

Plato Encyclopedia Article

Plato

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

Plato Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plato.....	3

Plato

c. 428-c. 348 B.C.

One of the most influential of ancient Greek philosophers and a student of Socrates. He Founded the Academy, a school of higher education that lasted nearly 1,000 years. Aristotle studied there for nearly 20 years. Plato wrote many texts, most notably the *Republic*, wherein the ideal society is described as one led by philosopher-kings, and democracy is rejected as a valid form of government. He argued that reality is divided into a world of senses, of which we only can have incomplete knowledge, and a world of ideas, of which we can have true and complete knowledge. For example, every circle we see contains some imperfection—in other words, it is only an approximation of an ideal circle. We know what a circle is by comprehending the idea, or "form," of the circle.