



“Message in a Bottle,” “Monster,” “Mother,” “Perspective,” “Progress,” “Rebirth,” “Red,” “Redemption,” “Resurrection,” “Solitude,” “Survival,” “The End,” “The Fall,” “The Garden,” “The Hunter,” “The Message,” “The Other Side,” “The Watcher,” “Untitled,” “Visitation”

One immediate observation is that our titles may actually be pretty diverse. This list represents only 627 submissions, which means that the other 49,373 titles have been used less than seven times. Of course there can be variations on a name. When I looked up “Four Poems,” I discovered that there were actually fifteen submissions from poets who included these words as part of their titles when they overlooked our guideline request to submit each poem separately. There are also twenty-three submissions with some variation on “Untitled.” Some of these are from poets submitting multiple poems as well—as in “Three Untitled Haiku” or “Five Untitled Poems.”

Lest anyone wants to claim that “Untitled” should dethrone “First Contact,” I also found twenty-three variations on the latter title. On the other hand, I found fifty-nine variations on “Singularity” and (while it seems a contradiction in terms) three more titles that include “Singularities.” It’s important, though, to place a limit on what’s considered an acceptable variation. After all, over three hundred subs include the word “Home” in their titles. In addition to “Going Home,” some examples are “No Place Like Home” (6), “Coming Home” (4), “A New Home” (4) and “The Long Way Home” (4).

Neil provided us with a wordle based on word usage in titles. The size of the word indicates how often it’s been used as part of a title. “Home” is clearly not the largest word on the image. “Moon” and “Death” have both appeared in about three hundred titles. “Last” and “Man” show up in about seven hundred, and “Time” is the clear winner with over a thousand appearances.

It’s fun to pontificate about the meaning behind all of this. Why is “Girl” so much more popular than “Boy”? Why are “Black,” “Blue,” and “Red” used more often than “White” and “Green”? Why don’t “Pink,” “Purple,” and “Orange” show up at all? These probing questions will not be answered here. In the future, I hope to run an editorial about the most popular words that have been used in the titles of works that have been *published* in *Asimov’s*. It will be interesting to compare the two lists of words and titles.