

---

CONTENTS

---

INTRODUCTION

3

ONE. George Eliot and the "Finale" of *Middlemarch*

20

TWO. Closure in *Bleak House*

37

THREE. "Open" and "Closed" Form in *War and Peace*

61

FOUR. Communal Themes and the Outer Frame of *The Scarlet Letter*

80

FIVE. Discomforting the Reader: The Confrontational Endings of *Vanity Fair* and *L'Education sentimentale*

101

SIX. James's Sense of an Ending: the Role Played in its Development by James's Ideas about Nineteenth-Century Endings

121

SEVEN. Gesture and the Ending of *The Golden Bowl*

143

EIGHT. Story-Telling as Affirmation at the End of *Light in August*

157

NINE. Virginia Woolf, the Vision of *The Waves*, and the Novel's Double Ending

176

CONCLUSION

198

---

CONTENTS

NOTES

211

*BIBLIOGRAPHY*

225

*INDEX*

233