Ralph Ellison Introduction and Speech

* Consider making two lists:

1. According to what Ralph Ellison says in his 1953 Fiction Award Speech, and in the introduction to *Invisible Man*, we would expect his novel to be…
2. According to what Ralph Ellison says in his 1953 Fiction Award Speech, and in the introduction to *Invisible Man*, we would expect his novel **NOT** to be…

For instance we would expect it to be experimental in attitude (then consider what that means). (Ellison 1953 Fiction Award Speech)

For instance we would NOT expect the novel to be a Naturalist style novel. (Same)

Also, look for evidence to support your reading of his remarks both in the remarks (speech and introduction) and in the novel.

* Given Ellison’s remarks, what would a reader expect to see/find in his novel?
* What does a reader actually see/find in Ellison’s novel?
* If what we expect to find and what we actually find in the novel differ, how are they / or can they be rectified?
* What theme statement / thesis is supported by the novel? How?
* Is this theme / thesis consistent with Ellison’s purported goals?