

Words used by NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE and WASHINGTON IRVING

Vocabulary Group 1

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

ELOQUENCE (*noun*) the skill or power of using language effectively

BLASPHEMY (*noun*) an insult to something considered sacred

DISSOLUTE (*adjective*) very wicked; full of vice

ANATHEMA (*noun*) a curse; a person or thing that is damned or detested

DEFERENCE (*noun*) respect; courtesy; submission to the will of another

MALLEABLE (*adjective*) easy to bend or shape; adaptable

Words used by HELEN KELLER

Vocabulary Group 2

GESTICULATE (*verb*) to make gestures, especially when speaking or in place of speaking

PONDEROUS (*adjective*) so large as to be clumsy; massive; dull

IMPETUOUS (*adjective*) done suddenly with little thought

DISSONANT (*adjective*) disagreeing or harsh in sound; out of harmony

EMINENT (*adjective*) well-known and distinguished; lofty; outstanding

RESOLUTE (*adjective*) firm and decisive; unwavering; determined

ABSTRACT (*adjective*) theoretical rather than actual; difficult to understand

AMENITY (*noun*) an attractive feature or convenience

ANTEDILUVIAN (*adjective*) very old, out-of-date or old-fashioned; the period before the Flood

PORTEND (*verb*) to indicate in advance; to foreshadow; to serve as an omen

Vocabulary Group 3

ASSIMILATE (*verb*) to absorb; to bring into conformity with the habits and traditions of a group

UTOPIA (*noun*) an ideal society; an imaginary place where everything is perfect

DESULTORY (*adjective*) without a plan or purpose; random; lacking order

EVANESCENT (*adjective*) happening only for a brief period; fleeting; fading away

CONGENIAL (*adjective*) pleasant; agreeable; compatible

TEMPORAL (*adjective*) relating to or limited by time; temporary; of this world; secular

REMONSTRATE (*verb*) to protest; to argue against

IMPERTINENCE (*noun*) rude boldness; lack of modesty or shame

CARICATURE (*noun*) a portrait or description in which the features are deliberately exaggerated

IMPERATIVE (*adjective*) urgently necessary; required
