

Your Average Nigga: Performing Race, Literacy, and Masculinity (African American Life Series) By Vershawn Ashanti Young **Your Average niggan** Your Average Nigga: Performing Race Literacy and Masculinity (African American Life Series) Really liked the writing and the weaving of the personal and the academic especially compared to other texts on similar subjects. **Your Average niggan** Your Average Nigga: Performing Race Literacy and Masculinity (African American Life Series) This was a late addition to a course syllabus and because I was irritated at that lateness decided to simply get it from my University library. **Your Average niggan** So I don't care someone else in my class has recalled the library book (meaning I don't get to keep it as long as I normally could); I am happy to plunk down the \$\$ for my own copy. **Your Average niggan** Your Average Nigga: Performing Race Literacy and Masculinity (African American Life Series) We need to move from code switching to code meshing? A very interesting proposition but I wanted more examples of code-meshing in action. **Your Average niggato** Part auto-ethnography and part polemic Young's work shows among other things how close switching helps sustain the racial schizophrenia of double consciousness that it was supposed to help alleviate. **Your Average nigganometry** I would have liked to have seen a deeper analysis of how queer/femme men differently negotiate the radicalized and gendered linguistic demands of the literacy classroom and what code meshing might look like in pedagogy. **Your Average nigganometry** Your Average Nigga: Performing Race Literacy and Masculinity (African American Life Series) In Your Average Nigga Vershawn Ashanti Young disputes the belief that speaking Standard English and giving up Black English Vernacular helps black students succeed academically. **Your Average niggang** Young argues that this assumption not only exaggerates the differences between two compatible varieties of English but forces black males to choose between an education and their masculinity by choosing to act either white or black. **Your Average niggato** As one would expect from a scholar who is subject to the very circumstances he studies Young shares his own experiences as he exposes the factors that make black racial identity irreconcilable with literacy for blacks especially black males. **Your Average niggang** Drawing on a range of interdisciplinary scholarship in performance theory and African American literary and cultural studies Young shows that the linguistic conflict that exists between black and white language styles harms black students from the inner city the most. **Your Average niggan** If these students choose to speak Standard English they risk alienating themselves from their families and communities and if they choose to retain their customary speech and behavior they may isolate themselves from mainstream society. **Your Average niggan** Ultimately Young argues that racial and verbal performances are a burden because they cannot reduce the causes or effects of racism nor can they denaturalize supposedly fixed identity categories as many theorists contend:

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VERSHAWN ASHANTI YOUNG



I found this book highly disturbing and troubling, **Your Average niggan** Vershawn Young states in the introduction that he wants to be white which turned me off from the very beginning. **Your Average niggang** He constantly pits lower class blacks against middle class blacks in his rise to being an intellectual: **Your Average niggan** At the end of the day I believe Young needs to find

himself and stop desiring to be someone he is not and embrace his culture. **Your Average nigganometry** I liked his criticism of teaching code switching but I'm not sure he offered enough of an explanation of code meshing for it to be a meaningful alternative. **Your Average nigganometry** I figured I wouldn't like it that much anyway and told myself just read this 'cause ya gotta and move on: **Your Average niggato anime** like drop the attitude and get your butt to the bookstore NOW loving it: **Your Average niggan** Your Average Nigga: Performing Race Literacy and Masculinity (African American Life Series) Dr. **Your Average nigganometry** Young makes a very convincing argument regarding language and literacy as the places where the color line is drawn in the 21st century: **Your Average niggato** He argues instead for what he calls "code meshing" as an alternative, **Your Average niggan** Would highly recommend Chapters 3 and 5 if you want to get into the heart of his argument. **Your Average niggang** Young argues that this conflict leaves blacks in the impossible position of either trying to be white or forever struggling to prove that they are black enough: **Your Average niggato** For men this also becomes an endless struggle to prove that they are masculine enough. **Your Average nigganometry** Young calls this constant effort to display proper masculine and racial identity the burden of racial performance: **Your Average niggato** On the contrary racial and verbal performances only reinscribe the essentialism that they are believed to subvert. **Your Average niggan** Scholars and teachers of rhetoric performance studies and African American studies will enjoy this insightful volume: **Your Average niggato** Your Average Nigga: Performing Race Literacy and Masculinity (African American Life Series).

. My freakin' bad. Not 10 pages into this thing and I am loving it . Chapter 4 is well worthwhile too