d have to really read through it for a while” to fully grasp it (Willison, 2025). Yet, for his purposes (throwaway weekend projects and prototypes), this is acceptable. The emphasis is on speed and flow. “I just see stuff, say stuff, run stuff, and copy paste stuff, and it mostly works,” he quips, underscoring how the traditional barriers between thinking of an idea and seeing it executed in code are being removed

(Willison, 2025). Essentially, vibe coding treats English (or any human language instruction) as the programming language, relying on the AI to translate high-level intentions into working code (Business Insider, 2025). Karpathy had hinted at this back in 2023 when he tweeted “the hottest new programming language is English” (Business Insider, 2025), and vibe coding is the concrete realization of that notion.

To be clear, vibe coding is a specific subset of AI-assisted programming, not a catch-all term for using AI in coding. As Simon Willison emphasizes, it refers to the particular “forget the code exists” approach that Karpathy described (Willison, 2025). Responsible professional developers might use AI suggestions, but still carefully review and test their code—that’s AI-assisted programming but not vibe coding in Karpathy’s sense (Willison, 2025). Vibe coding is more extreme: it’s coding without the usual diligence, almost a reckless creative prototyping mode. It “lowers the barrier” to building software, potentially enabling even amateur programmers to produce working code by guiding an AI (Wikipedia, 2025). Indeed, advocates claim it allows those without extensive training to achieve results that previously required skilled engineers (Wikipedia, 2025). Y Combinator noted that in one startup batch, nearly a quarter of the code was AI-generated under such paradigms, with founders seeing 10× to 100× increases in coding speed (Y Combinator, 2025). The trade-off, however, is that the resulting code may not be clean, maintainable, or even fully understood by its human “author.” For quick prototypes or one-off scripts, that might be acceptable. But for production-quality software, blindly trusting AI output can be perilous. Karpathy himself acknowledges limitations: sometimes the LLM “can’t fix a bug” so he works around it, and he confines vibe coding to low-stakes projects (Willison, 2025).

In summary, vibe coding’s core principles include: Conversational Prompting (telling the AI in plain language what you want), Iterative Refinement (rapidly cycling through prompts and outputs, including feeding errors back in until resolved), Scaffolding (building programs feature by feature via natural language requests), and what we might call Emotional Error Correction (relying on intuition or “vibes” to decide how to fix issues, rather than formal debugging). It often employs AI Personas implicitly (e.g., treating the AI as a knowledgeable coding partner, perhaps giving it a role like “expert Python developer” for better results). The human coder becomes more of a guide or editor, focusing on the big-picture behavior and feel of the software, while the AI handles the low-level implementation details. This inversion of roles is precisely what makes vibe coding intriguing as a paradigm shift.

The relevance to writing should now be becoming clear: writing, like coding, is traditionally a detail-oriented task that requires maintaining internal logic (plot or code correctness) and coherence. If AI can allow a coder to code by feel, can we allow a writer to write by vibe—focusing on the emotional and aesthetic goals while letting the AI draft and redraft the text itself? The next section defines what AI-assisted vibe writing entails, building on the insights from vibe coding.

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## 4. AI-Assisted “Vibe Writing” – Adapting Vibe Coding Principles to Writing

### 4.1 Defining AI-Assisted Vibe Writing

In the context of generative AI, vibe writing refers to a collaborative writing process where a human writer works with an AI language model to produce text that embodies a certain desired vibe (mood, style, emotional tone). Just as vibe coding allows a programmer to operate at the level of intentions and let the AI fill in the code, vibe writing allows an author to steer a narrative by intentions and feelings, with the AI generating the actual prose. The human provides prompts, instructions, and corrections in natural language—often in a conversational back-and-forth with the model—and the AI produces and refines the story, article, or poem. The dual context of the term becomes evident: it’s still writing in the traditional sense of evoking atmosphere (the human’s goal remains to create a compelling vibe), but the method of execution is AI-assisted and iterative rather than solo drafting.

This approach is already being toyed with by writers using tools like OpenAI’s ChatGPT or specialty fiction assistants. In fact, commentators on social media anticipated the term: shortly after Karpathy’s tweet went viral, AI enthusiasts mused that “vibe writing, vibe drawing, and vibe modeling” would naturally follow to describe AI-powered workflows in other creative domains (Ask Perplexity, 2025). While “vibe writing” as a label is new, many writers have begun to use GPT-3/4-based systems as co-writers. What distinguishes vibe writing from generic AI writing is the emphasis on conversational, iterative shaping of tone and style above all. Rather than asking the AI one time to “Write a short story about X” and accepting the output, the vibe writer engages in a dialogue: for example, “Write a scene where a detective enters a lonely diner late at night”—the AI writes a draft—then, “Make the scene feel more ominous and nostalgic, like film-noir meets melancholy”—the AI revises the vibe—and this continues until the human feels the atmosphere is right. The human is effectively “tuning” the vibe via prompts, akin to how a director might guide an actor’s performance (“more intensity here, but with a touch of sadness”).

Under the hood, the large language model is leveraging patterns it learned from vast amounts of text to satisfy the user’s requests. If asked to adopt a certain tone or mimic a style, it draws on authors or works in that vein from its training data. Thus, if one asks an AI, “Tell this like a spooky campfire tale” it will try to channel the vibe of ghost stories (perhaps imitating authors like Edgar Allan Poe or R.L. Stine). AI personas come into play here: often, explicitly assigning a role or persona to the model yields more consistent stylistic output (Kuka, 2024). For instance, prompting with “You are a 19th-century gothic novelist; write the following scene in that style” guides the model to maintain the archaic diction and eerie tone characteristic of that persona (Kuka, 2024). Role prompting has been shown to align an LLM’s outputs with a desired style/tone by leveraging the model’s knowledge of that role’s vocabulary and mannerisms (Kuka, 2024). In vibe writing, a writer might use this to ensure the AI sticks to a vibe: e.g., adopting persona = gritty hard-boiled narrator for a noir vibe, or persona = whimsical storyteller for a fairy-tale vibe.

## 4.2 Conversational Prompting and Dialogue

A hallmark of vibe coding is the conversational nature of interacting with the AI (speaking to it, asking for changes). Likewise, in vibe writing the process is highly interactive. The writer treats the LLM as a creative partner with whom they can chat. This often happens through a chat interface where each prompt from the user and response from the model builds on the last. The dialogue might look something like:

- **Writer:** “Let’s write a fantasy scene in a lush forest. I want it to feel serene and magical, with a hint of nostalgia.”
- **AI:** (drafts a descriptive paragraph) “...The verdant canopy above filtered golden sunbeams that danced upon the fern-covered ground. An ancient quiet reigned, the only music a distant birdsong echoing like a childhood memory...”
- **Writer:** “Beautiful. Now introduce a character walking through, feeling a sense of longing. Keep the serene vibe.”
- **AI:** (adds a character and their inner thoughts) “A young traveler stepped softly between mossy trunks, each step careful so as not to disturb the sacred hush. In his heart swelled a gentle longing—this forest reminded him of stories his grandmother told...”
- **Writer:** “Good. Can you make the language slightly more archaic, as if it’s a fairy tale? And perhaps add a faint melancholic undercurrent to his longing.”
- **AI:** (revises wording and tone) “Through the emerald twilight wandered a young wayfarer, treading softly on ancient soil. A tender longing possessed him—each glade and hollow whispering of joys long past...”

This illustrative dialogue shows how the writer incrementally guides the AI. The conversational prompting approach has several benefits. First, it breaks the complex goal (write a scene with X vibe) into smaller tasks, allowing the model to focus and incorporate feedback at each step. This aligns with known best practices in prompt engineering: asking for too much in a single prompt often yields mediocre results (Stout, 2023). Instead, an iterative process yields higher quality (Stout, 2023). Dustin Stout (2023) notes that when using AI for writing, an “iterative approach” where the AI assists in stages rather than via one big prompt is far more effective (Stout, 2023). The AI can concentrate on one aspect at a time (description, then character, then style tweaks), producing more coherent and on-target prose (Stout, 2023). Additionally, the conversation allows the human to inject new ideas or constraints as the text unfolds, much like an editor giving live feedback to an author. The result is a piece of text co-created in real-time, with the AI handling the prose generation and the human steering the vibe.

It is worth noting that some AI writing tools explicitly encourage this dialogic process. For example, Sudowrite’s interface lets writers highlight a sentence and ask for a rewrite with a certain emotion or sensory focus, effectively conversing with the AI about that piece of text (DreamGen, 2024). OpenAI’s ChatGPT interface itself is conversational by design, leading many writers to naturally interact through back-and-forth prompts. This is a shift from older “autocomplete” style AI writing (where you hit a button and the AI continues your text with no interaction). Conversational prompting makes the AI more of an active collaborator than a passive tool.

### 4.3 Iterative Refinement and Feedback Loops

Iteration is at the heart of both vibe coding and vibe writing. In vibe coding, Karpathy would repeatedly prompt changes and feed back errors until the program worked (Willison, 2025). In vibe writing, iterative refinement means the writer continuously reviews the AI's output and then asks for adjustments or adds new prompts to refine the text. The refinement can target many aspects: meaning (to correct factual or logical issues), wording (to improve fluency or clarity), and importantly, emotional tone (to better align with the desired vibe).

One can draw an analogy between debugging code and refining prose vibe. When a programmer sees a bug, they give it back to the AI to fix. When a writer senses that a passage doesn't "feel right," they likewise "debug" it by prompting the AI with clarifications. For instance, if a scene meant to be heartwarming comes out cloying or insincere, the writer might tell the AI to dial back the sentimentality and use more subtle imagery—effectively debugging an emotional error in the text. This loop continues until the output passes the writer's vibe check.

Research on AI-assisted writing emphasizes the value of iterative drafting. A Whole Whale guide on AI prompt refinement states that iterative prompt refinement forces clearer articulation of intent, leading to more aligned responses (Whole Whale, 2023). By the time a writer has gone through several prompt-response cycles, they have progressively clarified (to both themselves and the AI) exactly what they want. The AI's output becomes more tailored with each iteration, as it incorporates the cumulative instructions. Importantly, the writer maintains control over the process—they can stop when satisfied or continue tweaking. This contrasts with one-shot generation where the AI might produce a lot of text that the writer then has to wade through and manually edit. Iterative co-creation keeps the writer in the loop throughout, making final editing easier and the draft quality higher (Stout, 2023).

In practice, iterative vibe refinement might involve: generating an outline first, then expanding section by section; or generating a rough draft, then focusing on one paragraph at a time for rewrites. The scaffolding technique is one form of iteration: the writer can prompt the AI to create an outline or "story bible" of key beats, review or adjust it, then let the AI flesh out each part. Sudowrite's "Story Engine" works this way—the user provides a high-level story concept and perhaps some guidance per chapter, Sudowrite generates an outline and then drafts chapters sequentially (DreamGen, 2024). The human can intervene between stages, effectively conducting the AI's progress. This is analogous to how some long-text LLM systems break tasks into sub-tasks (a strategy often called chain-of-thought prompting or hierarchical generation). By scaffolding the writing, one can manage coherence more easily and ensure the vibe is consistent section by section. Without such structure, an LLM writing a long story in one go might lose track of the intended mood or introduce inconsistencies (Zhu et al., 2024). The DOME methodology (Zhu et al., 2024) for long-form story generation explicitly notes that fixed outlines (plan-and-write) can be inflexible, while no outline (just writing forward) often leads to plot incoherence (Zhu et al., 2024). The ideal is a dynamic planning process (Zhu et al., 2024)—which is exactly what human-in-the-loop iterative prompting achieves.

## 4.4 “Emotional Error Correction” – Maintaining the Vibe

One unique aspect of vibe writing is the need to monitor and correct the emotional tone of the text. In coding, an error is explicit (a crash, a wrong output), but in writing, an error in vibe is subjective—the text might technically be fine, but it doesn’t evoke the intended feeling. We borrow the term “error correction” metaphorically to describe how a vibe writer responds when the AI’s output doesn’t meet the emotional or stylistic expectations.

For example, suppose the writer wants a scene to be subtly romantic. If the AI produces dialogue that is too overtly sentimental or cheesy, the vibe is “off.” The writer identifies this emotional error and corrects it by instructing the AI: e.g., “That’s a bit too direct. Make the dialogue more restrained—perhaps imply the affection instead of stating it.” The AI will then attempt a revision: maybe turning “I love you so much, I can’t live without you” into “He reached for her hand under the table, a gentle pressure that said everything their words couldn’t.” Now the vibe might be closer to the intended delicate romance.

This process may repeat multiple times. In essence, the writer is critically reading the AI’s output with an eye for vibe discrepancies. Just as a human author might do self-edits or rely on an editor to catch tonal problems, the vibe writer uses the AI as both draft writer and rewriter. Many modern LLM-powered writing tools actually include features to facilitate this. For instance, one can prompt, “Rewrite the last paragraph to be more ominous,” or “Inject a sense of hope into this ending.” The AI thus acts almost like a thermostat for emotional tone—the human sets the desired “temperature” (more ominous, less saccharine, etc.), and the AI adjusts the text accordingly.

There is ongoing research into making AI more aware of sentiment and style, which could automate some of this error correction in the future. In the domain of vibe coding, an analogous idea is AI detecting a user’s frustration (emotion) and adapting responses (Gillhoolley, 2025). We can imagine future writing assistants that detect if the tone of a chapter deviates from an established vibe profile and then suggest corrections proactively. Currently, it’s largely user-driven: the human must notice and prompt the changes. Nonetheless, even in the current state, using AI for quick tone adjustments can save a writer significant time compared to manually rewriting. It’s like having an endlessly patient junior copyeditor who will keep tweaking a passage in different ways on command until the senior editor (the human author) is happy.

One challenge with emotional corrections is that an AI might over-correct or swing to another extreme of tone. The writer might have to fine-tune the instructions (e.g., “Make it a little more playful, but keep it professional”) to avoid introducing new vibe issues. In vibe coding, we saw Karpathy sometimes had to try random changes—there is a similar experimental aspect in vibe writing: the writer might try phrasing the prompt in a few different ways to get the nuance right. This requires intuition about how the AI interprets certain words (for example, telling GPT-4 “make it more emotional” could result in melodrama, whereas “make it more emotionally resonant” might yield something else). Through practice, writers develop a sense of how to “speak AI” to correct tone—effectively a new literacy in emotional prompt engineering.

## 4.5 AI Personas and Style Imitation

As touched on earlier, setting an AI's persona or voice is a powerful tool for vibe writing. Large language models can mimic a wide range of writing styles, from famous authors to genre-specific narration, if prompted correctly. By default, many LLMs have a relatively neutral, helpful tone (since they are trained to be general assistants). This default may not have a strong vibe—it often comes out as bland or generic in creative terms. Therefore, a key step in vibe writing is to prompt the AI with a specific style or persona that embodies the target vibe. This could be done by: a direct role instruction (“Act as a wise old storyteller around a campfire”), providing a few example sentences in the desired style (few-shot prompting), or referencing known works (“Write in the style of a 1920s hard-boiled detective novel”).

Role or persona prompting has been shown to guide not just content but the tone and focus of LLM outputs (Kuka, 2024). For instance, if the role is “poet laureate,” the response is more likely to be lyrical and metaphor-rich (Kuka, 2024). In vibe writing, a writer might switch personas for different characters or sections to maintain distinct vibes. An AI can consistently speak as a character with a defined personality, which helps keep the character's dialogue and inner monologue in vibe. This is particularly useful in long novels where each character should have a unique voice—the writer can remind the AI, “Now continue as [Character], who is cynical and terse,” etc., to re-align the vibe from scene to scene.

Some advanced tools enable setting a persistent voice profile for the AI. Jasper AI, for example, introduced a “brand voice” feature to mimic a user's writing style or a specified style across outputs (Juliety, 2025). Similarly, NovelAI allows users to train “AI Modules” on samples of text to achieve a certain style for output (e.g., emulating a particular author or the tone of a show). These can be seen as vibe profiles. Once loaded, the AI will default to that style unless directed otherwise. For creative writers, one could imagine having a profile for “dark gothic horror” and another for “lighthearted children's fantasy,” and using whichever the project demands.

However, there are ethical and creative implications to persona use, which we will discuss later. From a technical standpoint, though, persona prompting is a reliable way to get consistent vibe. Without it, the model might slip into its generic tone or oscillate in style if the prompts vary. With a persona anchored, it's like casting an actor in a role—the responses stay in character. This greatly aids the emotional consistency of the narrative.

To illustrate, consider two outputs from the same model given different persona prompts:

- **No persona prompt (generic):** “The castle on the hill was intimidating. John felt nervous as he walked inside. The halls were silent. He thought he saw a shadow move.”—This is straightforward but flat in vibe.
- **Persona prompt (Gothic narrator):** “Castle Blackthorne loomed against the stormy night sky, its silent halls steeped in dread. A tremor in John's chest grew as he crossed the threshold; even the candles seemed to shudder in their sconces. In the corner of his eye, a phantasmal shadow slipped from sight, or so he prayed.”—This version has a much stronger vibe (moody, gothic) due to the persona enforced.

The second version clearly shows how style impacts vibe. The persona of a Gothic narrator brings in richer vocabulary (“loomed,” “steeped in dread”), imagery (stormy night, shuddering candles), and an overall ominous tone—none of which the first version had. In vibe writing, the author could achieve this by instructing the AI at the outset: “You are Mary Shelley writing a ghost story,” for instance.

In sum, AI-assisted vibe writing leverages all these strategies: it is conversational, iterative, scaffolds the writing task, involves continual emotional tone checking, and utilizes persona or style prompts to lock in the desired vibe. The human writer acts as a director/conductor, orchestrating the AI’s vast generative capabilities toward a specific artistic effect. Next, we will see these principles in action through concrete examples of prompts and model outputs, illustrating how strong vs weak prompts influence the resulting vibe.

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## 5. Illustrative Vibe Writing Examples (Strong vs. Weak Prompts)

To demonstrate the difference that effective vibe-oriented prompting can make in AI-assisted writing, this section presents a series of mini case studies. We show prompts (from a hypothetical writer) and excerpted LLM responses, along with analysis of why a given approach is successful (strong) or not (weak) in achieving the intended vibe. These examples use a GPT-4-like model for illustration, as it represents a state-of-the-art LLM with excellent language abilities.

### Example 1: Setting the Mood of a Scene

**Weak Prompt:** “Write a scene where a woman returns to her childhood home.”

**LLM Response (excerpt):** “A woman named Maria walked into the old house. It was quiet and a bit dusty. She saw the familiar living room where she grew up. Memories came back to her. She felt sad and happy at the same time to be home after so long.”

**Analysis:** This response is coherent and grammatically fine, but the vibe is quite bland. The prompt did not specify any particular mood or style, so the model produced a generic summary of events and feelings. There is little sensory detail or atmosphere. The emotional tone is stated (“she felt sad and happy”) rather than evoked. This is an example of a minimal prompt yielding an underwhelming vibe—the writing “tells” the reader about nostalgia but doesn’t make the reader feel it strongly.

**Improved Prompt:** “Write a reflective, nostalgic scene of a woman returning to her childhood home after many years. Emphasize the poignant, bittersweet atmosphere.”

**LLM Response (excerpt):** “María pushes open the warped front door with a creak that echoes down the hallway. Late-afternoon light pours in through the threadbare lace curtains, illuminating motes of dust in the air. In the stillness, she pauses—hand resting on the old brass knob, heart caught in her throat. The living room is exactly as she remembers and yet smaller, gentler. Her fingers trail along the mantel where family photos once stood, tracing the outline of absent frames. A faint scent of pine and aging paper rises from the floorboards, and with it come childhood ghosts. María smiles faintly at a

memory—her father reading stories by the fireplace—then blinks back a tear. In this house, every step is a step back in time, every silent room a gentle ache. ‘I’m home,’ she whispers, voice reverent and low, and the house seems to breathe in reply.”

**Analysis:** This output has a vivid nostalgic vibe. The prompt guided the model by specifying “reflective, nostalgic” and “poignant, bittersweet atmosphere.” As a result, the response is rich with sensory details (creaking door, dust motes, scent of pine), which create atmosphere. It shows María’s emotions through her actions and the environment (trailing fingers, blinking back a tear) rather than bluntly stating them. The tone is gentle and melancholic, exactly as intended. This illustrates how a more detailed prompt that includes the desired vibe leads the AI to produce a more emotionally resonant scene. The writer essentially seeded the vibe in the prompt, and the model amplified it.

In Example 1, the strong prompt clearly communicated the target vibe and gave the model permission to be descriptive and emotive. The weak prompt left the vibe unspecified, resulting in a flat output. This underscores a key lesson: LLMs are extremely sensitive to prompt wording. To get a strong vibe, the user must often explicitly prompt for it or model it in their wording.

## Example 2: Iterative Tone Refinement

Sometimes the first attempt is close to what we want but needs tweaking. Here we show an interactive refinement process.

**Initial Prompt:** “Two friends have a reunion at a café. Make it lighthearted and comedic.”

**LLM Initial Response (excerpt):** “Ella and Mark sat at their favorite corner table, and within minutes they were laughing like no time had passed. ‘Remember when you tried to bake a cake and set off the fire alarm?’ Mark teased. Ella groaned, covering her face. ‘I was hoping you’d forgotten that!’ The café patrons glanced over as Mark mimed flames with his hands, and Ella couldn’t help but laugh. It felt good to be back together, trading playful barbs over cappuccinos.”

**Analysis:** The tone is indeed lighthearted and the content is humorous. However, suppose the writer’s intention was a more witty, banter style comedy and this first draft feels a bit too plain. The writer can refine the vibe.

**Refinement Prompt 1:** “Rewrite their dialogue to be faster-paced, with sharp, witty banter. Still lighthearted.”

**LLM Revised Response (excerpt):** “‘I see you haven’t burned down any kitchens lately,’ Mark smirked over the rim of his cappuccino.

‘Give me time,’ Ella shot back, eyes sparkling. ‘The day is young.’

‘Some things never change,’ he laughed. ‘I leave you alone for five years and you still can’t be trusted near an oven.’

Ella gasped in mock offense. ‘Excuse me, I’ve upgraded to microwaves. Much safer.’

Mark nearly snorted coffee. ‘Note to self: hide the microwaves.’ ...”

**Analysis:** Now the vibe is more snappy and sitcom-like. The iteration prompt focused on the style of interaction (“faster-paced, witty banter”), and the AI responded by tightening the dialogue and adding more quips. The scene remains light and comedic, but with more zing. This addresses the writer’s vibe goal more closely.

Let’s say the writer is mostly happy with this, but feels the narrative voice (the non-dialogue parts) could also carry a playful tone to match the banter.

**Refinement Prompt 2:** “Add a bit of humorous narration or asides to the description, as if the narrator is in on the joke.”

**LLM Further Revised Response (excerpt):** “...Mark nearly snorted coffee out his nose. (So much for looking suave in front of the barista.) Ella grinned, victorious. She hadn’t won an argument against Mark since their college days, and she relished it. The other café patrons gave them odd looks—two grown adults giggling like kids—but Ella and Mark were in their own world. After all, minor public embarrassment was a small price to pay for reclaiming a friendship this good.”

**Analysis:** The added parenthetical aside “(So much for looking suave in front of the barista.)” and the slightly tongue-in-cheek narrative observations give the text a cohesive comedic vibe, not just in dialogue but overall. The iterative prompts allowed the writer to polish both dialogue and narration to achieve a consistent lighthearted, witty vibe.

This example shows how an initial decent output can be iteratively enhanced by pinpointing aspects to change (here, dialogue speed/wit and narrative voice). Each refinement prompt was relatively specific, and the model was able to respond to those targeted requests. An advantage of this approach is that the writer doesn’t have to rewrite the whole scene themselves or start from scratch; they leverage the AI’s ability to quickly regenerate text under new constraints. The final result is something that might have taken many manual revisions to get right, but was achieved in a few prompt cycles.

### **Example 3: Using Persona for Vibe Consistency**

**Scenario:** The writer is creating a fantasy story and wants a scene of a wise mentor giving advice to the hero. The vibe should be sage-like, slightly poetic, and reassuring.

**Prompt without persona:** “The mentor gives the hero advice by the campfire.”

**Response:** “Theron looked at Aria and said, ‘You must believe in yourself. Every great journey begins with a single step, and even if you feel afraid, you can overcome it.’ His voice was calm and kind. Aria nodded, feeling more confident after hearing his words.”

**Analysis:** The content is fine but generic. The vibe of an ancient, wise mentor isn't strongly present; the language is modern and straightforward ("believe in yourself" sounds like a common saying).

Now the writer tries using a persona to enforce the vibe.

**Prompt with persona:** "Theron, the wise old mentor (speaking in a gentle, poetic tone reminiscent of an ancient sage), gives Aria advice by the campfire."

**Response:** "Theron's weathered face glowed softly in the firelight as he spoke. 'Child,' he said, embers dancing in his dark eyes, 'every great journey begins not with courage, but with a step taken despite fear. The night may be long and the path uncertain, yet dawn always comes for those who carry hope in their hearts.' His voice was a low melody of experience and comfort. Aria felt the warmth of his words like a blanket around her shoulders, and the trembling in her soul eased. Theron placed a gentle hand on her arm. 'Trust the strength within you,' he murmured, 'for it has carried you this far and will not abandon you now.'"

**Analysis:** This version has a much stronger mentor vibe. The prompt explicitly asked for a poetic, sage-like tone and even gave a hint ("reminiscent of an ancient sage"). The model responded with more metaphorical and archaic language ("dawn always comes...carry hope in their hearts", "low melody of experience"). The advice is delivered in a proverbial style, which feels appropriate to a fantasy mentor figure. The persona element ("wise old mentor speaking in gentle, poetic tone") effectively guided the model's voice. This demonstrates the utility of persona-based prompting for maintaining a consistent vibe: all of Theron's dialogue and narration in this output align with the gentle, wise atmosphere the writer wanted.

In these examples, the strong prompts explicitly define or imply the desired vibe and often use more words to guide the model. The weak prompts are minimal, leaving the model to default styles or to guess the vibe (often resulting in mediocre tone). Through iterative prompting and persona setting, the writer can coerce the AI into producing richer, more vibe-accurate prose. The key takeaway is that AI is not a magic "vibe machine" on its own—the user's guidance is crucial. However, with skillful prompting, an LLM can drastically reduce the effort to go from vibe conception to vibe realization on the page.

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## 6. Tools and Platforms for AI-Assisted Vibe Writing

AI-assisted writing workflows can be implemented using a variety of tools, from general-purpose chatbots to specialized fiction-writing software. In this section, we compare major LLM-based writing tools on their capabilities relevant to vibe writing. We consider both mainstream LLM services (which many writers use for assistance) and dedicated creative writing applications built on LLMs. Table 1 provides a comparative overview of some prominent options, followed by additional notes:

Tool / Platform	Model & Access	Key Features for Writing (Vibe-Relevant)	Limitations / Notes
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<b>OpenAI ChatGPT (GPT-4)</b>	Closed-source LLM (GPT-3.5/GPT-4) via web UI or API	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Excellent language fluency and coherence; can produce high-quality prose with minimal errors.</li> <li>- Follows detailed instructions well; user can specify tone/style and get appropriate output (e.g., GPT-4 can mimic various literary styles).</li> <li>- Up to ~8,000-token context (GPT-4-8K) or 32,000-token in extended version, allowing fairly long passages and context for consistency (Anthropic, 2023).</li> <li>- Integrated conversational interface supports iterative prompting (the core of vibe writing).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GPT-4 access requires payment (ChatGPT Plus) and has usage caps; free tier (GPT-3.5) is less capable in nuance.</li> <li>- Content filters: will refuse or water-down explicit content, which can limit certain vibes (e.g., horror, erotica) unless carefully phrased.</li> <li>- By default, the tone can be neutral/hallmark; strong vibe often needs explicit prompting.</li> </ul>
<b>Anthropic Claude</b>	Closed-source LLM (Claude 2) via API or interface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very large context window (up to 100k tokens <math>\approx</math> 75,000 words) (Anthropic, 2023), which is excellent for long-form projects (e.g., an entire novel's context can be held, maintaining global coherence).</li> <li>- Tends to be good at maintaining a consistent conversational style and can follow tone directives reasonably well.</li> <li>- Often writes in a friendly, upbeat style by default, which can suit positive vibes or be adjusted for others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fewer public interfaces; mostly accessed via developer API or integrated in platforms (e.g., Slack bot, Poe app).</li> <li>- Sometimes verbosity is an issue—Claude might over-explain or produce more text than needed (user must prompt for conciseness if desired).</li> <li>- Like ChatGPT, has safety filters (instructed to avoid extreme violence/sex), which may require user creativity to navigate for certain story vibes.</li> </ul>
<b>Google Bard (PaLM 2)</b>	Closed-source LLM (PaLM 2) via free web interface	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free to use and integrates Google Search (useful if factual accuracy is needed in writing, though less relevant for pure vibe fiction).</li> <li>- Quick responses and the ability to generate multiple drafts (“views”) to choose from.</li> <li>- Continually improving narrative ability; can produce decent descriptions and dialogues for straightforward prompts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Generally considered slightly weaker in creative writing than GPT-4 or Claude; output may be simpler and require more editing for nuance.</li> <li>- Tends to default to a neutral informative tone if not guided, so the user must push it harder to adopt stylistic flourishes.</li> <li>- 4,000-token context limit (approx), smaller than GPT-4 and much smaller than Claude, limiting how much prior text it can consider for consistency.</li> </ul>
<b>Sudowrite (fiction-focused)</b>	Uses OpenAI GPT-3.5/4 through a custom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tailored specifically for fiction writers with many vibe-relevant tools: e.g., ‘Describe’ (adds sensory details to a passage),</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is a paid service (subscription-based). Hobbyist tier allows ~30K AI-generated words/month for \$10, higher tiers</li> </ul>

interface (web app)

‘Expand’ (extends a passage while maintaining tone) (Juliety, 2025), and ‘Rewrite’ with different styles (“Show not tell”, “more suspense,” etc.). - Story Engine feature lets writers provide a high-level outline (“story bible”) and then auto-generates a structured draft chapter by chapter (DreamGen, 2024)—aiding scaffolding of a story while preserving overall mood/plot. - Learns from user input: it claims to adapt to your writing style over time (DreamGen, 2024), which could help it maintain your personal vibe in suggestions. - Offers an “AI Brainstorm” mode for idea generation and an “AI Feedback” mode that gives critique on your writing (useful for spotting where the vibe might be off or could be enhanced) (DreamGen, 2024).

for more (Juliety, 2025). Heavy users (writing entire novels) need the more expensive plans. - The interface, while feature-rich, can be overwhelming (DreamGen, 2024). There are many buttons and options which could distract or confuse, especially if one just wants a simple vibe tweak. - Underlying AI is still GPT-based, so content filters and occasional lapses in coherence apply. Also, if the user’s style is very distinct, the AI may not perfectly match it without extensive training or manual prompting.

## 7. Benefits and Opportunities of AI-Assisted Vibe Writing

The integration of AI into the creative writing process offers several advantages, particularly for vibe-centric writing. These benefits span from enhanced productivity to new creative possibilities:

- **Increased Productivity and Speed:** AI can generate large amounts of text quickly, allowing writers to produce drafts faster than traditional methods. This is especially useful for writers who struggle with writer’s block or need to meet tight deadlines. By handling the initial drafting, AI frees up time for the writer to focus on refining the vibe and narrative structure.
- **Enhanced Creativity and Idea Generation:** AI can serve as a brainstorming partner, suggesting unexpected plot twists, character developments, or descriptive details that the writer might not have considered. This can help break creative blocks and inspire new directions for the story.
- **Democratization of Writing:** AI-assisted writing tools lower the barrier to entry for aspiring writers who may lack confidence in their writing skills. By providing a starting point or helping with stylistic elements, AI enables more people to express their ideas and stories.
- **Consistency in Tone and Style:** With the ability to set and maintain a specific vibe through persona prompts or style profiles, AI can help ensure that the emotional tone remains consistent throughout a long piece. This is particularly valuable in genres like horror or romance, where maintaining a specific atmosphere is crucial.

- **Interactive Storytelling:** AI opens up possibilities for new forms of interactive or adaptive storytelling, where the narrative can change based on reader input or preferences, all while maintaining a consistent vibe.

These benefits highlight how AI can amplify human creativity, making the writing process more efficient and accessible while still allowing for deep emotional resonance in the final product.

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## 8. Limitations and Challenges of AI-Assisted Vibe Writing

Despite its advantages, AI-assisted vibe writing also presents several challenges and limitations:

- **Quality Control and Coherence:** AI-generated text can sometimes lack coherence, especially in longer pieces. Without careful oversight, the narrative may drift in tone or introduce inconsistencies in plot or character development (Zhu et al., 2024).
- **Generic or Formulaic Output:** AI models are trained on vast datasets, which can lead to outputs that feel clichéd or predictable. Achieving a truly unique or innovative vibe often requires significant human intervention and editing.
- **Emotional Authenticity:** While AI can simulate emotional tone, it lacks genuine human experience, which can result in text that feels hollow or inauthentic to some readers. The subtlety of human emotion is difficult to replicate fully.
- **Ethical and Copyright Concerns:** The use of AI in writing raises questions about originality and intellectual property. There is a risk of unintentional plagiarism or the creation of derivative works that infringe on copyrighted material (Molony, 2025).
- **Overreliance and Skill Atrophy:** Writers who rely too heavily on AI may find their own writing skills diminishing over time. The process of crafting prose is essential for developing a unique voice, and excessive dependence on AI could hinder this growth.
- **Bias and Representation:** AI models can perpetuate biases present in their training data, leading to stereotypical or culturally insensitive portrayals. Writers must be vigilant in editing for these issues.

These challenges underscore the importance of human oversight in the AI-assisted writing process. While AI can be a powerful tool, it cannot replace the discernment and emotional depth that a human writer brings to their work.

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## 9. Ethical Considerations and Societal Impact

The integration of AI into creative writing raises several ethical and societal questions:

- **Intellectual Property and Copyright:** The training of AI models on copyrighted texts has led to legal disputes, with authors claiming that AI-generated works are unauthorized derivatives (Molony, 2025). Writers using AI must navigate these murky waters, ensuring their work does not infringe on existing copyrights.

- **Authorship and Attribution:** If a significant portion of a text is AI-generated, questions arise about who should be credited as the author. The Writers Guild of America has taken a stance against crediting AI as an author (Guardian News, 2023), but individual writers must decide how to acknowledge AI assistance.
- **Bias and Representation:** AI models can reflect and amplify biases from their training data, potentially leading to problematic representations in generated text. Writers have a responsibility to edit for cultural sensitivity and accuracy.
- **Impact on the Writing Profession:** The rise of AI-assisted writing could disrupt traditional publishing models, potentially reducing opportunities for human writers. However, it may also create new roles for writers as editors or curators of AI-generated content.
- **Authenticity and Reader Trust:** Some readers may feel deceived if they discover a work was heavily AI-generated, especially if it is marketed as human-authored. Transparency about AI use could become an ethical standard in publishing.

These considerations highlight the need for ongoing dialogue between writers, technologists, and ethicists as AI becomes more integrated into creative processes.

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## 10. Future Trajectories and Innovations in Vibe Writing

Looking ahead, the landscape of vibe writing and AI-assisted creativity is poised to evolve rapidly. Both technological advancements and shifts in how we integrate AI into creative workflows will shape the future. Rather than detailing specific innovations here, we note that potential developments—such as improved context handling, emotionally intelligent assistants, vibe profiles, collaborative platforms, and multi-modal integration—are explored in Appendix A.

One clear direction is the enhancement of large language models to better manage long-form consistency and emotional nuance. Another is the development of tools that provide real-time feedback on a text’s vibe, aiding writers in maintaining their intended mood. Collaborative systems could also emerge, blending human and AI strengths in novel ways. These advancements promise to deepen the partnership between writers and AI, though they also raise questions about balancing technology with human creativity, a theme revisited in the conclusion.

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## 11. Conclusion

“Vibe writing” represents a convergence of traditional literary sensibilities with the newfound powers of AI-driven text generation. On one hand, it reaffirms something timeless: that the emotional and atmospheric qualities of writing—the vibes—are paramount in forging connections with readers. On the other hand, it situates this principle in a radically modern context, where an AI can actively participate in the creation, modulation, and maintenance of those vibes throughout the writing process. By drawing parallels with Andrej Karpathy’s concept of vibe coding, we’ve highlighted how similar dynamics are at play in two very different creative domains. In both, the human moves up the

abstraction ladder: from line-by-line crafting to guiding an intelligent assistant via high-level, conversational feedback.

In our exploration, we defined vibe writing in its dual contexts. In the traditional sense, vibe writing is about consciously evoking a target atmosphere or emotional landscape in a text—using techniques like show-don't-tell, rich sensory detail, consistent tone, and deep character immersion (Tyrie, 2025). In the AI-assisted sense, vibe writing is an interactive workflow where the writer uses prompting and iterative refinement to have an AI help realize those atmospheres and emotional beats. We saw that Karpathy's vibe coding (coding by prompting an AI, letting it handle implementation details (Willison, 2025)) finds its creative writing counterpart in vibe writing (writing by prompting an AI, letting it draft prose while the writer steers tone and content). Core principles such as conversational prompting, iterative refinement with feedback, scaffolding structures (outlines or story bibles), “emotional debugging,” and the use of personas/styles are shared and have been adapted from the coding context to the writing context.

The examples provided illustrate concretely how a writer can co-write with an LLM, achieving strong results when prompts are well-crafted and using successive approximation to hone the vibe. Weak outputs—bland, generic text or tone inconsistencies—are not the death knell of AI assistance but rather fuel for further prompts and edits. With careful guidance, LLMs can generate passages of striking quality, rich in mood and detail, as evidenced by our improved sample outputs which contained vivid imagery and emotionally resonant language. These examples demystify the process for those who have not used AI in writing: the AI is not taking over creativity, but rather augmenting the writer's ability to manifest ideas into text, somewhat like an ultra-flexible editor or a multitude of writing “interns” with endless patience.

We surveyed the tool landscape and found that, as of 2025, writers are spoiled for choice. General LLM platforms (ChatGPT, Claude, Bard) offer powerful engines that, with the right prompting, can deliver on virtually any style or vibe, whereas specialized tools (Sudowrite, NovelAI, Jasper, etc.) build workflow conveniences and additional features around those engines to cater specifically to creative writers (DreamGen, 2024; Juliety, 2025). The comparative analysis (Table 1) highlights that there is no one-size-fits-all solution—each tool has its strengths, whether it's Claude's huge context for long works (Anthropic, 2023) or Sudowrite's suite of vibe-enhancing functions like “Describe” and “Expand” (Juliety, 2025). This diversity is a boon to writers: it means one can tailor their toolset to their particular needs and comfort. Importantly, all these tools continue to evolve, and we can expect their limitations (like sometimes incoherent long outputs, or UI friction) to lessen with time.

The benefits of AI-assisted vibe writing that we identified are significant. Writers can produce work faster and iterate more freely, promoting creativity by turning the writing process into a dialog with an AI collaborator. It can help overcome writer's block and democratize writing by aiding those who struggle with the mechanics to nonetheless express their stories (Wikipedia, 2025). It can act as a constant style guide, keeping an eye on tone consistency, and it frees up the writer to concentrate on higher-level storycraft. In many ways, it can make writing more fun—the “amplified playground” for imagination where an idea can be immediately fleshed out and then reshaped at will. These opportunities, however, come paired with new responsibilities and challenges for the writer.

We delved into those limitations and found that human oversight remains indispensable. AI outputs can be verbose, off-target, or culturally biased if left unchecked (Zhu et al., 2024). The machine lacks true understanding, so it might produce content that superficially fits the vibe but lacks deeper coherence or originality—something the human must remedy. Ethical concerns are at the forefront of the discussion: from questions of authorship (Who is the author when a novel is co-written with AI? How much disclosure is due?) to concerns about IP (Are we inadvertently plagiarizing when the AI writes in a famous author’s style? Will authors lose income if AI clones their vibe?) (Molony, 2025; Guardian News, 2023). There are also social implications: Will an influx of AI-generated content diminish the perceived value of human art, or will it inspire a new appreciation for the distinctiveness of human voices? We discussed how the creative community and industries are responding—e.g., WGA’s contract protecting writers from being replaced by AI (Guardian News, 2023), magazines filtering AI-written work—and emphasized the need for guidelines to ensure AI is used ethically as a tool, not as a source of unfair advantage or intellectual theft.

Looking forward, we projected a future where AI becomes an even more refined instrument in the writer’s toolkit, with specific possibilities outlined in Appendix A. Emotional intelligence in AI, where it can detect if a scene might evoke the intended feelings or if a shift in vibe is jarring, would greatly assist writers in fine-tuning their work.

One striking aspect of this evolution is how it might redefine roles: tomorrow’s writers might be part writer, part AI orchestrator, and part editor. Creative writing curricula might teach “prompt engineering for narrative” alongside plot and character development. Similarly, AI systems might start incorporating more literary theory (imagine a story-writing AI that has read and can apply principles from Aristotle’s *Poetics* or Freytag’s pyramid when structuring a tale). The result could be AI that not only generates text, but has some encoded understanding of narrative arcs, motifs, and thematic consistency—essentially story-specific intelligence. This would further elevate what vibe writing could achieve, though it also encroaches on what we consider uniquely human creative intuition. If and when AI starts to grasp concepts like symbolism or dramatic irony (beyond just rehashing examples), the collaboration might shift to an even higher plane, where AI can suggest not just words but narrative decisions (“to maintain a hopeful vibe, perhaps Character A should survive this scene—here’s how it could play out”).

In concluding, it’s fitting to address a fundamental question: Does AI-assisted vibe writing compromise the artistic integrity of writing, or is it simply the next evolution of the writer’s craft? Based on our extensive exploration, the evidence suggests that, as with any tool, it is what we make of it. A paintbrush can be wielded to create kitschy replicas or breathtaking original art; an AI can generate cookie-cutter prose or be guided to produce something genuinely moving and novel. The human author’s vision, intention, and discernment remain the guiding forces. In fact, those qualities become even more important—the AI provides options, but the author must choose which path resonates most with their artistic intent.

Many authors likely will continue to write “by hand” without AI, just as some programmers prefer coding without high-level abstractions, because they enjoy the process or value the purity of fully human creation. That will coexist with authors who fully embrace AI collaboration. The literary world can accommodate both, and indeed readers may also bifurcate—some seeking the raw humanity of

non-AI-assisted work, others delighting in the exciting plots and polished vibes that AI assistance can help deliver. It's similar to how in music some prefer acoustic live performances and others enjoy electronically produced tracks; both can be meaningful.

One can argue that vibe writing with AI is a continuum of the age-old practice of authors conversing with muses or imaginary readers while writing. Instead of a muse, now it's a model, but the conversation—the back-and-forth to draw out the right words—is still there, only externalized. The emotional labor of writing—deciding what feeling you want to evoke and why—cannot be offloaded to a machine. In fact, engaging in vibe writing might even sharpen an author's awareness of those emotional targets, because it forces one to articulate and iterate them explicitly with the AI.

In closing, AI-assisted vibe writing stands not as an antithesis to human creativity, but as a magnifier and mirror. It magnifies our ability to produce and revise text, and it mirrors the instructions and examples we give it. The phrase “garbage in, garbage out” holds true—if we feed uninspired prompts, we get flat results; if we input inspired ideas and thoughtfully steer the AI, we can get outputs that amplify that inspiration. The heart of writing—empathy, imagination, insight—remains human. The AI provides the wings to help those human qualities take flight in language.

As this field evolves, continued interdisciplinary dialogue will be crucial. AI researchers, writers, ethicists, and readers must all engage with the question: How do we harness this technology to enhance creativity while preserving the deeply personal and cultural significance of storytelling? This report has attempted to survey the landscape and outline how it can be done, showing early successes and warning of pitfalls. The story of vibe writing is itself still being written—collaboratively by all of us, humans and our tools.

We can be optimistic that, if guided wisely, AI will not replace the writer but rather become an extension of the writer's pen, one that can write in multitudes of voices yet ultimately sings to the tune that the writer conducts. The concept of “vibe” in writing—capturing the ineffable mood that moves readers—is an art. Now, with AI's help, it can also be approached as a bit of a science, one where iterative experimentation leads to artistic breakthroughs. The pen may have become a keyboard, and now the keyboard is augmented by an AI co-writer, but the essence remains: storytelling that moves us. Vibe writing, in both the old and new sense, is about touching the human spirit. In that endeavor, AI is simply the newest instrument in the writer's orchestra—capable of harmony, dissonance, and everything in between, but awaiting the human maestro to give it meaning.

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