

# Beulah Louise Henry Biography

## Beulah Louise Henry

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="#">Beulah Louise Henry Biography.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Biography.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# Biography

Known as the "Lady Edison" of the 1930s, Henry, 1887- is famous for holding fifty-two patents. A native of Memphis, Tennessee, and a descendant of colonial hero Patrick Henry (1736-1799), she moved to New York City in 1919. Her prolific inventiveness is especially intriguing in the face of Henry's condition: a psychological disorder known as synesthesia, a dysfunction whereby sound is perceived as color, or taste as touch. She never quite understood how she made the complex mechanical drawings for her inventions and attributed her ability to create mechanical contraptions while knowing nothing about mechanics to the same "inner vision" that caused her to see a color and shape for each note of the musical scale. Her first profitable invention was an umbrella with snap-on cloth cover that allowed the owner to coordinate the umbrella with clothing. This success earned her enough money to employ a staff of mechanics in her laboratory. After the snap-on umbrella came numerous inventions, among them the protograph, which made four typewritten copies without carbon paper, the bobbinless sewing machine, the "Dolly Dip" sponge containing soap and usually used to clean glasses, and the "Miss Illusion" doll, whose eyes and hair changed color.