Ley, Willy Encyclopedia Article

Ley, Willy

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

Ley, Willy Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Ley, Willy.....3

Ley, Willy

Scientist, Engineer, and Science Writer 1909-1969

Willy Ley was born in Berlin, Germany, in 1909. Educated as a paleontologist, Ley chose a career in rocketry and became a tireless advocate of the concept of rocket travel. He founded the German Society for Space Travel in 1927 and attempted to establish that organization as the world's most important society for spaceflight. Among the members he recruited was Wernher von Braun, who later moved to the United States and designed the Saturn series of rockets that carried astronauts to the Moon and space stations into Earth orbit.

Ley emigrated to the United States in 1934 when the German government chose to use rockets as military weapons, a decision he opposed. In the United States he became a popular writer on scientific subjects, including spaceflight, rocketry, and astronomy. He advised filmmakers, including Fritz Lang and Walt Disney, and helped Disney design a theme park attraction about travel to the planets and a documentary television series. Ley worked with *Collier's* magazine in its special 1947 series about space travel, written by von Braun. The magazine articles and books that followed were a major force in popularizing the idea of spaceflight in the period after World War II. Ley wrote more than nineteen books, including *The Conquest of Space*(1959),*Rockets and Space Travel* (1948),*Kant's Cosmogeny* (1968), and *Rockets, Missiles, and Space Travel* (1961-1969). He died in 1969, a few weeks before the launch of Apollo 11 and the first landing of astronauts on the Moon.

Willy Ley was a tireless supporter of the idea of rocket travel.

See Also

Rockets (Volume 3);; Von Braun, Wernher (Volume 3).

Bibliography

Ley, Willy. *The Conquest of Space.* New York: Viking Press: 1959.

——. *Rockets and Space Travel.* New York: Viking Press, 1948.