Fawlty Towers Encyclopedia Article

Fawlty Towers

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

Fawlty Towers Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Fawlty Towers.....3

Fawlty Towers

Fawlty Towers was a British television comedy starring John Cleese as hotel proprietor Basil Fawlty. Cleese, one of the original members of *Monty Python's Flying Circus,* returned to television as the writer and star of *Fawlty Towers.* Although only twelve episodes were produced (six in 1975, six in 1979), it remains one of the most widely syndicated comedy series in television history, and continues in regular syndication on public television stations throughout the United States to this day. Much as *All in the Family* broke ground by portraying a flawed family, *Fawlty Towers* took the premise to its comedic extreme. Fawlty and his wife constantly argued, insulted each others' intelligence, and generally made each other miserable. Their pointed barbs and insults marked a new high (or low) in television dialogue. *Fawlty Towers* proved critically, if not commercially, successful. The series garnered two British Association of Film and Theatre Actors awards for Best Comedy Series and Cleese received an award from The Royal Television Society for his writing and acting.

Further Reading:

Cleese, John, and Connie Booth. *The Complete Fawlty Towers.* London, Methuen, 1988; New York, Pantheon, 1989.

Margolis, Jonathan. *Cleese Encounters.* New York, St. Martin's, 1992.