

Charles Bonnet Biography

Charles Bonnet

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

Charles Bonnet Biography.....	1
Contents.....	2
Biography.....	3

Biography

Bonnet was born in Geneva, Switzerland, to a wealthy family. He initially studied law, but a strong interest in insects led him to the field of natural history, to which he eventually devoted himself. His important observations have helped scientists better understand the process of insect metamorphosis. Many of Bonnet's observations are contained in his *Traité d'insectologie* (1745), which remains his highest regarded work in the field of insect biology.

Bonnet's observations on parthenogenetic reproduction, which is procreation without fertilization from sperm, are considered of special importance. He studied the reproduction of aphids and had determined that a number of females delivered live offspring even though their eggs had never been fertilized.

There was a debate over whether this reproductive phenomenon signified offspring that were "pre-formed" prior to their delivery, or offspring that were epigenetically developed, meaning that they formed during gestation. Bonnet was convinced that parthenogenetic reproduction involved pre-formed offspring.

From insect metamorphosis and parthenogenetic reproduction, Bonnet turned to the study of botany, but his research was cut short by failing eyesight. Even blindness did not still Bonnet's keen intellect; he simply applied himself to a more accessible discipline--philosophy.