

Vocabulary Group **1** — Words used by Nathaniel Hawthorne in *Young Goodman Brown* and Washington Irving in *Rip Van Winkle*

MARTIAL (*adjective*) warlike; having to do with combat

DISCERN (*verb*) to perceive or see things clearly

TARRY (*verb*) to delay; to linger; to stay for a time

OBSEQUIOUS (*adjective*) overly flattering; sucking up to

MELANCHOLY (*noun*) a gloomy state of mind (*adjective*) sad; mournful

VENERABLE (*adjective*) worthy of reverence or respect due to age, dignity, or position

ZENITH (*noun*) the point in the sky directly overhead; the highest point

SAGE (*adjective*) having wisdom that comes with age and experience; (*noun*) a wise person

SINGULAR (*adjective*) extraordinary; unique; remarkable; exceptional

ALACRITY (*noun*) cheerful eagerness

Vocabulary Group **2** — Words used by John Steinbeck in *The Red Pony*

DISPARAGE (*verb*) discredit; ridicule; belittle

FALLIBLE (*adjective*) capable of making an error

JOVIAL (*adjective*) full of joyous humor; playful and fun

INCENSE (*verb*) to make very angry; enrage

LANGUOROUS (*adjective*) weak; sluggish; lacking vigor

DIFFIDENCE (*noun*) the quality of being hesitant or shy; the opposite of confidence

REBUKE (*verb*) to criticize sharply

NONCHALANCE (*noun*) lack of concern; cool indifference

LISTLESS (*adjective*) seeming too tired to care about anything

STRIDENT (*adjective*) harsh-sounding; having an irritating quality

Vocabulary Group **3** — More words from *The Red Pony*

PERPETUAL (*adjective*) eternal; lasting or enduring forever; ceaseless

DOCILE (*adjective*) easily taught; easy to handle; obedient

RANCOR (*noun*) bitter resentment or ill will; extreme hatred or spite

FATUOUS (*adjective*) idiotic; foolish; silly

PATERNAL (*adjective*) fatherly; related on the father's side of the family

CONSTRUE (*verb*) to interpret; to infer

SMUG (*adjective*) self-satisfied to an annoying degree; confident of one's superiority

DISCONSOLATE (*adjective*) hopelessly unhappy

STAUNCH (*adjective*) firm and dependable, especially in loyalty

SHRILL (*adjective*) having a high-pitched and piercing sound; marked by great intensity
