

Football Encyclopedia Article

Football

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

Football Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Football.....	3

Football

The vastly popular game of American football has its origins in the English sports of rugby and soccer. In the mid-1800s, a soccer-like game was popular in the eastern United States. The object of the game: kick a round ball across the other team's goal line. Teams often consisted of thirty or more players. As the game's popularity increased, stricter rules were created and schools organized teams. The National Collegiate Athletic Association contends that the first football game was played in 1869 between Rutgers and Princeton Universities, but the rules of that game make it seem more like a soccer match. The first official football game took place on May 14, 1874 between Harvard and McGill Universities. As more and more colleges began to play football seriously, blocking and tackling were introduced, and these skills soon became as important as running. Rules varied from game to game and teams simply agreed on them before playing. As running, blocking, and tackling became more crucial to football, so did strength and agility. Games became much more violent and, since no helmets or paddings were worn, injuries abounded. In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) threatened to ban the game from the United States after seeing a particularly gruesome photograph of an injured player. Several colleges prohibited football because of just such injuries. In 1906, when forward passing became allowed, games became less violent and more strategic, necessitating careful planning and organization.