Contents

List of Illustrations ix
Preface xi
Acknowledgments xvii

INTRODUCTORY

1. Taking Our Bearings 7

STYLISTICS

2. Precisely the Right Tone of Voice 39
3. Characterization 53
4. Humor 68
5. Description and Imagery 80
6. Plot 94

THEMATICS

7. The Conflict Between Nobility and Individualism 111
8. Christianity in Conflict with Morality 130
9. Literacy, Copyright, and Books 174
viii  Contents

THE QUESTION OF UNITY

10. Repetition, Cycles, and Structure 223

Appendix 257
Bibliography of Works Consulted 263
Index 271