

How to Tell a Story in AI Prompts (or in General)

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When telling a story — or writing a prompt for an AI model — the level of detail you include directly shapes the balance between imagination and stability.

If your description is very specific, the model has less room for imagination, but the output will be much more consistent and predictable. You're basically directing the story, scene, or animation — controlling every element.

If your description is vague or open-ended, the model has more freedom to interpret and may create surprising or creative results — but it also becomes less stable, sometimes drifting away from what you intended.

In short:

More detail = less imagination but more control.

Less detail = more imagination but less control.

Effect: Stable
visuals — Vidu
clearly understands
who Sun Wukong is,
what he looks like,
what the camera
should do, and
what style to use.
Minimal "AI
improvisation."

A cinematic 2D animation in traditional Chinese ink painting style.

Sun Wukong, the Monkey King with golden fur, red armor, and a glowing golden staff, stands on the edge of a rocky purple mountain peak. Mist flows around him as he crouches, eyes fixed on a distant mountain across the valley. He powerfully leaps forward through swirling clouds, performing a smooth front flip in midair. The camera tracks his motion as he lands gracefully on the next mountain, his staff glowing in the misty light. Soft brushstroke texture, watercolor diffusion, and cinematic depth of field in an 8-second shot.

Effect: Gives Runway (or other) freedom to imagine — results may look painterly and abstract, but the "character" might not resemble Sun Wukong, or may morph mid-motion.

A mystical figure jumps across misty mountains in a dreamlike world.

Clouds drift, colors flow like watercolor ink.

The motion feels poetic and light, as if the wind carries the character through the air.

Effect:

Keeps a clear subject (Sun Wukong, the staff, the mountains).

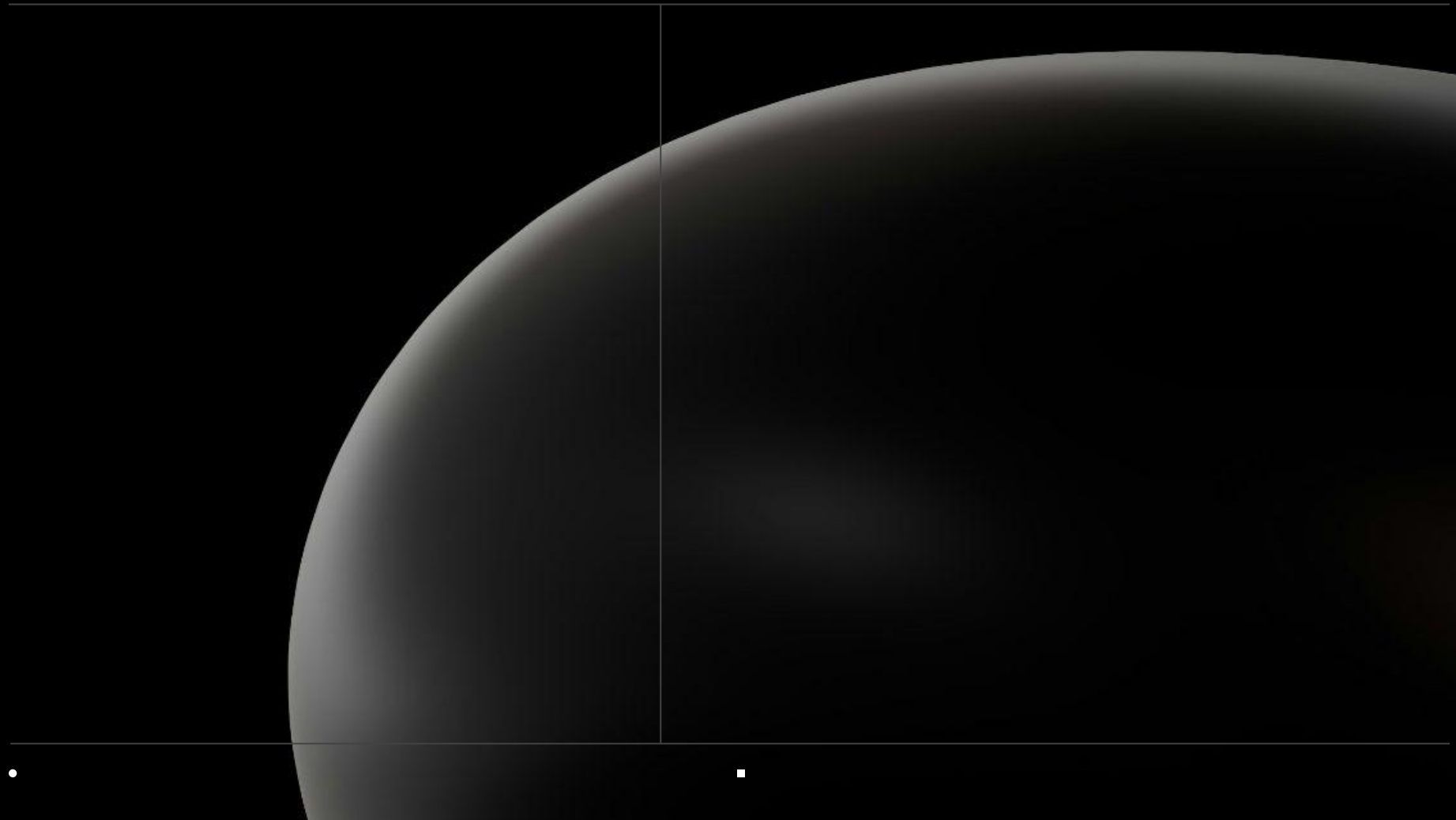
Gives Runway enough artistic space to interpret cloud flow and brushstroke motion.

Works beautifully for that "animated watercolor movie" feel — consistent but still full of life.

In a Chinese ink painting style, Sun Wukong stands on a misty mountain peak under a purple dawn sky. He grips his golden staff and gazes across the valley.

The clouds swirl gently as he leaps into the air, flipping gracefully between mountains.

Brushstrokes flow like moving ink, blending realism and dreamlike motion as he lands on the next peak with calm strength.



Why You Need Character Reference Images

When you generate a video using AI tools like **Vidu**, if you only rely on text prompts, the model will often “reimagine” the character in every frame or camera cut.

That means:

- The character’s **face, hair, proportions, and outfit** may change slightly between shots.
- During **fast motion or zooms**, the face might morph or lose detail.
- You’ll lose the sense of continuity — especially if you want cinematic consistency.

To fix that, you should **create a set of character reference images (a character sheet)** before animating.

These act as a **visual anchor**, ensuring the AI keeps the same look, costume, and proportions throughout the sequence.

Why You Need Character Reference Images



Camera Exercise

Camera Motion Verbs

Motion Type	English Term	Effect / Purpose
Move closer	zoom in / dolly in	Increases focus and intensity; draws attention to the subject
Pull back	zoom out / pull back	Reveals the larger environment; gives a sense of scale
Pan	pan left / pan right	Expresses observation or a gentle shift in viewpoint
Follow	track with / follow	Creates dynamic movement; keeps the viewer connected to the character
Rush past	rush past / fly through	Adds speed, energy, and a sense of impact
Orbit	orbit around / circle around	Adds cinematic depth and a 3D feeling of space



Camera Motion & Visual Storytelling

Common camera verbs:

- Zoom in / dolly in → increases focus
- Zoom out / pull back → reveals environment
- Pan left / right → subtle perspective shift
- Track with / follow → dynamic motion
- Rush past / fly through → speed, energy
- Orbit around / circle around → cinematic 3D depth

Framing tips:

- Behind character for mystery
- Over-shoulder for shared vision
- Keep movement clear: from where → to where

Assignment Workflow (Vidu Only)

- 1 Create Your Character – use Vidu's image generation or import your own (ChatGPT)
- 2 Design two Scenes – background in matching same style
- 3 Plan Camera Movement – orbit, rush past, zoom out, follow, or pan
- 4 Write Your Prompt – describe action and atmosphere
- 5 Generate Video – combine character and scene,
- 6 Refine & Export – adjust speed and lighting; export final 5–10s MP4