Autecology Encyclopedia Article

Autecology

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

Autecology Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Autecology.....3

Autecology

A branch of **ecology** emphasizing the interrelationships among individual members of the same **species** and their **environment**. Autecology includes the study of the life history and/or behavior of a particular species in relation to the environmental conditions that influence its activities and distribution. Autecology also includes studies on the tolerance of a species to critical physical factors (e.g., temperature, **salinity**, oxygen level, light) and biological factors (e.g., predation, **symbiosis**) thought to limit its distribution. Such data are gathered from field measurement or from controlled experiments in the laboratory. Autecology contrasts with *synecology*, the study of interacting groups (i.e., communities) of species.