Crossword Puzzles Encyclopedia Article

Crossword Puzzles

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

Crossword Puzzles Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Crossword Puzzles.....3

Crossword Puzzles

Once a peripheral form of entertainment, crossword puzzles have become a popular national institution. They appear in almost every newspaper, have become the focus of people's daily and weekend rituals, are published in their own books and magazines, appear in foreign languages—including Chinese—and have inspired other gridded word games like acrostic, cryptic, and diagramless puzzles.

Arthur Wynne constructed the first crossword, which appeared in 1913 in the *New York World.* His word puzzle consisted of an empty grid dotted with black squares. Solvers entered letters of intersecting words into this diagram; when correctly filled in, the answers to the "across" and "down" numbered definitions would complete, and hence solve, the puzzle. The layout and concept of the crossword has not changed since its inception.

Although crossword puzzles appeared in newspapers after Wynne's debut, the *New York Times* legitimized and popularized the pastime. The *Times*'s first Sunday puzzle appeared in the *New York Times Magazine* in 1942, and daily puzzles began in 1950.

Further Reading:

Shepard, Richard F. "Bambi Is a Stag and Tubas Don't Go Pah-Pah."*New York Times Magazine.* February 18, 1992, 31-9.