



Ideas, Ideas, Ideas

Every book begins long before it becomes a book. It starts with scraps - a sentence overheard on a bus, a strange image that won't leave you alone, a question you can't quite shake. At this stage, you're not planning or outlining. You're simply noticing. Collecting. Letting your imagination wander without pressure or expectation.

A Quick Prompt to Get You Started

What small things have caught my attention lately, and why did they stick?

Those tiny moments often become the seeds of something bigger.

Keep a Notebook (Digital or Paper)

Writers often talk about notebooks because they work. Not as diaries, but as containers, places to store the fragments that would otherwise slip away.

You might jot down:

- a line of dialogue
- a character name
- a strange detail you noticed
- a question you want to explore
- a feeling you want to capture
- a scene that arrived out of nowhere

The notebook isn't for polished writing. It's for gathering raw material.

Follow the Spark, Not the Structure

At this stage, you don't need to know what the idea *is*. You don't need a plot, a theme, or a plan. You just need curiosity. These small explorations help you understand what the idea wants to become, without forcing it into shape too early.

Let yourself:

- write a messy paragraph
- sketch a character or describe a place
- explore a moment
- imagine a conflict
- ask “what if...”

Write an Exploratory Paragraph

One of the simplest ways to test an idea is to write a single paragraph about it. Not a summary, a moment. A glimpse. A feeling.

It might be:

- a character walking into a room
- a snapshot of the world
- a conversation
- a memory
- a problem unfolding

If the paragraph feels alive, you may have found something worth following.

Collect Without Judging

Early ideas are fragile. They don't need critique, they need space.

Try to avoid:

- dismissing ideas as “not good enough”
- comparing them to finished books
- worrying about where they fit
- trying to make them perfect

Your only job is to gather. The shaping comes later.

Let Ideas Sit

Some ideas need time. Leave them in your notebook. Return to them days or weeks later. You'll often find that the ones with real energy still feel alive when you revisit them.

This quiet incubation is part of the creative process.

A Simple Exercise

Choose one small idea from your notebook and write a single paragraph exploring it. Don't plan. Don't edit. Just follow the spark and see where it leads.

A Final Thought

Ideas rarely arrive fully formed. They grow through attention, curiosity, and gentle exploration. When you give yourself permission to collect freely and write without pressure, you create the conditions for a book to emerge, naturally, gradually, and in its own time.