STYLE: Learning from Ellison’s *Invisible Man*

Sample: The following sentence from page 71 is graphed below. Note that there are alternative ways to graph this same sentence.

Up ahead I saw the one who thought he was a drum major strutting in front, giving orders as he moved energetically in long, hip-swinging strides, a cane held above his head, rising and falling as though in time to music.

Passage One: Everyone fought hysterically . . . the blood spattering from my chest. (Page 23)

Passage Two: It was a beautiful college . . . where the road turned off to the insane asylum. (Page 34)

Passage Three: I always come this far and open my eyes . . . but recall only the drunken laughter of sad, sad whores. (Page 35)

Passage Four: His voice was mellow and with more meaning than I could fathom . . . with the rich man reminiscing on the rear seat. (Page 39)

Passage Five: I headed the car through the red-brick campus . . . helping us poor, ignorant people out of the mire and darkness. (Page 99)

Passage Six: As the sound of vespers . . . and the moon a white man’s bloodshot eye. (Pages 109-110)

Passage Seven: As the organ voices died . . . through the contained liquid of her large uplifted eyes. (Pages 116-117)
Ellisonian Sentence

I think that with the brilliant potential he has shown it is certain he will be a great leader of men, a royal king among mere princes, a shining star among mundane comets, a glittering diamond among dull stones, a majestic unicorn among common horses, a steering ship among unguided boats; and in his greatness he will be MAGNIFICENT!