

Twelve River RIPPLES

Bagatelle



Choosing a Title

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I love writing poetry but hate thinking of titles. Quite often the title seems to be the weakest part of whatever I write.

I've tried to overcome this by scanning down the titles in the anthology *Staying Human* edited by Neil Astley and published by Bloodaxe. To help with the process, I put a few of them into groups. You might like to think about these categories when trying to come up with a new title of your own.

The last title in each category is my own – inspired by the ones I read.

1. **A familiar saying, which is shortened and/or slightly altered**

- Empty Nest
- Fish Out of Water
- Facing the Music
- *Counting Chickens*

2. **A specific time.**

- Mirrors at 4 a.m.
- Help, 1968
- Thursday
- *The Last Day of Never*

3. **A specific place**

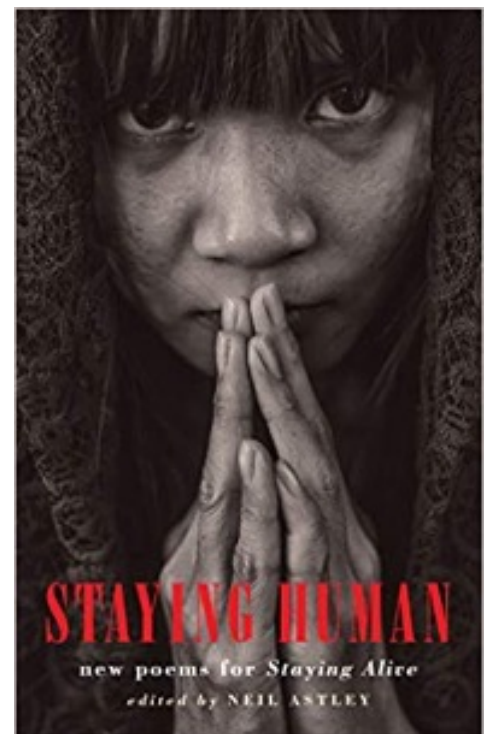
- The IJsselmeer Dam
- Gate C22
- Dancing at Oakmede Road (verb and place)
- *The Wino of Windham Street*

4. **Beginning with 'you'**

- You Were A Bird
- You Fixed It
- *You Saw Me*

5. **A single noun**

- Sheep
- Tooth
- Shoulders
- Water
- *Rope*



Which of my new titles do you prefer? Can you write a poem to match one of them? Or maybe you'd like to try to think of your own titles based on the category examples.