

Edward W. Morley Encyclopedia Article

Edward W. Morley

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

Edward W. Morley Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Edward W. Morley.....	3

Edward W. Morley

1838-1923

American chemist who in 1887 performed, in collaboration with Albert Michelson, the crucial experiments showing the medium called ether does not exist. The ether was thought to be a massless substance that pervaded all of space, even a vacuum. The assumed presence of ether provided a way to rationalize how electrical and magnetic phenomena could act at a distance and to explain the propagation of light. Michelson proposed that, if there is an ether, it could be detected by using two beams of light; one would travel with the ether and the other across it. There should be a difference in time for these two beams. The lack of any difference made this one of the most famous negative results in history. The Michelson-Morley experiment played a role in Albert Einstein's development of his theory of special relativity in 1905.