

Polycyclic Organic Compounds

Encyclopedia Article

Polycyclic Organic Compounds

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

Polycyclic Organic Compounds Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Polycyclic Organic Compounds.....	3

Polycyclic Organic Compounds

In organic chemistry, a cyclic compound is one whose molecules consist of three or more atoms joined in a closed ring. A polycyclic compound is one whose molecules contain two or more rings joined to each other. Environmentally, the most important polycyclic organic compounds are the **polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons**, also known as polynuclear aromatic **hydrocarbons** (PAHs). Some examples of polycyclic organic compounds include naphthalene, anthracene, pyrene, and the benzopyrenes. A number of polycyclic hydrocarbons pose hazards to human health. For example, benzo(a)pyrene from **automobile** exhaust and **tobacco smoke** is known to be a **carcinogen**.

See Also

Cigarette Smoke