Thematic Material for 2015 *New Yorker* Stories

As in previous years, in 2015 I challenged myself to distill the theme of each story to one word or phrase. I decided quickly—believing that, like selecting a character’s name or looking at Rorschach inkblots—first thoughts are the most honest psychologically. The year 2015 seems to have produced a broader range of themes, with only four—ALIENATION, DEATH, GREED, and LOSS—repeating themselves from 2014. However, REPRESSION and POLITICAL REPRESSION might very much be the same, depending on how the authors developed their stories. At any rate, 2015 yields thirty-three themes, whereas 2014 only twenty-three. Broader range of stories? Not sure.

**2015** **2014**

**ALIENATION–12%** ABUSE–2%

BIRTH/REBIRTH–3% ADVENTURE­–2%

COMPASSION–2% **ALIENATION–6%**

**DEATH–4%** COMING-OF-AGE–6%

DECEPTION–2% **DEATH–8%**

DISCIPLESHIP–2% EVANESCENCE OF YOUTH–2%

DREAMS–2% EVIL–2%

DYSTOPIA–4% FRIENDSHIP–2%

FAME–2% **GREED–2%**

FAMILY–2% INSANITY–2%

FIDELITY/INFIDELITY–10% LONELINESS–10%

**GREED–2%** **LOSS–10%**

HEROISM–2% LOVE–10%

HUMANITY–2% MYTHS/TALES–12%

IMMIGRATION–2% POLITICAL REPRESSION–4%

IMPRISONMENT–2% POST-APOCALYPTIC–2%

INTEGRITY–3% RECAPTURING THE PAST–2%

JUSTICE–2% RECONCILIATION/HEALING–6%

**LOSS–8%** REDEMPTION–2%

LUCK–2% ROLE OF MAGIC–2%

MOTHERHOOD–2% REVOLUTION–2%

MYSTICISM–2% SUPERFICIALITY OF MOD. LIFE–2%

POLITICS–2% UNRESOLVED CHILDHOOD–2%

POWER–2%

RACE–2%

RAGE–2%

REGRET–2%

REPRESSION–2%

REVENGE–2%

SANCTITY OF LIFE–2%

SHAME–2%

SPIRITUALISM–2%

WAR–4%