For more than three decades, students and instructors have relied on the McMichael-Leonard *Anthology of American Literature* as a reliable source of literary texts, annotations, and contextual information. The McMichael-Leonard anthology has secured its reputation with a solid core of writers and works and has enhanced that reputation with quality ancillaries, including the Pick-a-Penguin Program, American Literature Database, and text-specific MyLiteratureKit™. Because it allows such flexibility in meeting individual course needs, *Anthology of American Literature* is a complete American Literature resource.

In preparing this tenth edition, the editors have continued to follow the principles of selection that have made the previous editions so successful:

- selected works primarily for their literary significance.
- represented authors by offering extensive samplings of their works.
- included, where possible, long works in their entirety.
- provided clear, concise, and informative introductions and headnotes that are appropriate for student readers.
- explained unfamiliar terms and allusions through in-text references and footnotes.
- presented author bibliographies that are selective and current.

Authors and works in the anthology follow a generally chronological order. In deciding on a standard text from among the various editions available for selections, we have chosen, whenever possible, that edition most respected by modern scholars. The text reprinted is identified at the end of the headnote for each author. Spelling and punctuation are, in some instances, regularized and modernized to correct obvious errors and to suit the reader’s convenience. An editorial excision of less than one paragraph is indicated by an ellipsis ( . . . ); excisions of a paragraph or more are indicated by a centered ellipsis: