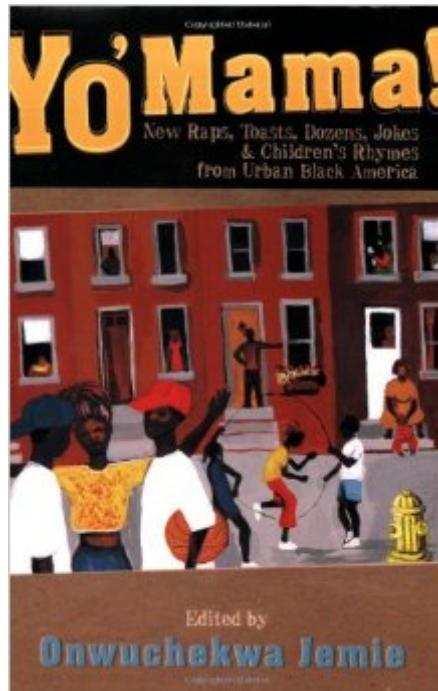


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# Yo Mama!: New Raps, Toasts, Dozens, Jokes, And



## **Synopsis**

Collected primarily in metropolitan New York and Philadelphia during the classic era of black "street poetry" (i.e., during the late 1960s and early 1970s) these raps, signifyings, toasts, boasts, jokes and children's rhymes will delight general readers as well as scholars. Ranging from the simple rhymes that accompany children's games to verbally inventive insults and the epic exploits of traditional characters like Shine and Stagger Lee, these texts sound the deep rivers of culture, echoing two continents. Onwuchekwa Jemie's introductory essay situates them in a globally pan-African context and relates them to more recent forms of oral culture such as rap and spoken word. Author note: Onwuchekwa Jemie teaches African American and African Literature at Howard University. He is the author of Langston Hughes: An Introduction to the Poetry and co-author of Toward the Decolonization of African Literature.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I used to play Dozens and all forms of street slang and degradation of mamas, Daddys, Sisters, etc. on the schoolyard in my lower middle-class hood in N. Portland. I found this book by googling a few raps I remembered from the day and found that it contained not only these, but many variations of the same "Diss" rhymes but from different regions and even reverse forms from crackers that don't even know where Dozens came from. I consider this the definitive sociological textbook on inner-city children's, folk, and traditional rhymes and disses, as well as some toasts and such I was unaware of. I guarantee this is required reading for some "urban" history students (or just jailhouse historians

like myself), but it is also a look into the way African-American youth found a way to cope with a society which tried to bring them down at every step. Required reading for any American that wants to understand everything from the birth of the Blues to the birth of Hip-Hop! It's all in there. I happen to be a white boy who is much more comfortable in a black neighborhood. But all my best friends read, and read well. When I'm done I will pass this one on.

I brought this book into my third grade classroom in preparation for our Joke Day. I knew that the children would make cultural connections with it and enjoy it. Because the subtitle includes the words "children's rhymes," I assumed it would be suitable for the classroom; it also was a listed result when I searched our library catalog for "children's joke books." However, be advised that the book contains profanity. For example, one selection is entitled "F--- the Duck"; another "Kiss my A--"; and, "The Girl from Kansas City" includes suggestive content and slang terms for body parts.

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