



These discussion questions were developed in conjunction with Lightbox interviews with [Jericho Brown](#) and [Malachi Black](#). For more information, please see www.lightboxpoetry.com.

Discussion Questions:

- Read the various sections of the “Quarantine” sequence linked on the Lightbox website. What holds these poems together as a sequence?
- In what order would you place the poems, if you didn’t know the full, finished version published in Malachi Black’s collection, *Storm Toward Morning*? Why? What other possible ways of arranging these poems can you think of? How would they work to create new meanings?
- What is the effect of the repetition of first and last lines in the “Quarantine” sequence? What surprises you about the reappearance of the familiar line in another poem?
- How does “Quarantine” address its subjects? Do you think the “you” in the poem is an addressee with a stable identity or one that shifts?
- In what ways does the sonnet form function in the poem, “Prime”?
- Discuss the sequence’s interest in science. How is this imagery in tension with the poem’s overt relationship with faith and spirituality?