

From Michael Clay Thompson's **Classic Words** Vocabulary Database

The chart shows a sample of the 135 classics that I analyzed for my **Classic Words** vocabulary database. In *Ivanhoe*, I found 519 examples of rigorous vocabulary words, but in *Of Mice and Men* I could only find 25 examples. What the chart reveals is that too often, when we do choose a classic for our literature program, we select a book at the extreme low end of vocabulary, depriving students of the exposure to rich vocabulary that they so desperately need.

