

There's a reason television and movies went from black and white to Technicolor™. The world around us is painted in a kaleidoscope of hues. And this season, we're going to wreak Havok with that color! Remember: This is a reference sheet only; check the Season Themes page on [GoHavok.com](http://GoHavok.com) to verify which months are open for submissions and which are closed.

### **YELLOW (DEADLINE: November 1, 2020)**

Sun and emojis. Brightness. Day. Yellow conveys happiness and sunshine. Hope—or perhaps cowardice. Write us a story with daffodils, a school pencil, canaries and chicks. It's also the color of warning signs, so take us on a thrilling New York taxi ride. Show us what happens when genetically modified corn, bananas, or lemons awaken to sentience. Feature a chest of gold, whether or not it's at the end of a rainbow. Or fill that chest with citrine and amber. Better yet, encase a *mystery* in that amber, or make the treasure part of a YELLOW dragon's hoard. *(Publishes in January.)*

### **RED (DEADLINE: December 6, 2020)**

Energy, passion, danger. Flames, fire, blood. Red is a versatile color. Give us stories with sanguine magic or be-spelled rubies. Show us what happens when a man falls in love with a crimson-haired fairy. Make us bite our nails as your hero answers his red phone then races to prevent an explosion. Why explore the universe in a blue police box when you can do it in a speech-enabled, cherry-red firetruck? Discover the mysteries of an ancient volcano on the brink of eruption. In essence, write a story featuring RED that makes us *stop* what we're doing to read it. *(Publishes in February.)*

### **GREEN (DEADLINE: January 3, 2021)**

Growth and renewal. Wealth and money. Jealousy. How about writing a story with leprechauns and magic shamrocks? Or introduce us to the chartreuse alien you found in your backyard. Launch a spaceship powered by emeralds. All the amphibian species on earth are going extinct—can your heroine discover why? Set your story among mossy rocks or verdant meadows. Whatever you decide, leave us GREEN with envy over your original tale. *(Publishes in March.)*

### **BLUE (DEADLINE: February 7, 2021)**

Blue stands for calm, smart, and trustworthy. Give us your best stories of blueberries, bluebirds, and stolen sapphires. A magical pair of jeans that always fits perfectly. An enchanted U.S. mailbox that makes wishes come true—the good ones *and* the bad ones. Set your story on the BLUE planet Uranus. Bring us to a world where bluebells bloom eternally and azure oceans think for themselves. *(Publishes in April.)*

### **PURPLE (DEADLINE: March 7, 2021)**

Luxury, mystery, royalty. We want stories about majestic dragons and heirs to the crown. Knights whose coats-of-arms include an eggplant upon a bed of beets. A missing Mother's Day bouquet of purple orchids. An alien species with amethyst eyes and periwinkle blood. A sect of killer monks who can only see in the ultraviolet. A planet whose plains are populated with violent violets. Better yet, take something that is normally another color—like the sky—and turn it PURPLE, then tell us what happens. *(Publishes in May.)*

### **ORANGE (DEADLINE: April 4, 2021)**

At Havok, ORANGE is our favorite color! It blends together red and yellow to form a color that we associate with thankfulness and warmth. In branding, orange conveys creativity, youth, and enthusiasm. So, bring us story cornucopias filled with mayhem and magic, fireballs and sunsets, pumpkins and citrus. Entertain us with people who change color like leaves in the fall. Make us laugh when a carrot becomes self-aware and tries to take over a grocery store. Help a heroine defeat the zombie apocalypse that started with undead goldfish. *(Publishes in June.)*

Using the season themes to inspire you, send us a story that fits any of the following daily flash genres:

**MYSTERY MONDAY:** From cozy to crime scene, start your week off with a bit of mystery. Creep through downtown foggy London Town, spy on secret agents at a midnight meeting, catch up with an old friend who may or may not be a cat burglar, or just figure out who stole your homework before the last bell rings. It doesn't have to be a classic mystery with detectives, clues, murder, or theft. If it's mysterious, uncertain, or unknown, take us on a journey through the dark and shine a bit of light on the hidden—and maybe even startling—truth.

**Sub-genres:** Amateur sleuth (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*), cozy/whodunit (Agatha Christie), crime (*The Departed*), legal/medical (*A Few Good Men*), noir (*Blade Runner*), police procedural (*Silence of the Lambs*), professional sleuth (Sherlock Holmes), supernatural (*The Woman in Black*), psychological horror (*Sphere*)

**TECHNO TUESDAY:** As your week hits its stride, don't be afraid to ask, "What if..." What if NASA really is covering for the aliens? What if your new cell phone comes with a free brain implant? What if a radioactive spider gives you super powers? What if time travel vacations are a thing of the past? With Havok, even the mysteries of the universe aren't too great to explore over your morning cup of coffee.

**Sub-genres:** Hard sci-fi (*The Martian*), soft sci-fi (*Spider-Man*), military (*Starship Troopers*), space opera (*Star Wars*, *Dune*), steampunk (*The Time Machine*), cyber/bio/nanopunk (*The Matrix*), voyages extraordinaire (Jules Verne), gothic (*Frankenstein's Monster*), dystopian (*The Hunger Games*)

**WACKY WEDNESDAY:** Halfway done, and who couldn't use a little humor over their lunch break? Well, embrace the lighter side of Havok as you laugh your stress away, 1,000 words at a time. Whether you're running alongside a hilariously unfortunate private eye, hitching a ride across the galaxy, helping a kid defend his home from Christmas burglars, enjoying a "sick day" with a high school adventurer, or going on an epic quest to find a holy grail, you can rest assured that your adventure will be anything but serious.

**Sub-genres:** Forget 'em! What would Wacky Wednesday be with a bunch of rules? If it's funny, lighthearted, and downright entertaining, you're hitting the mark.

**THRILLER THURSDAY:** As your week races to a close, get caught up in some heart-pumping excitement. Run down a terrorist before time runs out. Infiltrate a secret society before they collect the last relic. Untangle a sociopath's plot before he pins the whole thing on you. Take down a crime boss before he takes you down. And do it all before your kids wake up from their afternoon nap.

**Sub-genres:** Action (*James Bond*), adventure (*Indiana Jones*), conspiracy (*The Da Vinci Code*), crime (*Die Hard*), medical (*Outbreak*), man vs. nature (*Jaws*, *Twister*)

**FANTASY FRIDAY:** TGI fantasy! Now, sit back and drift into another world filled with high elves, amateur wizards, magic wardrobes, suave vampires, and gun-slinging monster hunters. With Havok, there's no limit to how far the story will take you as you kick your feet up and usher in another fantastic weekend.

**Sub-genres:** Fairy tales (*Cinderella*), horror (*Dracula*), high fantasy (*The Lord of the Rings*), low fantasy (*Harry Potter*), magical realism (*Midnight in Paris*), medieval (*A Game of Thrones*), portal (*The Chronicles of Narnia*), urban/paranormal (*The Dresden Files*)