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Titolo	Figures in black : words, signs, and the "racial" self // Henry Louis Gates, Jr
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Literary theory and the Black tradition -- Phillis Wheatley and the Nature of the Negro -- Binary oppositions in chapter one of Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave. Written by himself -- Frederick Douglass and the language of the self -- Parallel discursive universes : fictions of the self in Harriet E. Wilson's Our Nig -- Dis and dat : dialect and the descent -- The same difference : reading Jean Toomer, 1923- 1983 -- Song of a racial self : on Sterling A. Brown -- The blackness of Blackness.
Sommario/riassunto	For over two centuries, critics and the black community have tended to approach African-American literature as simply one more front in the important war against racism, valuing slave narratives and twentieth-century works alike, primarily for their political impact. In this volume, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., a leading scholar in African-American studies, attacks the notion of African-American literature as a kind of social realism. Insisting, instead, that critics focus on the most repressed element of African-American criticism--the language of the text--Gates advocates the use of a close, m

