

Anion Encyclopedia Article

Anion

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

Anion Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Anion.....	3

Anion

An anion is a negatively charged **ion**. During **electrolysis** an anion is attracted to the **anode** (positive electrode). The name was coined in the 19th century and is a combination of *ana* (Greek for upwards) and ion. An anion can be a single, negatively charged **atom** or it can be a group of negatively charged ions. Anions are to be found in **solids** or **liquids**, for example in **sodium** chloride the chloride is the anion and it is represented by Cl⁻. An anion will form an **ionic bond** with a **cation** (positive ion) to produce an ionic compound. An anion has a greater number of electrons than protons, giving it an overall negative charge.

Anions are made of atoms that will readily accept an **electron** when the conditions are right. All of the **halogens** will form anions as will all non-metals (except hydrogen) and a range of compounds will also readily form anions and accept electrons. Examples of compounds or groups that accept anions include the nitrate and hydroxide radicals. An anion can have an overall negative charge of -1 or -2.

Anions are negatively charged particles found in ionic compounds.