








Contents

	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	vii
	<i>Introduction</i>	ix
	Abandonment	1
	Absurdity of War	8
	Alienation	15
	American Dream	21
	Battered Women	28
	Being and Becoming	34
	Bereavement	42
	Betrayal	48
	Community	55
	Compassion	62
	Corrupting Power	68
	Courage	75
	Cultural Conflict	81
	Death	88
	Disabled	95
	Duty	101
	Emotional Abuse	108
	Family	115
	Fathers and Sons	122
	Friendship	128
	Greed	135
	Grotesques	142

Healers	149
Immigrant Life	156
Imprisonment	163
Independent Women	170
Injustice	177
Journeys	184
Knowableness of God	191
Loneliness	198
Loss	205
Love	211
Male Behavior	218
Masquerading	225
Mothers and Daughters	231
Multiracial Offspring	237
Nature	244
Oppression	251
Outsiders	258
Quests	265
Rejection	271
Responsibility	278
Revealing Family History	284
Search for a Father	290
Search for Identity	297
Storytelling	304
Suicide	311
Survival	318
Trials	324
Value of Land	330
<i>Appendix A: Additional Suggested Themes and Topics</i>	337
<i>Appendix B: Guide to Suggested Themes in 150 American Novels</i>	347
<i>Author/Title Index</i>	357
<i>Subject and Character Index</i>	367