I couldn’t have written this book without the support and insight of my friends and colleagues. Crisillia Benford, Danika Brown, Danielle Coriale, Marty Gould, Anna Maria Jones, and Maggie Sloan de Lloret were inexhaustible sources of encouragement and patient readers of my work. Susan Derwin and Kay Young were, and are, extraordinary mentors. For their unflagging support and friendship, I also thank Ljiljana Coklin, Aimee Kilbane, Marci McMahon, Caroline Miles, Anna Tillett, and Stacey van Dahm. To my family, especially Gloria Tobey and Matt Kuss, I owe more than I can express.

I am grateful to the editors and readers at The Ohio State University Press for their patient support of this project and their invaluable feedback.

The University of Texas-Pan American provided grants that supported my research for this book; Ala Qubbaj, in particular, was an outstanding advocate of my project. I thank my colleagues in the English department—especially Gary Schneider, Matt Christensen, Melynda Nuss, David Anshen, and Shawn Thomson—who made it a pleasure to work among a community of scholars. Thanks also to Pamela Anderson-Mejías and Steven Schneider.

My work at the Freer Gallery wouldn’t have been possible without the gracious help of Tim Kirk and Christina Popenfus. The Freer generously allowed me to reproduce the Whistler images from their collections.

An early version of part of the second chapter appeared as “Learning to Read: Interpersonal Literacy in Adam Bede” in Papers on Language and Literature volume 44, number 2, from spring 2008 (Copyright © 2008 by The Board of Trustees, Southern Illinois University). It is reprinted with their permission, for which I am grateful.