

...And now, back by popular demand, and for the love of our amazing author community, we are offering you a chance to dive for new treasure in the deep pool of Havok's themes collection. Whether these themes are brand new to you, or if you have a story idea in your back pocket from the first time these themes rolled out, we are confident you are going to love Season 13! You get to write YOUR characters YOUR way. You get to choose ANY of the sub-themes from our previous seasons. And the winning stories generated during this season are going to create a truly epic ENCORE collection of flash fiction. We have very special plans for this one. **Remember:** This is a reference sheet only; check the Season Themes page on [GoHavok.com](http://GoHavok.com) for the most up-to-date information.

### **Rebirth (DEADLINE: October 17, 2025)**

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, our very first season celebrated life's enduring spirit. And true to form, we're doing it again! Revisit our sub-themes of rebirth, recycle, relocate, reform, recover, and redo. *Publishes in January 2026.* For detailed inspiration, see [the original Rebirth subthemes \(PDF\)](#).

### **Stories That Sing (DEADLINE: November 21, 2025)**

Music moves us. It shapes the world and immortalizes each generation, telling stories in a way that stays with us forever. Now you have the chance to immortalize your favorite song(s) in a story. All submissions for this theme must be inspired by a song from any time period or music genre of your choice. *Publishes in February 2026.*

For detailed inspiration, see [the original Stories That Sing themes \(PDF\)](#). Keep in mind that most lyrics are under copyright, so only very short quotes are acceptable. Song titles are not copyrightable, so they are free game. If you have any copyright questions, email us at [authorcentral@gohavok.com](mailto:authorcentral@gohavok.com). **Be sure to include the song, who wrote it, and (optionally) a link to a YouTube video in the header of your submission, under the story title.**

### **Bingeworthy (DEADLINE: December 19, 2025)**

There are some storylines and concepts that hook us every time. When done right, they transcend the label stereotype or the dreaded "cliché" and enter the realm of treasured trope and become the formula for a blockbuster hit. Think about the irresistible tropes that you watch, re-watch, and stay up all night to binge watch. Encapsulate the essence of that favorite trope into your story. Sub-themes include dynamic duos, answering the call, strange new worlds, the end of the world as we know it, superheroes, and the one thing (aka the MacGuffin). *Publishes in March 2026.*

For detailed inspiration, see [the original Bingeworthy themes \(PDF\)](#). **Be sure to include the trope in your submission header, under the story title.**

### **Sensational (DEADLINE: January 16, 2026)**

Take us on a journey of the senses, immersing our readers in everything that's possible for a human to experience—and beyond. Sub-themes include touch, taste, hearing, smell, sight, and the sixth sense. *Publishes in April 2026.* For detailed inspiration, see [the original Sensational themes \(PDF\)](#).

### **Prismatic (DEADLINE: February 13, 2026)**

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. Pick one, and integrate it into your story in such a memorable way that the story wouldn't be the same without it. The original six themes were yellow, red, green, blue, purple, and orange, but we will accept any color-centric story for Season 13. Bring on your white knights and black hat villains, your space western browncoats and pinkest petticoats. *Publishes in May 2026.* For detailed inspiration, see [the original Prismatic themes \(PDF\)](#).

### **Casting Call (DEADLINE: March 13, 2026)**

Classic character archetypes make for epic stories! Throughout history, certain types of people show up again and again in the stories we tell. And sometimes, especially in speculative genres, they aren't technically... human, even though they fill an archetypal role. These archetypes include the ruler, rebel, hero, magician, creator, explorer, everyman, jester, caregiver, lover, innocent, and sage. *Publishes in June 2026.*

For detailed inspiration, see [the original Casting Call themes \(PDF\)](#). **Be sure to include the archetype in your submission header, under the story title.**

**Animal Kingdom (DEADLINE: April 10, 2026)**

The relationships humanity has with the living creatures of our world are as varied as the ones we have with each other. We have fought to keep from being eaten by the predatory, we have nurtured and raised domestics as companions and partners in labor, we have driven some to extinction, we have studied them to increase our understanding of life. We invite you to explore the wonders, rewards, and tragedies of the animal kingdom. Sub-themes include partners, predators, swimmers, flyers, discoveries, extinctions, beautiful, dangerous, symbiotes, parasites, micro (small), and macro (huge!). Yes, this means your submission *must* feature at least one animal, and ideally center around it/them. Alien or fantasy creatures 100% acceptable, but please try to think beyond mere dragons and unicorns! We'd love to see something fresh. *Publishes in July 2026*. For detailed inspiration, see [the original Animal Kingdom themes \(PDF\)](#).

**Vice & Virtue (DEADLINE: May 8, 2026)**

You've heard of the Seven Deadly Sins. You've seen the four Greek virtues. And there are myriad other lists throughout history that define humanity's positive and negative character traits. But how often have you seen them applied to actual characters? We thought it would be a truly polarizing—and entertaining—experience to slap an entire theme's worth of vices and virtues on those characters we love (and love to hate). So go ahead. Pull out the best and worst your creations have to offer and lay it on thick. But remember to keep things PG-13. After all, too much of a good thing is, well, a bad thing. This list of vices and virtues include cowardice, courage, laziness, diligence, pride, humility, rage, peace, gluttony, temperance, selfishness, and sacrifice. Don't tell us which vice or virtue you're writing about — *show us in a way that leaves no doubt*. *Publishes in August 2026*. For detailed inspiration, see [the original Vice & Virtue themes \(PDF\)](#).

**World Tour (DEADLINE: June 1, 2026 - UPDATED)**

We're updating our passports and putting in our time off requests, because Havok is going back on tour! North to South, East to West, we're celebrating every corner of this rock we all call home. From geography to history to culture, we want you to craft unforgettable stories that immerse us in the awesomeness of, well, everywhere on Earth. And don't forget your sunscreen and your Chupacabra spray. You never know what'll happen when you step out your front door! Anywhere on, under, or around the Earth is fair game. Real history, alt-history, far future, or mythology is all good; just be sure to immerse us in the place! *Publishes in September 2026*. For detailed inspiration, see [the original World Tour themes \(PDF\)](#).

**Legendary (DEADLINE: June 12, 2026 - UPDATED)**

In an age bursting with "award winners" and "bestsellers," it's easy to imagine all of our favorite stories being immortalized in leatherbound tomes for all future generations to enjoy. In reality, very few tales stand the test of time. But every so often, magic happens, and a certain combination of words conveys something so unforgettable that humanity has no choice but to preserve it. So, prepare to harness the most enduring elements throughout mankind's literary tradition and create your own version of something truly epic, which includes legendary creatures, people, locations, things, and events. *Publishes in October 2026*. For detailed inspiration, see [the original Legendary themes \(PDF\)](#).

**Remember When (DEADLINE: July 10, 2026 - UPDATED)**

As writers, we spend most of our time in the background, watching and writing about everyone else's experiences and exploits. But Havok wants to hear about you... again! Pick any of the four seasons of the year and narrate your tales of winter wonder, spring storms, summer staycations, and fall frights. And, strictly speaking, it doesn't have to be an auto-biographical account, as long as you narrate the story with a strong personal voice. So, feel free to share your grandpa's claims about the time aliens abducted him from Mardi Gras. No judgment here. Just make your story reflect something about a specific day or season of the year. January winter storms and resolutions, February Valentine's day thrills (or disappointments), March sporting madness or springtime floods, April Easter celebrations or wildflower tours. You get the idea. *Publishes in November 2026*. For detailed inspiration, see [the original Remember When themes \(PDF\)](#).

**Multiversal (DEADLINE: August 14, 2026 - UPDATED)**

If you're like most writers, you can trace your love of creating stories back to a particular author. And at some point, you probably dreamed of collaborating with them or writing stories based on their worlds or characters. Historically, this was an impossible dream except in the limited scope of fan fiction... Until Season 12, when Havok acquired stories all year long based on original characters created exclusively for this contest by our hand-selected lineup of best-selling and award-winning authors! Our list of unforgettable characters includes Joe Enza, Kytt Windthorn, Spark Spaulding, Zaivar "Zai" Witz, Phezznibbet "Phezz" Maplebark, Ethel Grieves, Miriel Takkenridge, Harmony Star, Luke James (aka Therrus), Alice (of Wonderland fame), Dorian Gray, and the ever-lovable curmudgeon Ebenezer Scrooge. Your story must feature one of these twelve characters, although they do not have to be the "main" character of the story. See [the entire list of character profiles at our website](#). *Publishes in December 2026*.

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*)

At first glance, our combination of season themes and daily genres might seem confusing. But like a new video game controller, it won't take long for you to get the hang of it.

**TIP #1:** Sometimes we get questions about our submission process. Here's a behind-the-scenes peek. Our submissions team routes your story to the genre team indicated on your submission form most of the time (Mystery Monday, Techno Tuesday, etc). If one genre team is low on submissions, stories that fit multiple genres may be shifted to fill that gap. Our teams coordinate together when needed to share stellar stories when one genre day is full and a story fits more than one genre. Bottom line: If your story can combine two genres, it may get an extra boost.

Love fantasy or sci-fi? You can *still* write a fantasy or science fiction story while targeting mystery, thriller, or humor. Take your fantasy (or futuristic) character and setting and center your story around a mystery, a question, an unknown. Or make the situation life-threatening and thrilling. Or give your characters a humorous personality or put them in a hilarious situation.

**TIP #2:** Sign up for our [author newsletter](#) to stay in the loop about opportunities for authors. We usually send a newsletter once a month, but there may be occasional announcements in addition to that schedule.

**TIP #3:** Follow [@havokauthornews](#) on Instagram for story prompts to spark ideas for our themes. We also post open and closed submission announcements and other author-centric news. On Facebook, follow the [Havok Publishing page](#) and join the [Flash Fiction Writers Guild](#) for the same info. Disclaimer: No guarantee of what info we'll post, or whether you'll see the posts when we do. **Checking the Season Themes page on our website is always the most reliable source.**

**TIP #4:** If you have your own original characters from stories you've written or a novel you're writing (or have published), you are *absolutely* allowed to use them in your submissions to Havok. In fact, we encourage it! What better way to gain new fans for your awesome characters and get readers hungry for more of your work? Even if you write for a different genre than we publish, such as romance or horror, consider this: take your romance or horror character and put them in a comedic, thrilling, or mysterious situation, then submit that story to Wacky Wednesday, Thriller Thursday, or Mystery Monday.

When pairing your characters with Havok themes, consider a time in their lives that is "off the page" from the novel you're writing. Before, after, or even inside the timeline of the novel but during a period that isn't included in the book. If the monthly theme is "Rebirth", imagine a time when your character had to reinvent themselves, when they needed a second chance, or when they helped someone else into a much-needed transformation. If your characters are in a far-future science fiction story, and the monthly theme is "World Tour", imagine a time that they visited Earth – or tell the story of when one of their great-great-great-great parents was on Earth. This is also a fun time to breathe life into minor characters that you like who don't get enough "screentime" in your novel.

**TIP #5** (*yes, it's a sales pitch, but the benefits are real!*): If you want to see the kinds of stories that Havok publishes, you can see a free story every weekday. However, if you join our website membership, there's so much more! In the [Season 13 announcement on our blog](#), we shared links to the original winning stories for each theme and how you can [browse all the stories published under that theme](#). Membership is only [\\$4.99 for the whole year](#). You'll have access to our whole story archive, qualify for prizes in our reader contests, and can vote on the stories to help us select the Readers' Choice award winner.