Final Project Plan

Concept 1: I, You
For the collections assignment, I took personal data on how often the words "I" and "You" are used in my text-based conversations with the friends I talk to most often. I then used this data and mapped it to a binary star system representation, in which one "star" is for me and the other is for the other participant in the conversation. The mass of each "star" corresponds to how often the conversation is about one of us (me saying "I" and them saying "you" vs. them saying "I" and me saying "you"). I would like to expand on this as a personal data set to think more about how I interact with some of my closest friends and how to represent that, potentially by also gathering an extra week of data to see if there are any trends. The main drawback is that I currently only have five days of data, so I have decent aggregate numbers but lack sufficient data for closer inspection. This project would hopefully encourage people to reflect on who is in their "orbit" and whether or not they are taking up the mass of every conversation, although of course, this set of data directly impacts my interactions.

Concept 2: Truth is Stranger than Fiction
A data set that I am interested in representing is the most common genre on the NY Times fiction bestsellers list over the past 10 years, which are rich data readily available by cross-referencing the NY Times website and Goodreads. I would like to explore what people have found interest in during a particular year, knowing that these interests are often shaped by the world around oneself. The audience, therefore, is most likely book lovers, but it extends to anyone who was alive in the past 10 years. The goal is to look back and see how well the genres correlated with current events of the year, or perhaps other year-to-year trends will emerge as well. People could inspect this as a narrative of the past and use it to contemplate the future of books as well.