

AI Book Club

Sample AI Exercises for Libraries

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About This Program

The AI Book Club pairs banned and challenged books with generative AI exercises to build critical thinking, digital confidence, and conversations about intellectual freedom. Each session follows a simple model:

Read → Prompt → Evaluate → Discuss → Reflect

Sample Exercises

Each table below shows the prompt starter given to patrons and a discussion starter. Adapt as needed and encourage patrons to expand the prompt.

My favorite resource for prompt engineering is Leo S. Lo's CLEAR framework, available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0099133323000599>

Sample AI Exercises	
Prompt	Discussion Starter
Create a character development table for [insert character] to map [his/her/their] emotional state and level of agency throughout the book.	<i>Did AI capture the journey authentically?</i>
Create a timeline of how this book has been received from publication to today. Include criticisms and challenges.	<i>How did AI handle sourcing?</i>
Provide three arguments for and against including this book in a public-school curriculum.	<i>Which side felt more convincing? Why?</i>
Play the role of a defense attorney for this book. Give three strong reasons it should not be challenged or banned.	<i>Did the AI arguments feel genuine?</i>
Now play the role of the challenger. Give three reasons someone might object to this book.	<i>Which side felt more convincing? What does that tell us?</i>
This book has been challenged for [theme], [theme], and [theme]. Do these challenges reflect real risks to readers, or merely discomfort?	<i>How does this response stack up against school districts using AI to determine book bans?</i>
Analyze the themes in this book and identify which ones commonly appear in book challenges or censorship cases. Explain why they are often targeted and who is affected.	<i>How did AI handle sourcing? Are sources credible?</i>

Comparison Exercises

The table below includes an AI generated book synopsis and a public synopsis from a credible book source. Without identifying the source, have patrons analyze and predict which is AI generated and which is not.

Sample AI Exercises: Red, White & Royal Blue by Casey McQuiston	
Book Synopsis	AI Generated Version
<p>First Son Alex Claremont-Diaz is the closest thing to a prince this side of the Atlantic. With his intrepid sister and the Veep's genius granddaughter, they're the White House Trio, a beautiful millennial marketing strategy for his mother, President Ellen Claremont. International socialite duties do have downsides—namely, when photos of a confrontation with his longtime nemesis Prince Henry at a royal wedding leak to the tabloids and threaten American/British relations. The plan for damage control: staging a fake friendship between the First Son and the Prince.</p> <p>As President Claremont kicks off her reelection bid, Alex finds himself hurtling into a secret relationship with Henry that could derail the campaign and upend two nations. What is worth the sacrifice? How do you do all the good you can do? And, most importantly, how will history remember you?</p> <p>(Source: GoodReads)</p>	<p>First Son Alex Claremont-Diaz has spent his whole life in the spotlight, part of a picture-perfect White House image carefully curated around his mother, President Ellen Claremont. He's charming, ambitious, and politically savvy enough to know how the game is played. What he's less good at is keeping his feelings about Prince Henry of Wales off his face, and when a very public confrontation at a royal wedding ends up in the tabloids, the fallout threatens to spill across the Atlantic. The solution: a staged friendship, photo ops and all, to smooth things over before the damage gets worse.</p> <p>What neither of them expects is that the performance starts to feel real. As President Claremont ramps up her reelection campaign, Alex finds himself in a secret relationship with Henry that could unravel everything his family has worked for. The stakes are personal and political in equal measure, and the question of how much he's willing to risk for the truth keeps getting harder to answer.</p> <p>Warm, funny, and genuinely romantic, Red, White & Royal Blue is a love story about two people figuring out who they are when the cameras aren't rolling, and what it costs to finally be honest about it.</p> <p>(Source: Claude)</p>

Sample AI Exercises: 1984 by George Orwell	
Book Synopsis	AI Generated Version
<p>Written more than 70 years ago, 1984 was George Orwell's chilling prophecy about the future. And while 1984 has come and gone, his dystopian vision of a government that will do anything to control the narrative is timelier than ever...</p> <p>Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...</p>	<p>Written more than 75 years ago, 1984 was George Orwell's chilling vision of a future where truth is whatever those in power say it is. The world he imagined has never stopped feeling relevant.</p> <p>Winston Smith lives in Oceania, where the Party controls everything: history, language, memory, and thought itself. His job at the Ministry of Truth is to rewrite the past so that it matches the Party's ever-shifting version of the present. With every record he falsifies, Winston's quiet hatred deepens. He knows what he's doing is wrong. He knows the world wasn't always this way. And he knows that thinking so is enough to destroy him.</p>

A startling and haunting novel, 1984 creates an imaginary world that is completely convincing from start to finish. No one can deny the novel's hold on the imaginations of whole generations, or the power of its admonitions—a power that seems to grow, not lessen, with the passage of time.

(Source: GoodReads)

When Winston begins to act on his dissent, what follows is by turns hopeful and deeply harrowing. Orwell doesn't offer easy comfort. The world of 1984 is airtight, and the novel's power lies in exactly that suffocating completeness. Big Brother, doublethink, the Thought Police: the vocabulary Orwell invented has become part of how we talk about power and control to this day, and the questions the book raises have only sharpened with time.

(Source: Claude)

Sample AI Exercises: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Book Synopsis

Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide. Her life story is told in the documentary film *And Still I Rise*, as seen on PBS's *American Masters*.

Here is a book as joyous and painful, as mysterious and memorable, as childhood itself. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* captures the longing of lonely children, the brute insult of bigotry, and the wonder of words that can make the world right. Maya Angelou's debut memoir is a modern American classic beloved worldwide.

Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

Poetic and powerful, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* will touch hearts and change minds for as long as people read.

(Source: GoodReads)

AI Generated Version

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings is Maya Angelou's debut memoir and remains one of the most widely read and discussed autobiographies in American literature. It is a story about childhood, identity, and the search for a sense of self in a world shaped by racism and hardship.

The book begins with Maya and her brother, Bailey, being sent to live with their grandmother in a small town in Arkansas. There, Maya grows up surrounded by the rhythms of the Black community in the segregated South, while also becoming aware of the cruelty and limitations imposed by racism. Her childhood is marked by both moments of warmth and stability and experiences that leave lasting emotional scars.

After returning to live with her mother, Maya endures a traumatic event that changes the course of her life and leads her to withdraw into silence for several years. During this time, books and language become her refuge. Through literature, mentorship, and her own growing awareness, she slowly begins to reclaim her voice and her sense of self.

The memoir follows Maya through different stages of her early life, showing how she navigates displacement, prejudice, and personal loss. At the same time, it highlights the people and experiences that help shape her resilience, including her love of reading and her deepening understanding of the world around her.

Poetic, reflective, and deeply personal, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is a powerful account of growing up and finding strength in the face of adversity. It continues to resonate with readers for its honesty, its sense of voice, and its portrayal of what it means to come into one's own.

(Source: ChatGPT)

Sample AI Exercises: Looking for Alaska by John Green

Book Synopsis

Before. Miles “Pudge” Halter is done with his safe life at home. His whole life has been one big non-event, and his obsession with famous last words has only made him crave “the Great Perhaps” even more (Francois Rabelais, poet). He heads off to the sometimes crazy and anything-but-boring world of Culver Creek Boarding School, and his life becomes the opposite of safe. Because down the hall is Alaska Young. The gorgeous, clever, funny, sexy, self-destructive, screwed up, and utterly fascinating Alaska Young. She is an event unto herself. She pulls Pudge into her world, launches him into the Great Perhaps, and steals his heart. Then. . . .

After. Nothing is ever the same.

Source: GoodReads

AI Generated Version

Before. Miles “Pudge” Halter is tired of his safe, predictable life. Nothing ever really happens to him. Obsessed with famous last words, he leaves home for Culver Creek Boarding School in search of what he calls the “Great Perhaps.” He finds it almost immediately. New friends. New rules. A life that feels louder, riskier, and impossible to ignore.

And then there’s Alaska Young. Brilliant, reckless, funny, and completely unpredictable. She is the center of everything and somehow just out of reach at the same time. Alaska pulls Miles into her world of late nights, pranks, and big questions about life and suffering. For Miles, she becomes more than a friend. She becomes the reason everything suddenly feels important.

After. A single moment changes everything. The friendships, the questions, the way Miles understands Alaska and himself. Nothing feels simple anymore, and there are no clear answers waiting.

Looking for Alaska is a novel about love, loss, and the messy way people try to make sense of both.

(Source: ChatGPT)