Francesco Redi Encyclopedia Article

Francesco Redi

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.

Contents

Francesco Redi

1626-1697

Italian physician and scientist who demonstrated that maggots and flies do not arise by spontaneous generation in putrefying meat, but from eggs laid by adult flies. Redi designed a series of carefully controlled experiments using different kinds of meats in flasks that were open, or sealed to keep out air and flies, or covered with gauze to admit air, but keep out flies. Despite the putrefaction that occurred in all cases, maggots only appeared in the open and uncovered flasks.