

# Accuracy Encyclopedia Article

## Accuracy

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="#">Accuracy Encyclopedia Article.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Accuracy.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

# Accuracy

Accuracy is the closeness of an experimental measurement to the "true value" (i.e., actual or specified) of a measured quantity. A "true value" can be determined by an experienced analytical scientist who performs repeated analyses of a sample of known purity and/or concentration using reliable, well-tested methods.

Measurement is inexact, and the magnitude of that inexactness is referred to as the error. Error is inherent in measurement and is a result of such factors as the **precision** of the measuring tools, their proper adjustment, the method, and competency of the analytical scientist.

Statistical methods are used to evaluate accuracy by predicting the likelihood that a result varies from the "true value." The analysis of probable error is also used to examine the suitability of methods or equipment used to obtain, portray, and utilize an acceptable result. Highly accurate data can be difficult to obtain and costly to produce. However, different applications can require lower levels of accuracy that are adequate for a particular study.

## Resources

### Books

Jaisingh, Lloyd R. *Statistics for the Utterly Confused*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Professional, 2000.

Salkind, Neil J. *Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc., 2000.