**Priority Pollutant Encyclopedia Article**

**Priority Pollutant**

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

**Contents**

**Priority Pollutant**

Under the 1977 amendments to the **Clean Water Act**, the **Environmental Protection Agency** is required to compile a list of priority toxic pollutants and to establish toxic pollutant **effluent** standards. A list of 126 key water pollutants was produced by EPA in 1981, and is updated regularly, with the updates appearing in the *Code of Federal Regulations*. This list, consisting of metals and organic compounds and known as the Priority Toxic Pollutant list, also prescribes numerical **water quality standards** for each compound. State **water quality** programs must use these standards or develop their own standards of at least equal stringency.