

# Commensalism Encyclopedia Article

## Commensalism

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

# Commensalism

A type of symbiotic relationship. Many organisms depend on intimate physical relationship with organisms of other **species**, a relationship called **symbiosis**. The larger organism is called the host and the smaller organism, the symbiote. The symbiote always derives some benefit from the relationship. In a commensal relationship, the host organism is neither harmed nor benefitted. The relationship that exists between the clown fish living among the tentacles of sea anemones is one example of commensalism. The host sea anemones can exist without their symbiotes, but the fish cannot exist as successfully without the protective cover of the anemone's stinging tentacles.