

# Frank Zappa, You Are What You Is

Do you know what you are?  
You are what you is  
You is what you am  
(A cow don't make ham . . . )  
You ain't what you're not  
So see what you got  
You are what you is  
An' that's all it 'tis

A foolish young man  
From a middle class fam'ly  
Started singin' the blues  
'Cause he thought it was manly  
Now he talks like the Kingfish  
(&quot;Saffiiiee!&quot;)  
From Amos 'n Andy  
(&quot;Holy mack'l dere . . . Holy mack'l dere!&quot;)  
He tells you that chitlins . . .  
(Chitlins!)  
Well, they taste just like candy  
He thinks that he's got  
De whole thang down  
From the Nivea Lotion  
To de Royal Crown

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You is what you am  
(A cow don't make ham . . . )  
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So see what you got  
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A foolish young man  
Of the Negro Persuasion  
Devoted his life  
To become a caucasian  
He stopped eating pork  
He stopped eating greens  
He traded his dashiki  
(&quot;Uhuru!&quot;)  
For some Jordache Jeans  
He learned to play golf  
An' he got a good score  
Now he says to himself  
&quot;I AIN'T NO NIGGER NO MORE . . . HEY! HEY! HEY!&quot;  
&quot;I don't understand you . . . &quot;  
BWANA MA-COO-BAH  
&quot;Would you please speak more clearly . . . &quot;  
MERCEDES BAINNNNNNNZ

Who is who  
(I don't know . . . )  
'N what is what  
(Somethin' I just don't know . . . )  
'N why is this  
(Tell me now . . . )  
Appropriot  
(That's a funny pronunciation if'n ever I heard one . . . )  
If you don't like  
(Where'd you get that word?)  
What you has got  
(Appropriot? The word is not . . . )

Drop it in the dirt  
(Drop it yeah . . . )  
'N let it rot  
(I can smell it now . . . )  
Someone else  
(Here de come, here de come . . . )  
Will surely come  
(I told you they was comin')  
'N pick it up  
(That's right!)  
'Cause he wants some  
(An' he wants it for free . . . )  
And when one day  
(There will come a day . . . )  
You wonder who  
(I wonder too . . . )  
You used to was  
(Who I was anyway . . . )  
'N what you do  
(I used to work at the post office . . . )  
You'll scratch your head  
(But I don't wanna un-do my doo . . . )  
'N look around  
(Just to see what's goin' on . . . )  
But what you lost  
(Can't seem to find it . . . )  
Will not be found  
(A Mercedes Benz . . . )

Do you know what you are?  
(I know . . . )  
You are what you is  
(I'm the kinda guy . . . )  
You is what you am  
(That ought to be drivin' a Mercedes Benz . . . )  
A cow don't make a ham  
(A four-fifty SLC . . . )  
You ain't what you're not  
(A big ol' red one . . . )  
So see what you got  
(With some golf clubs stickin' out de trunk . . . )  
You are what you is  
(I'm gwine down to de links on Saturday mornin' . . . )  
An' that's all it is  
(Gimme a five dollar bill . . . )  
YOU ARE WHAT YOU IS  
(And an overcoat too . . . )  
AND THAT'S ALL IT IS  
(Where's my waitress? Yeah . . . )  
YOU ARE WHAT YOU IS  
(Robbie, take me to Greek Town . . . )  
AN THAT'S ALL IT IS  
(I'm harder than yer husband; harder than yer husband . . . )  
YOU ARE WHAT YOU IS  
(I'm goin' down to White Street, to the Mudd Club y'all . . . )  
AN THAT'S ALL IT IS  
(I'm goin' down 'n work the wall 'n work the floor . . . )  
YOU ARE WHAT YOU IS  
( 'N work the pipe 'n work the wall . . . )  
AN THAT'S ALL IT IS  
(Some more . . . )