

# Oscar Reutersvard Biography

## Oscar Reutersvard

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="#">Oscar Reutersvard Biography.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Biography.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# Biography

Known for his artistic renderings of shapes that are not physically possible, Oscar Reutersvard is widely acknowledged as "the father of impossible figures." His work has inspired such other great artist-mathematicians as **Maurits Cornelius Escher** and **Roger Penrose**.

Despite his fame, very little information about Reutersvard's personal life exists. He was born in Sweden in 1915.

Reutersvard's contributions to the art world began early, but did not show the originality for which he would become known until he started deliberately drawing three-dimensional objects that could not exist in real life. He is believed to be the first artist to do this; previous impossible figures were apparently merely the result of mistakes in artistic perspective.

In 1934, Reutersvard created an impossible figure (also known as an "undecidable figure") that he named the impossible **triangle**. Formed from a series of cubes, the triangle at first seems like the simple geometrical shape with which all schoolchildren are familiar. However, as the eye tries to follow its outlines, the triangle abruptly becomes a dizzying experience as its bottom link plays havoc with the brain's intuitive knowledge of physical laws.

The impossible triangle and Reutersvard's other works are so popular in his homeland that the government commissioned him to make a series of stamps using his art in 1982. Over his lifetime, he has created thousands of impossible figures, and numerous books have been published on his works in Russian, Polish, and Swedish.

Reutersvard currently works in the Art History Department of Sweden's Lund University.