

Claude Fable 5: What We Learned — and Is It Worth It Now It's Paid?

Your companion sheet to the episode: the key facts, the jobs worth running, the real costs, and a checklist to act on before the free period ends.

The Facts at a Glance

Free period	Fable 5 is included on Claude Pro, Max, Team and premium Enterprise plans through 19 July 2026 , capped at 50% of your weekly usage limits. Nothing to claim or activate.
From 20 July	Pay-as-you-go usage credits: \$10 per million input tokens / \$50 per million output tokens . It will no longer be bundled into your subscription.
What that means	1 million tokens ≈ 750,000 words. Feeding in a 90,000-word novel costs about \$1.20 . Costs only get serious when a job re-reads your manuscripts over and over.

Note: the deadline has already been extended three times (22 June → 7 July → 12 July → 19 July). Check the current date before you rely on it.

What We Learned: Where Fable 5 Actually Earns Its Keep

The big lesson of the free period: the value isn't drafting prose — cheaper models already do that well. Fable 5's edge is **whole-backlist jobs**: tasks that need all your books in its head at once.

- **Series bible.** Feed in your full backlist and extract every character, timeline, location and relationship. The highest-value single job you can run.
- **Continuity audit.** Changed eye colours, timeline contradictions, dropped plot threads — invaluable before a boxset or the next book in series.
- **Metadata overhaul.** Fresh blurbs, keywords and categories for every book on every store (KDP, Apple, Kobo, Google Play), plus A+ content copy.
- **Marketing asset batch.** Facebook, Amazon and BookBub ad variants, newsletter sequences and promo copy for the whole list in one sitting.
- **Developmental pass on your WIP.** Whole-manuscript feedback on pacing, subplot balance and character arcs.
- **Boxset & repurposing prep.** Front/back matter, read-next chains, series samplers, audiobook narrator briefs.

Is It Worth Paying For? The Numbers

Estimated costs at the announced rates (\$10/\$50 per million tokens). Treat these as ballpark figures — your books and prompts will vary.

Job	Approx. cost
Series bible from a 10-book backlist (one pass)	\$15–20
Developmental pass on one 90,000-word novel	\$3–5
Metadata refresh across the whole backlist	\$5–8
Iterative editing that re-reads your manuscript 20+ times	\$50–100+ per book

- **Worth paying:** you have a sizeable backlist and a specific list of one-shot jobs. \$5–20 per job is trivially good value for a career author.

- **Not worth paying:** your AI use is mostly drafting, brainstorming and short copy. Sonnet or Opus on a standard subscription covers that — don't pay premium rates for it.
- **The trap:** open-ended, iterative sessions. One-shot jobs are cheap; loops that re-read your manuscripts multiply input costs invisibly. Set a monthly credit budget and treat it like ad spend, not a subscription.

Your Checklist Before the Free Period Ends

- Run the series bible on your full backlist — do this one first.
- Run a continuity audit across your longest-running series.
- Refresh blurbs, keywords and categories for every book.
- Batch-generate your next quarter's ad and newsletter copy.
- Get a developmental pass on your current WIP.
- Save every output outside the chat — documents, spreadsheets, your own files. The artefacts keep their value even if you never buy a credit.
- Decide your monthly credit budget now, before the meter starts.

The one-liner: Ingest while it's free, budget when it's not.

Pricing and dates correct as of 15 July 2026 and may change — Anthropic has extended the deadline three times. Cost estimates are the hosts' own calculations from published token rates. Self Publishing Formula • selfpublishingformula.com