EPIPHANY
**EPIPHANY OVERVIEW**

- Experimental novel-in-progress
- Collage of creative-writing forms: Sestina, Villanelle etc.
- Focuses on the evolution of the main character’s self-identity:
  - Iman, a young West-Indian (African) American, coping with anxiety.
- Explores the importance of both words and action.
VARIOUS THEMES

• Words vs. Actions
• Public vs. inner-self
• Religion vs. science
• Lies vs. Deception
• Strength vs. weaknesses in small urban communities
• Self-love vs. Marginalization and Intra-racial racism
• Psychological vs. Physical disorders
• West-Indian vs. African-American culture
• Strengths and weaknesses within the black community
INSPIRATION

- Inspired by Sandra Cisneros’s *The House On Mango Street*
- Compiled from a series of vignettes
- Based on a young girl, Esperanza, growing up in the Latino section of Chicago.
IMAN AND ESPERANZA

• Both are minorities
• Both are maturing within an urban setting
• Both are influenced by cultural traditions
• Both believe in the motto: “Pay it forward”
• Both would like to change the condition of their people, especially women.
• Both are self-developing through observation and reflection
• Both future writers
PROCESS

• Collaborated with mentor Katharine Whitcomb.
• Multiple drafts
• Reflected on my own observations and experiences.
• Reflected on overall theme of novel:
  • “actions speak just as loud as words”
• Added and subtracted from observations and experiences.
• Researched
• Same story from different perspectives
• Different forms of writing for complexity and to challenge myself.
In Epiphany, Iman converts to Islam after studying its compatibility with modern science.

He has set free two seas meeting together. There is a barrier between them. They do not transgress – Al Quran 55: 19 - 20
BLACK ROSES

- Perspective Poem found in chapter 5 of Epiphany: *As the Hips Widen, the Young Woman Studies her Reflection*
- Personified a black rose.
- The black rose in “Black Roses” is a representation of Iman.
SING A SONG

– Iman