Using ChatGPT as an Author (these are the prompts I used in the session)
Stan C. Smith

Generating Story Ideas
I want to write a science fiction short story with a teenage main character that discovers something very unusual in a forested area near his or her home. Can you give me some brief story ideas?

Now can you give me ten more ideas?

Tip: Be as specific as you can. Provide some detail. Then drill down and ask for modifications, until you get something you are happy with.

Generating Title Suggestions
Below is a description of a novel I am writing. Can you give me suggestions for titles that are gripping and thought-provoking?

Having a body made of alien nanoparticles has its advantages. Figuring out how to use it is the problem.
A year ago, the world was almost destroyed by an alien artifact. Then the artifact went missing. It lies hidden somewhere, a ticking bomb of potential destruction. Bobby Truex knows exactly where it is. Bobby is only sixteen, but he has seen more tragedy than most people will ever see. Now he just wants to be Bobby Truex. He wants to read books, explore the forest and river near his new home, maybe have a girlfriend. Most of all, he doesn't want to hurt anyone.
But how can you live a normal life if your body is the most dangerous thing on Earth? Bobby realizes he needs to learn what he's capable of and what he should never try to do. For this, he enlists the help of Ashley, the only girl who knows he is no longer human.
Bobby is a fast learner, but learning requires trial and error. If he succeeds, maybe he can make the world a better place. If he fails… well, anything could happen.

Tip: Again, provide details, then ask for specific tweaks or variations.

For example:
Can you give me more ideas, without the subtitles?
Can you make these titles more high-tech?

Or…
Can you give me some good titles for a science fiction novel about a woman who spends more time in space than any other human, and then she starts to evolve into a spacefaring species, which is what humans used to be long ago?

Use ChatGPT to inspire your writing voice
Can you rewrite the following paragraphs in the gritty, hardboiled street language of a 1920s noir novel?

Staring at his phone, Angel Prism frowned at the profile photo of an absurdly attractive woman. Her name was Shardona Synergy, and she was asking Angel to go out with her, to "see where things might

go from there." Hers was the third such inquiry in the last three days—Angel shouldn't have posted his true age on his socials. Turning thirty made him fair game. He typed what he thought was a polite response, letting the lovely Shardona know he was already in love with someone else, who happened to be his childhood sweetheart.

The woman replied within seconds. "Such a pity, Angel! You leave me in distress, as I will never find a fledgling as darling as you. You *will* let me know if the whole childhood sweetie thing goes south, won't you?"

Angel smiled, then typed a quick "Indeed I will." He shoved his phone into his pocket. He hadn't often thought of himself as a fledgling, but that's what he was. After all, he was the *real* thirty, not the forever thirty.

Have ChatGPT help you with description

In my novel, my protagonist, a time-traveling woman named Ashley, has just walked into a doctor's office back in the year 1745. Can you give me some ideas for the sights, sounds, tastes, smells, and physical sensations of this room? Please give me at least 20 details about the room.

Tip: Remember to ask for all the senses.
Then you can take one and focus in on it, to get more detail.

Use ChatGPT for World Building
I actually used this one recently…

I am writing a story about an alien life form that has 256 individuals that have to be together in order to function correctly. Can you give me a detailed scenario for why this alien needs to have 256 individuals, and why they need to be near each other?

Tip: Then ask for more, perhaps with less detail, or with more.

Or… ask for something more complex:

Create a language including an alphabet, phonetics, grammar, and the most common 100 words. Base it on a mix of ancient Sumarian, Turkish, and Pawnee Native American dialects.

Or… and entire world:

Describe the color, temperature, weather, animals, plants, geography, topography and atmosphere of a fictional planet in a far-away solar system. Include the planet's name, the nearby star, and a description of its two moons.

Or… future technology:
For a sci-fi story, I need some ideas for how solar panels have become extremely efficient 600 years from now/ Can you give me some interesting ideas for how future solar panels might work?

Have ChatGPT help you add creativity to your dialogue
I have a character whose native language is Russian, but he also speaks English. Can you give me some examples of humorous sentences in which he speaks in English but makes grammatical mistakes? He is

talking to someone about a plan for starting a new business in which he will be the owner of a bait shop for fishermen.

Or… something simple like:
Suggest ways to make my character's dialogue stand out from other characters.

Use ChatGPT for researching your setting:
Can you write a 1000-word passage describing the people, places, buildings, tools, vehicles, smells, sounds, and sights of 1940s China, specifically Shanghai.

Or… just ask for specific detail:
What would be a typical meal eaten in 1940s China?

Ask ChatGPT to help with your Book Blurb
Below is a brief description of my novel. Can you help me improve this description, making it more exciting and intriguing? Please make it no more than 180 words.

Unleash your imagination. Defy the boundaries of reality. One story at a time.
A genetically engineered Neanderthal teen struggles to find his place in modern human society. When a woman installs cutting-edge tech to translate her dog's behaviors into speech, the dog has something important to say. Trying to break the record for the longest continuous time in space, a woman realizes her body is changing. An elderly couple find something unexpected living in their basement. Awaking from a coma, a man realizes the life he's been experiencing for the last fifteen years wasn't even real. After months in a long-distance online relationship, a man discovers the woman he loves is not who he thought she was.
Fourteen science fiction stories to keep you reading until dawn. Tales of extraordinary technology, alien encounters, and inexplicable events. Most importantly, these stories explore how such remarkable circumstances impact the lives of those experiencing them.

Ask ChatGPT to help with line editing
Act like a copyeditor and edit the following chapter according to the Chicago Manual of Style. Focus on punctuation, grammar, syntax, typos, capitalization, formatting and consistency.

Ernesta sensed something was wrong the moment she woke up. Waking up from cryosleep was an eighteen-hour process, but the final stage—going from unconscious to conscious—was almost instantaneous. When she opened her eyes, her cryosleep pod was already open. Instead of the friendly faces of cryo technicians, she was greeted by the vacuous expressions of four ship-maintenance robots.
"Are you cognizant of your situation?" asked one of the bots in a generic female voice.
Ernesta tried to swallow, but her mouth was dry as cotton. "Um… I'm… I think so."
"Are you capable of autonomous locomotion?" the same bot asked.
She frowned. "Can I get a drink of water?"
"No. Are you capable of autonomous locomotion?"
She stared at the bot. "Where are the cryo techs?"

"If you are not capable of autonomous locomotion, I must carry you." All at once, the four bots moved closer, shoved their hands under her body, and scooped her from her pod.

"Hey! I didn't say I couldn't move myself. Put me down."

They turned her upright and placed her on her feet. The floor felt warm to her bare soles. Two of the bots held her arms to prevent her from falling.

She shook them off. "I feel steady enough. Where are the—" She stopped talking, staring down the walkway between two of the rows of cryo pods. All the pods were still sealed shut. She turned to look the other direction. All the pods on the facing row were still sealed. The pods on her side—about thirty of them between hers and the end of the row—were open and empty. "What's going on? This isn't the reanimation protocol."

"Are you capable of autonomous locomotion?"

Then add…
Can you show me the errors you found?

Use ChatGPT for inspiration for story details

I'm writing a science fiction story in which humans have a technology AI system that can copy the knowledge and expertise of certain people, then other people can pay to have that knowledge and expertise embedded in their own mind for up to six hours. Some people refuse to make their knowledge available to their service. A man figures out a way to get access to the knowledge of those people who have refused. The man embeds that knowledge of one of these people into his own mind for four hours, and he realizes why the person had refused to participate, because the person was keeping a dark secret. Can you give me some ideas for this? What kind of dark secret would make this an interesting story?

Ask ChatGPT for more ways you can use ChatGPT!

I am a novelist, and I often struggle with writing snappy, believable dialogue. What are ways you (ChatGPT) can help me?

Remember to continue to push ChatGPT to refine and tweak its replies (this is what ChatGPT is really good at), until you get closer to what you are looking for.

Remember, you do not have to use what ChatGPT gives you, word for word. It's all about inspiration!

For more ideas on how to effectively compose your requests to ChatGPT, look at the example prompts on this web page: https://www.thinkific.com/blog/ai-to-write-a-book/