## Contents

Acknowledgments9			
Prologue			
The Fiction of America—America as Fiction			
Act I			
Setting the Stage—or, Performing 'America' on the Streets of Philadelphia 35			
Act II			
Will the Real American Please Stand Up! Americanness (Dis)Embodied 83			
Interlude: Pop Goes the Canon			
Scenario 1, A Fish Called Emerson: The American Scholar and Finding Nemo 91			
Scenario 2, From Walden Pond to Jurassic Park: The Re(dis)covery of America119			
Scenario 3, S(w)inging the Self: Whitman, Spider-Man, and the Body Politic			
Act III			
American Idols: The Anatomy of Race and Gender			
Interlude: Romancing the Ghost			

	Scenario 1, The Shark Has Pretty Teeth: Straight White Masculinity and Ethnic	
	Ventriloquism in Moby-Dick and Jaws	188
	Scenario 2, Ghostly Femininity: Parody and Dissent in The Scarlet Letter and	
	Madonna	238
Εı	pilogue	
•		
	The Specters of America	. 285
Bi	bliography	. 303
	1	
In	dex	. 327