

# Aphrodisiac Encyclopedia Article

## Aphrodisiac

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

# Aphrodisiac

An aphrodisiac is a substance that causes someone to feel sexually aroused or that enhances sexual performance. Many foods, such as oysters, have a long-standing reputation as aphrodisiacs. Another common belief is that alcohol is an aphrodisiac, but in fact alcohol (a depressant) decreases sexual responsiveness in both men and women. Some drugs of abuse also have reputations as aphrodisiacs, including cocaine, marijuana, MDMA or "ecstasy," and amyl nitrite (an inhalant, often called poppers). To the contrary, the use of these drugs can lead to a loss of sexual desire, excitement, and capability.