Guided Reading and Discussion Questions: How Long 'Til Black Future Month? By N. K. Jemisin

Reflections on the power and uses of imagination

- 1. How has imagination been a tool in our own lives and/or our own recoveries?
- 2. Have we ever used imagination as a tool for our students?
- 3. Can you relate to the idea of imagination as a tool for liberation or freedom?
- 4. Do you feel imagination is a tool that can be used freely and equally by people from different populations and/or communities?
- 5. Can you think of an example of a time your community has benefited from the imagination or creativity of another community?
- 6. Jemisin's introduction to this book discusses limitations even in well established "realms of imagination" like the science fiction genre for the perspectives of voices from racialism's populations. In the creative realm of the genre, popular works often incorporate analogies of racism. Why create a new world and still include these types of structures?
- 7. Are there structures which we are factoring into even our imaginative work which we could exclude? Can we challenge ourselves to liberate our creativity of the bonds? What would that look like when "imagining" our work without limiting structures? What are those limiting structures? Pretend they're gone. What world are we building?

Quick Resources:

Afrofuturism mixes sci-fi and social justice. Here's how it works. Iniko - Jericho