

# Walter Sydney Adams Encyclopedia Article

## Walter Sydney Adams

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

[Walter Sydney Adams Encyclopedia Article.....1](#)  
[Contents.....2](#)  
[Walter Sydney Adams.....3](#)



# Walter Sydney Adams

**1876-1956**

American astronomer who applied spectroscopic techniques in classifying stars and determining stellar motions. Adams established spectroscopic parallax. This method for measuring stellar distances led to his discovery of white dwarfs (1915). In 1925 he provided support for Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity by observing the predicted red-shift in heavy star spectra due to intense gravitational fields. Most of Adams's career was spent at Mount Wilson Observatory, where he served as director from 1923 until 1946.