

Chapter 4

AI and the Future of Literary Creation: Transforming Fiction, Poetry, and Drama

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ABSTRACT

The intersection of artificial intelligence and literary creation presents both exhilarating possibilities and profound philosophical questions. This chapter explores how AI is transforming the ways we produce, understand, and value fiction, poetry, and drama. Far from simply automating the writing process, AI reshapes the creative landscape—serving as collaborator, tool, and sometimes even provocateur. By analyzing contemporary examples of AI-assisted literature and examining how machine learning models engage with narrative structures, poetic forms, and dramatic dialogue, this chapter seeks to uncover what is gained—and potentially lost—when creativity becomes entangled with code. It reflects on the evolving identity of the writer, the shifting boundaries of originality and authorship, and the broader cultural implications of letting machines into the sacred space of storytelling. Rather than offering definitive answers, this inquiry invites readers to wrestle with the complexities of a literary future that is not just human but also hybrid.

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INTRODUCTION

Literature has always been shaped by the tools of its time. From the oral traditions of ancient storytellers to the invention of the printing press, from the typewriter to the digital word processor, each innovation has left its imprint on the way stories are told and shared (JOURNEY, 2024). Today, we stand at the edge of another monumental shift—not merely in medium, but in agency. The arrival of artificial intelligence (AI) as a creative collaborator, and in some cases as a semi-autonomous literary “author,” signals a profound change in the very nature of literary creation. What was once the exclusive domain of human imagination is now being co-inhabited by machines capable of generating poetry, crafting narratives, and even improvising dialogue. This chapter begins with a recognition that the growing presence of AI in literary spaces is not a passing trend or a technological gimmick, but rather a development with deep implications for how we understand authorship, originality, and creativity itself. As large language models become more advanced, the line between human and machine-generated text becomes increasingly difficult to draw. This blurring challenges our long-held assumptions about what it means to write—and to be a writer. Can a machine possess a literary voice? What role does intention play in meaning-making? And how do we evaluate literary merit when the creator may not be sentient? These questions are not merely philosophical (Edmond, 2019). They strike at the heart of literary practice and pedagogy, editorial judgment, and even the marketplace for books and ideas.

Writers today are already using AI to brainstorm plots, rephrase prose, generate poetic stanzas, and simulate character dialogue (Gero, 2023). Some authors are transparent about their use of AI; others integrate it quietly into their workflows. In either case, the relationship between human and machine is complex and evolving. Rather than viewing AI as a replacement for the human writer, many artists are beginning to see it as a new kind of creative partner—one that can provoke, challenge, and amplify their work in unexpected ways. But the enthusiasm surrounding AI’s potential must be tempered by a sober analysis of its limitations and risks. The models that generate language do not “understand” the world as humans do. They predict text based on patterns in data, not lived experience or emotional insight.

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