

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780327303321
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Titolo	Sista, Speak! [[electronic resource]] : Black Women Kinfolk Talk about Language and Literacy // Sonja L. Lanehart
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, : University of Texas Press, 2002
ISBN	0-292-79838-5
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (265 p.)
Classificazione	MS 3000
Disciplina	305.48/896073
Soggetti	Language and culture - United States African Americans - Languages African Americans - Race identity African American women Literacy - Social aspects - United States African American women - Education African American women - Social conditions Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [243]-247) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Part One. THE NARRATIVES -- 1. OUR LANGUAGE, OUR SELVES -- 2. MAYA -- 3. GRACE -- 4. REIA -- 5. DEIDRA -- 6. SONJA -- Part Two. THE ANALYSES -- 7. MAYA -- 8. GRACE -- 9. REIA -- 10. DEIDRA -- 11. SONJA -- 12. THE REST OF THE STORY -- Appendix 1. Participants' Possible Selves Data -- Appendix 2. Participants' Speech Samples Data -- Appendix 3. Participants' Language and Literacy Ideologies Data -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The demand of white, affluent society that all Americans should speak, read, and write "proper" English causes many people who are not white and/or middle class to attempt to "talk in a way that feel peculiar to [their] mind," as a character in Alice Walker's <i>The Color Purple</i> puts it. In this book, Sonja Lanehart explores how this valorization of "proper" English has affected the language, literacy, educational achievements, and self-image of five African American women—her grandmother, mother, aunt, sister, and herself. Through interviews and written

statements by each woman, Lanehart draws out the life stories of these women and their attitudes toward and use of language. Making comparisons and contrasts among them, she shows how, even within a single family, differences in age, educational opportunities, and social circumstances can lead to widely different abilities and comfort in using language to navigate daily life. Her research also adds a new dimension to our understanding of African American English, which has been little studied in relation to women.
