

Mescaline Encyclopedia Article

Mescaline

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

Mescaline Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Mescaline.....	3

Mescaline

This is a naturally occurring HALLUCINOGEN, one of the oldest PSYCHEDELIC substances known. It was first obtained from the PEYOTE cactus (*Lophophora williamsii* or *Anhalonium lewinii*), which grows in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Peyote buttons, the dried tops of the peyote cactus, were originally used by pre-Columbian Native Americans in those regions as an antispasmodic as well as for highly structured religious rituals; the button was eaten or was steeped to make a drink. It continues to be used in ritual by the Native American Church.

Figure 1 Mescaline

Mescaline is a member of the phenethylamine-type family of hallucinogens, which includes DOM, MDA, and MDMA. The overall behavior effects of mescaline are very similar to those produced by LYSERGIC ACID DIETHYLAMIDE (LSD); however, it is approximately 100 to 1,000 times less potent than LSD, although the effects of mescaline last from 10 to 12 hours.

See Also

Psilocybin; Religion and Drug Use)

Bibliography

EFRON, D. H., HOLMSTEDT, B., & KLINE, N.S. (EDS.). (1979). *Ethnopharmacologic search for psychoactive drugs*. New York: Raven Press.