

Change how the editor looks

This page covers the ways you can make the editor comfortable to sit with for a long session: light or dark, the color of the room, a dark page to write on, and whether you see your words as the printed page or as one long column.

None of this changes your book. It's all about your screen.

Light, dark and the colors

Click the small half-filled circle in the toolbar to open **Appearance**.

- **Appearance—Auto** follows your computer's own light or dark setting; **Light** and **Dark** stay put whatever your computer does.
- **Light theme—Ivory** or **Fall**, the colors Write uses when it's light.
- **Dark theme—Plum** or **Slate**, the colors it uses when it's dark.

You can pick a light theme and a dark theme both, and Auto will switch between them as your computer does.

Screenshot: The Appearance menu *Screenshot: the Appearance menu open in the editor, showing Appearance, Light theme, Dark theme, Layout and Dark page.*

The same across Author Tools

Your appearance choices are saved for all of Author Tools, not only Write. Set Dark and Slate here, and the other Author Tools apps that offer these settings will open the same way. (The dark page and the layout are Write's own.)

A dark page

The colors of the screen and the color of the page you write on are separate choices. Someone who likes a light screen but finds a white page glaring after a few hours can have both. Turn on **Dark page**—it's at the bottom of the Appearance menu, and in the **Show** menu too—and your page goes dark with light text.

Until you choose, the page follows the rest of the screen: dark when Write is dark. Once you flip it yourself, it stays the way you set it. Your book still prints on white paper, of course; **Preview** always shows the real thing.

Print format or full width

Layout (in the Appearance menu, and in its own **Layout** menu in the toolbar) chooses how your manuscript sits on the screen:

- **Print format**—the page as it will print, at your trim size and in your book's type. Good for seeing how a chapter really falls.
- **Full width**—one wide column of text, no pages. Good for drafting.

Your words are the same either way; switch as often as you like.

Zoom

In print format, the - and + beside the percentage in the toolbar make the page smaller or larger. Holding **Alt** while you scroll does the same. (Full width doesn't zoom; it fills the space you give it.)

The Show menu

Show in the toolbar turns a few helpers on and off. Each one is remembered.

- **Guides**—faint lines marking the margins of the printed page. These only appear in print format.
- **Dark page**—the same switch as above.
- **Codex names**—underlines the names in your scene that have codex entries; point at one to see the entry. See [The codex while you write](#).
- **Outline at the side**—keeps the outline of your book open in a narrow column beside the page while you write. It shares that space with the review rail, so opening one closes the other. For the full outline, see [Write, Outline and Preview](#).

Revision #2

Created 2026-10-14 23:21:10 UTC by AuthorTools Write

Updated 2026-10-14 23:21:17 UTC by AuthorTools Write