Selector Encyclopedia Article

Selector

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

Selector Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Selector.....3

Selector

In **programming**, a selector is an **operation** that returns the state of an object--defining characteristics pertaining to the object--without altering that state. Typical selector operations begin with the command "get." Methods or procedures that can modify the **object** state, which are called modifiers, typically begin with the command "set."

Selectors are widely used in a number of programming languages. In a context-sensitive language like **HTML**, selectors match the desired pattern to the element that produces the pattern. Here, selectors are tags that specify what is to be achieved with a target **block of text**. A variety of selectors exist to fulfill these requirements. Contextual selectors are used when styles should be applied to an element under specific circumstances, such as specifying when a portion of text is to be blocked and manipulated in some manner, as in bolding or underlining. Other text styles, such as the size and colors of a portion of text, is specified by an alpha-numeric ID selector. Various styles can be grouped into classes. A **class** can be specified using a type of selector termed a class selector.

In the **Java** programming language, other selectors that are termed **data** selectors function in providing various options for the display of retrieved source data. Four selectors can be invoked at a time, which aids a user in extracting the maximum amount of information from data.