

# Acme Plot Generator

*An infinity of story prompts!*

## User and administration guide

Release 1.0

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## Ready to free your creativity?

With the Acme Plot Generator (APG), you can brainstorm story ideas in seconds. Generated from elements that you provide, some of the prompts may be curious, some may be surreal... but all strike a spark, and one will fall neatly into place and start a fire in your brain. Result: you spend more time writing, and less time thinking of the next idea.

### How does it work?

You create a library of elements that make up a story prompt. These elements include:

- Settings
- Themes
- Primary characters
- Secondary characters
- Events
- Objects
- Moods.

You can include as much or little detail as you want. A story element can be a single word or multiple paragraphs. You can also add images, video clips, or links to web pages that inspire you.

When you need an idea, ask APG to generate a plot from your library. APG mixes and matches elements to create a story prompt.

To generate a prompt, APG uses a combination of random matching and intelligence. APG has a dictionary that recognizes the meaning of words and how concepts relate to each other. Based on this understanding, it creates prompts that contain coherent elements and discards anything that seems too arbitrary. At the same time, it uses a random factor to keep the prompts fresh, exciting, and unpredictable, without veering into nonsense.

### What do I need?

APG is web based. You log in online using either seamless authentication through single sign-on, or an individual username and password. Once logged in, you manage your library of prompt elements. The elements you create are automatically associated with your profile.

You need a modern browser, such as a current or recent version of:

- Edge
- Chrome

- Firefox
- Safari.

You'll find that APG also works in the mobile versions of these browsers, enabling you to manage and generate prompts on the move.

## Sign in to APG

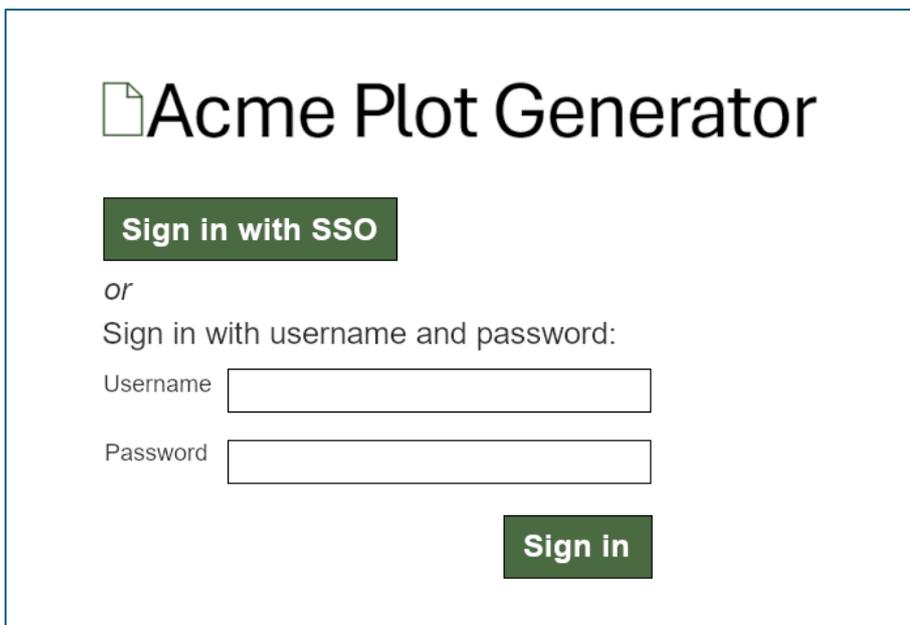
There are two ways to sign in:

1. Through single sign-on (SSO). This method automatically authenticates you using your existing sign-in credentials for your institution. You don't need a separate login for APG.
2. Using a specific username and password, which an administrator will have supplied. This method is less common than single sign-on. It is typically used to grant temporary access.

### Sign in with SSO

1. Go to the APG login page. The address of the login page is `https://[customer ID].apg-story.org/login`.

Replace `[customer ID]` with the appropriate account ID for your institution. For example, if your institution is called Acme, your login URL would be `https://acme.apg-story.org/login`. The customer ID is always lower case.



 **Acme Plot Generator**

**Sign in with SSO**

*or*

Sign in with username and password:

Username

Password

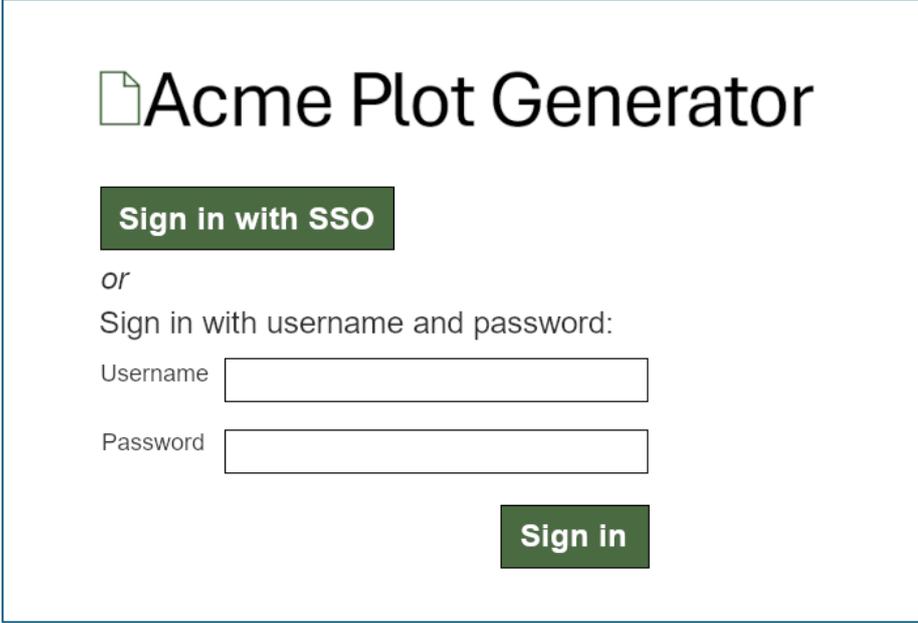
**Sign in**

2. Press **Sign in with SSO**. You are taken directly to the APG home screen.

## Sign in with username and password

1. Go to the APG login page. The address of the login page is `https://[customer ID].apg-story.org/login`.

Replace `[customer ID]` with the appropriate account ID for your institution. For example, if your institution is called Acme, your login URL would be `https://acme.apg-story.org/login`. The customer ID is always lower case.



Acme Plot Generator

Sign in with SSO

or

Sign in with username and password:

Username

Password

Sign in

2. Enter your username in the **Username** field.
3. Enter your password in the **Password** field.
4. Press the **Sign in** button.

## Story elements

The heart of APG is your library of story elements, from which the software generates unique writing prompts. You can add, edit, or remove elements at any time. Create a library that reflects your writing style.

### Types of story element

#### Setting

The background against which the story takes place. The setting can be a time, a place, an interstellar void – it's entirely up to you.

#### Theme

What the story is 'about', morally or philosophically. Examples: love, power, acceptance.

## Primary character

Who is the main character? Is it a teenage girl, a king, a criminal? Do they have a name? Is there a face in a photograph that inspires you?

## Secondary character

Who else takes part in the action and interacts with the main character?

## Event

What happens in the story, or to kickstart the action? This could be anything from an earthquake to the beginning of a new school term.

## Object

A thing that turns out to be significant to the plot or character.

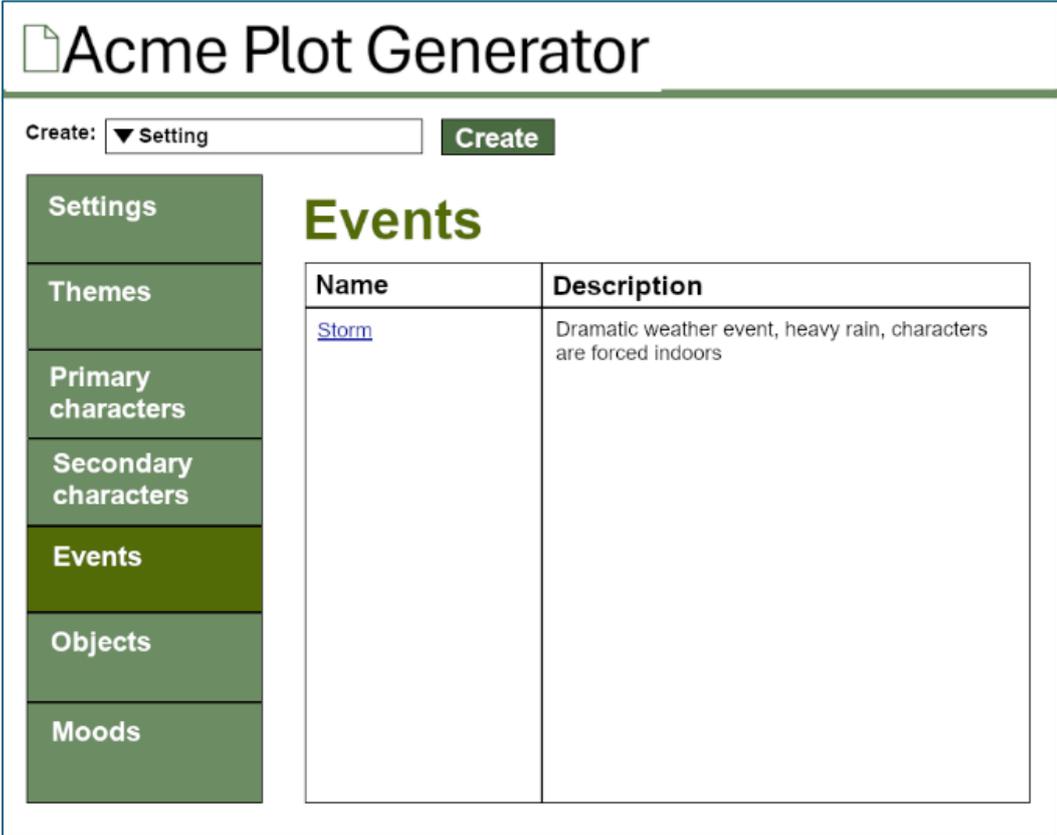
## Mood

The tone of the story, for example sad or comic.

You don't need to add all these elements, nor do you need them all when generating a prompt.

## Add a story element

1. From the main menu, select **Elements**. This screen shows your current story elements.



The screenshot shows the 'Acme Plot Generator' interface. At the top, there is a header with a document icon and the title 'Acme Plot Generator'. Below the header, there is a 'Create:' section with a dropdown menu set to 'Setting' and a 'Create' button. On the left side, there is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: 'Settings', 'Themes', 'Primary characters', 'Secondary characters', 'Events' (which is highlighted in a darker green), 'Objects', and 'Moods'. The main content area is titled 'Events' and contains a table with two columns: 'Name' and 'Description'. The table has one row with the name 'Storm' (a blue link) and the description 'Dramatic weather event, heavy rain, characters are forced indoors'.

Name	Description
<a href="#">Storm</a>	Dramatic weather event, heavy rain, characters are forced indoors

2. From the **Create** drop-down list, select the type of element you want to create. The default is **Setting**.
3. Press the **Create** button. You are taken to an editing screen.

**Create setting**

Name

Description

**Save**

4. In the **Name** field, enter a unique name for this element. The name may include spaces and special characters.
5. (Optional.) To flesh out your idea, enter more information in the **Description** field. You can add formatting or insert an image using the buttons on the toolbar. (For more detail, see [Using rich content in your description.](#))
6. When you're finished, press **Save**.

## Administrative settings

### Set up single sign-on (SSO)

Users can sign in to APG using single sign-on (SSO). SSO allows a user to authenticate using their existing credentials for your institution, without needing a separate username and password for APG. (See [Sign in to APG.](#))

APG uses the SAML protocol and requires your identity provider (IdP) to pass specific information about a user, as detailed below.

## Setup process

1. In your IdP, add 'Acme Plot Generator' to the list of applications permitted to authenticate through SSO. (The exact procedure for doing this depends on your IdP.)
2. Configure a SAML connection for the 'Acme Plot Generator' application. Your IdP must pass the parameters listed in the **Required data** table, below. The name of each parameter must match that shown in the table.
3. Save the SAML connection details.
4. Let us know that you have set up the connection, so we can make any necessary changes on our server.
5. Once you get the go-ahead from us, test that a registered user can sign in successfully through SSO. See [Sign in to APG](#).

If you need help configuring the SAML connection, please contact the APG support team.

## Required data

To authenticate users through SAML, your IdP must pass the following data:

Parameter	Description	Type	Required?
id	Internal ID that uniquely identifies the user	Text	Yes
firstname	User's first name	Text	Yes
lastname	User's surname	Text	Yes
email	User's email address	Text	Yes
role	User's role	Text. The value of this parameter can be either 'user' or 'admin'.	No. The role controls the user's access permissions in APG. If this parameter is omitted, the user will have default, non-administrative permissions.