Styrene Encyclopedia Article

Styrene

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

Styrene Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Styrene.....3

Styrene

Styrene is an oily organic liquid with an aromatic odor that is used as a building block for polymers in the manufacture of **plastics**, resins, coatings, and paints. Short-term health effects of styrene exposure include nervous system effects such as depression, loss of concentration, weakness, fatigue, and nausea. Potential long-term effects include liver and nerve tissue damage. Styrene has been designated as a possible human **carcinogen**. The drinking water standard (Maximum Contaminant Level, or MCL) for styrene is 0.1 **parts per million** (ppm). Styrene when released into water rapidly evaporates or is degraded by **microorganisms**. It does not bind to soils and may leach to ground water. However, its rapid degradation minimizes its **leaching** potential. Styrene does not tend to accumulate in aquatic life. It is also found in the air and in the microgram/cubic meter range.

Resources

Other

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Consumer Factsheet on: Styrene.* May 22, 2002 [cited June 23, 2002]. <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dw h/c-voc/styrene902.html>.

Organizations

The Styrene Information and Research Center, 1300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1200, Arlington, Virginia USA 22209, (703) 741-5010, Fax: (703) 741-6010), <http://www.styrene.org>