

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

COUNTENANCE (*noun*) face; facial expression, especially an approving one

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

PIOUS (*adjective*) very devout or religious (but sometimes only for show)

PROFOUND (*adjective*) deep and complete; showing great emotional or intellectual depth

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

IMPERTURBABLE (*adjective*) incapable of being disturbed

INCIPIENT (*adjective*) beginning to exist or appear; emerging

REPOSE (*noun*) peace; tranquility; the state of being at rest

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

REBUKE (*verb*) to criticize sharply

STERN (*adjective*) firm, strict, or uncompromising

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

REPROACH (*verb*) to express disapproval of or disappointment in; to bring shame upon

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

COMPLACENT (*adjective*) self-satisfied and unconcerned; smug

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

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

JUDICIOUS (*adjective*) exercising or showing good judgment

NONCHALANCE (*noun*) the trait of staying calm and seeming not to care

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