

# Alice Rowe Burks Biography

## Alice Rowe Burks

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

<a href="#">Alice Rowe Burks Biography.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Biography.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# Biography

Alice Rowe Burks is best known as a writer, particularly on the subject of early computers. She is also regarded as an excellent mathematician.

Alice Rowe Burks was born in East Cleveland, Ohio, in 1920. In 1944 she received her B.A. in mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania, a school she attended as the result of winning a competitive mathematics scholarship. It was while at the University of Pennsylvania and the Moore School of Engineering during the Second World War that Burks worked as a human computer--she was one of 75 female mathematicians employed to calculate firing and bombing tables. The need to perform so many of these calculations led to the development of the **ENIAC** (Electronic Numerical Integrator and **Calculator**), the world's first electronic digital computer. In 1957 Burks received an M.S. in educational psychology from the University of Michigan.

Alice and her husband, Arthur Walter Burks (himself part of the ENIAC team), have published extensively on the ENIAC project and computers in general. In 1989 their book *The First Electronic Computer: The Atanasoff Story* won the University of Michigan Press Award.