NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, AN AMERICAN SLAVE — STRUCTURE AND MOVEMENT

IN THE BEGINNING:

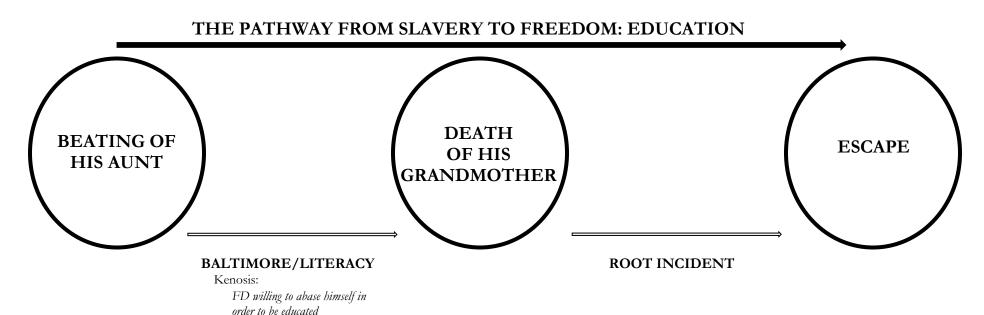
AT THE END:

Ignorance	─────────────────────────────────────
Emphasis on what FD doesn't know	Now he's literate and a great speaker/writer
Community	Individual
FD represents all slaves	Now he stands apart from those still enslaved
Masking —	Self-Subscription
Keeping real feelings and intentions hidden	FD himself defines who he is
Examples:	A necessary step in becoming an individual

The Slave Songs (reversing the tones and "Follow the Drinking Gourd")

The supposed ignorance of the slaves (they're not ignorant at all)

The Sunday School (where he teaches how to read and write)



At every big event, our expectations are manipulated:

BEATING: We expect ignorance; we get intelligence and education (the allusion to Dante).

DEATH: The scene is constructed for us; it's not real. It's supposed to make us feel, not think (connection to the slave songs).

ESCAPE: We expect climactic action, but we get feelings instead.