# William Nicholson Encyclopedia Article

## William Nicholson

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

William Nicholson Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

William Nicholson.....3

# William Nicholson

**1753-1815**

British chemist who was the first to use electricity to decompose water into hydrogen and oxygen. Using the recently invented Voltaic battery, Nicholson placed electrodes into water and showed that it "broke apart" into hydrogen and oxygen gasses. This reversed earlier experiments in which these two gasses were combined to form water, thus showing that many chemical reactions could be reversed. Nicholson also founded the *Journal of Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the Arts* in 1797.