## Contents

**Preface** vii

**Introduction** 3

**Chapter One. The Leatherstocking Tales**

of James Fenimore Cooper 27

**Chapter Two. Nathaniel Hawthorne** 69

  1. Sketches of Western Adventure 69
  2. *The Scarlet Letter* 91
  3. Neutral Territory 114

**Chapter Three. Edgar Allan Poe** 132

  1. South and West 132
  2. Narratives of Exploration and Discovery 147

**Chapter Four. Henry David Thoreau** 175

  1. The Essential West 175
  2. *Walden*: The Pioneer 191
  3. *Walden*: The Frontier 212

**Chapter Five. Herman Melville** 232

  1. Early Western Travels 232
  2. *Moby-Dick* 256
  3. The Disputed Frontier 280
  4. *The Confidence-Man* 303

**Chapter Six. Indian Summer of the Literary West** 327

  1. Thoreau’s Unwritten Epic 327
  2. Hawthorne’s Last Stand 350
  3. Melville as Poet 375

**Chapter Seven. Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*** 397

**Index** 443