AI-Assisted Literary World Building

Introduction

In this activity, students will construct the foundational lore for a fantasy or science fiction novel they aspire to write. Harnessing the power of generative AI, they'll undergo a structured world-building process. This will involve the creation of diverse aspects such as geography, cultures, species, religions, magic or technology systems, and historical milestones. Moreover, students will exploit AI prompts to generate visualization like maps, character sketches, or concept art, for enriching their depiction and comprehension of their invented universe.

Activity Steps

1. **Unearth the Core Concept and Aspirations:**
   a. Prompt the AI with, "Suggest a diverse array of intriguing core concepts for a [fantasy/sci-fi] novel."
   b. Choose a concept from the AI-orchestrated list or cultivate your own unique vision.
   c. Articulate the aspirations and objectives for your world-building journey, ensuring they harmonize with your novel's central concept.

2. **Investigate Established Genres and Literary Devices:**
   a. Prompt the AI with, "What are some distinctive genres, sub-genres, and literary devices prevalent in [fantasy/sci-fi] literature?"
   b. Leverage AI-compiled information to inspire your world and understand the contemporary literary landscape.

3. **Design the World's Physical Landscape:**
   a. Initiate a brainstorm and refine ideas to shape the physical landscape of your world.
   b. Prompt the AI with, "Craft a detailed description of diverse geographic features suitable for a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
   c. Adapt AI-generated information to further sculpt your world's geography.

4. **Craft the World's Cultures and Civilizations:**

a. Prompt the AI with, "Craft a comprehensive description of diverse cultures, species, and societies for a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
b. Employ AI-generated information to inspire the design of vibrant cultures and societies in your world.

5. **Invent Magic/Technology Systems:**
   a. Prompt the AI with, "Devise an innovative magic system for a fantasy world" or "Create an advanced technology system for a sci-fi world."
   b. Integrate the AI-generated magic or technology system into your world, tailoring as required to integrate with the core concept and objectives of your world.

6. **Chart Historical Milestones:**
   a. Prompt the AI with, "Construct a timeline of pivotal historical events for a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
   b. Utilize the AI-generated timeline as a launchpad to create a rich history for your world.

7. **Generate Visual Content:**
   a. Map: Prompt DALL-E with, "Craft a detailed map concept for a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
   b. Character/Species Sketch: Prompt DALL-E with, "Create a character/species design for a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
   c. Concept Art: Prompt DALL-E with, "Conjure concept art for a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."

8. **Polish and Perfect the World:**
   a. Test your world-building notions with the AI and refine the concepts, ensuring they are coherent, captivating, and align with your goals.
   b. Prompt: "Identify potential weaknesses in a [fantasy/sci-fi] world centered around [core concept]. Enumerate the main challenges this world might confront, such as discrepancies in the magic/technology system, cultural discord, or potential narrative loopholes in the historical timeline."

9. **Showcase the World:**
   a. Prepare an engaging 5-minute presentation to exhibit your world to the class, covering core concepts, geography, cultures, magic/technology system, historical milestones, and visual stimuli such as maps, character sketches, and concept art.
   b. A compelling AI-generated video with narration could be used to present this pitch!

Additional Useful Prompts

1. **Religion and Mythology:**
   a. Prompt: "Design a diverse array of religions and mythologies for a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
2. **Political and Economic Systems:**
   a. Prompt: "Design a complex political and economic system for a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
3. **Species and Character Development:**
   a. Prompt: "Create a detailed overview of unique species or characters, complete with their backgrounds, traits, motivations, and conflicts in a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
4. **Language and Communication:**
   a. Prompt: "Generate the basics of a unique language or communication system for a species in a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
5. **Plot and Conflict:**
   a. Prompt: "Suggest potential plotlines and conflicts that could arise in a [fantasy/sci-fi] world centered around [core concept]."
6. **Visualizing Key Locations:**
   a. Prompt DALL-E with, "Visualize an important location or city within a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
7. **Cultural Artifacts:**
   a. Prompt DALL-E with, "Design a unique cultural artifact significant to a society in a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."
8. **Soundscapes:**
   a. Prompt AIVA with, "Create a soundscape that captures the atmosphere of a [fantasy/sci-fi] world."