How to Get Published in *The New Yorker*

SPY *Deconstructs a Year's Worth of Short Stories*

"the so-called 'New Yorker short story' probably causes more debate, and results in more distemper, than anything else about the magazine....For their part, the editors deny vigorously that there is any such thing as a 'New Yorker' type of story."—Dale Kramer, *Ross and The New Yorker* (1951)

Well, they're wrong. Using the most sophisticated computer technology available, our highly trained statistician, SETH ROBERTS, put one year's worth of *New Yorker* fiction through a series of analyses. While we have not yet been able to discover a foolproof formula for the composition of the magazine's particular brand of short fiction, we have noticed some suggestive patterns. Aspiring Ann Beatties, take note.

1. Most Common Settings of Conversations in *New Yorker* Short Stories

Setting	Number of stories	Setting	Number of stories
kitchen	22	dining room	8
car	22	sidewalk	8
living room	18	hospital	7
bedroom	17	hallway	5
restaurant	13	bathroom	5
doorway	11	store	4
seaside	10	office	4
bar	9	graveyard	2

2. You've Bought the Desk Diary, Now Try the Diet

We are not puzzled that characters in *New Yorker* short stories practically never commute, exercise, have sex, bathe or do laundry. But they do eat and drink—especially drink—quite frequently. This discovery made us wonder: could one of the magazine's quirky stylistic conventions require that a character's consumption pattern resemble that of a teenager with a fake ID? Or, as the magazine's publisher, Steven T. Florio, might put it, why isn't the magazine selling more fashion ads? The year in calories:

BREAD GROUP
(usually recommended: four servings a day)

	Number of stories		Number of stories
bread	9	cereal	2
sandwiches	9	biscuits	2
rolls/buns	4	(six items	
pasta	3	mentioned once)	
oatmeal/porridge	3		
		TOTAL:	38

MILK GROUP
(usually recommended: two servings a day)

	Number of stories		Number of stories
milk	6	yogurt	3
cheese	4	ice cream	2
		TOTAL:	15

PROTEIN GROUP
(usually recommended: two servings a day)

	Number of stories		Number of stories
chicken	8	ham	3
fish	6	beans	2
eggs	5	(14 items	
shrimp	3	mentioned once)	
		TOTAL:	41

VEGETABLE AND FRUIT GROUP
(usually recommended: four servings a day)

	Number of stories		Number of stories
potatoes	6	peas	3
apples	4	salad	3
asparagus	4	orange juice	2
vegetables (unspecified)	3	cabbage	2
celery	3	(17 items mentioned once)	
		TOTAL:	47

PARTY GROUP
(usually not recommended)

	Number of stories		Number of stories
coffee	21	gin	3
wine	16	pie	3
beer	14	sausage	2
tea	12	Popsicles	2
Coke	7	Kool-Aid	2
cookies	6	brownies	2
candy	6	hot dogs	2
hamburgers	5	soft drinks	2
bacon	5	potato chips	2
whiskey	4	(18 items	
champagne	3	mentioned once)	
		TOTAL:	137

3. Who exactly—besides a lot of Jims (five characters) and Bobs (four characters)—is eating all this bread and coffee in the car?

Aimeda, Aisling, Arkady, Augusta, Berhard, Caimin, Carlton, Carlyle, Ceci, Chaz, Chester, Cobb, Cornelius, Damson, Digna, Donat, Dout, Durwood, Felicity, Fergus, Fermina, Galileo, Glanville, Gregor, Hopey, Hortense, Jamal, Jameson, Jarvis, Jeronimo, Jolene, Jorie, Juvenal, Kevy, Lacides, LaDonna, Lainie, Lanny, Lenya, Long, LuBeth, Mawrdew, Moses, Naomi, Noonie, Obdulio, Ofelia, Placido, Pep, Peppy, Porter, Rico, Rolan, Rue, Sabina, Shayla, Sherm, Shurik, Sullivan, Tazama, Una, Vartan, Watt, Zootie

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