

# The Misanthrope

Play  
Molière

First Performed  
1666

Original Language  
French

## THEMES

### Exploiting the Comedic Value of Hypocrisy

Alceste, the proclaimed misanthrope, does his best to point out the flaws of aristocrats—including himself. His courtship of Célimène reveals the hypocrisies of French society, with its false flattery and reluctance to speak the truth openly.



#### Hypocrisy & Society

Hypocrisy helps people get ahead but doesn't spare them from others' harsh words.

#### Love & Delusion

People believe what they want to believe about love to reassure themselves.

#### Power & Justice

Society's rules determine who gains power—but justice doesn't always follow.

## Author



**MOLIÈRE**  
1622–73

Molière was a French playwright, considered one of the most influential masters of comedy. Raised near wealthy society, his keen observational skill allowed him to satirize the hypocrisy of the aristocratic culture around him. Molière's critiques offended the church, however, and some of his works were banned.

## Main Characters



**Célimène**

Fertitious gossip courted by many aristocrats; socially prominent widow



**Alceste**

Critical misanthrope with a passion for sincerity; in love with Célimène



**Philinte**

Kind, practical friend of Alceste's; seeks social harmony and peace of mind



**Éliante**

Célimène's sensible, sincere cousin; Philinte's love interest

## Motifs



**Solitude**

In his solitude Alceste separates himself from society's bounds.



**Letters**

A letter writer's words symbolize action and craftiness.



**Gossip**

Mean-spirited words embody society's hypocrisy.

*It's flatterers like you whose foolish praise Nourishes all the vices of these days.*

Alceste, Act 5, Scene 5

# Misanthrope Study Guide

**Bessie Graham**



## **Misanthrope Study Guide:**

[The Misanthrope \(SparkNotes Literature Guide\)](#) SparkNotes,2014-08-12 The Misanthrope SparkNotes Literature Guide by Moliere Making the reading experience fun Created by Harvard students for students everywhere SparkNotes is a new breed of study guide smarter better faster Geared to what today s students need to know SparkNotes provides Chapter by chapter analysis Explanations of key themes motifs and symbols A review quiz and essay topics Lively and accessible these guides are perfect for late night studying and writing papers [A Study Guide for Molière's The Misanthrope](#) Gale, Cengage Learning,2015-09-24 *A Study Guide for Molière's The Misanthrope* Cengage Learning Gale,2015 *A Study Guide for Molière's The Misanthrope* Cengage Learning Gale,2017-07-25 A Study Guide for Moliere s The Misanthrope excerpted from Gale s acclaimed Drama for Students This concise study guide includes plot summary character analysis author biography study questions historical context suggestions for further reading and much more For any literature project trust Drama for Students for all of your research needs **The Misanthrope by Molière (Book Analysis)** Bright Summaries,2017-08-25 Unlock the more straightforward side of The Misanthrope with this concise and insightful summary and analysis This engaging summary presents an analysis of The Misanthrope by Molière a comedy of manners which satirises the hypocrisy and falseness of 17th century aristocratic society in France Alceste the misanthrope of the title prides himself on his total honesty and frankness but this puts him at odds with the play s other characters and the woman he loves the beautiful but hypocritical Celimène Although the play features many humorous situations it also stands out for its more poignant elements and close attention to character development The Misanthrope is widely considered to be a masterpiece and today is one of Molière s best known works Molière who also wrote Dom Juan Tartuffe and The Miser among other works is viewed as one of France s greatest authors and his plays are still performed today Find out everything you need to know about The Misanthrope in a fraction of the time This in depth and informative reading guide brings you A complete plot summary Character studies Key themes and symbols Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com Available in print and digital format our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com **CliffsNotes on Moliere's Tartuffe, The Misanthrope & The Bourgeois Gentleman** Denis M. Calandra,James L. Roberts,2015-07-21 This CliffsNotes guide includes everything you ve come to expect from the trusted experts at CliffsNotes including analysis of the most widely read literary works **Study Guide to The School for Wives and Other Works by Moliere** Intelligent Education,2020-06-28 A comprehensive study guide offering in depth explanation essay and test prep for selected works by Moliere one of the greatest French writers Titles in this study guide include The School for Wives Tartuffe The Misanthrope The Miser The Would Be Gentleman The Learned Ladies The Physician in Spite of Himself The Precious Damsels and The Imaginary Invalid

As a French poet playwright and actor of the seventeenth century he transformed comedy Moreover he was considered the official playwright for the royal court s entertainment This Bright Notes Study Guide explores the context and history of Moliere s classic work helping students to thoroughly explore the reasons they have stood the literary test of time Each Bright Notes Study Guide contains Introductions to the Author and the Work Character Summaries Plot Guides Section and Chapter Overviews Test Essay and Study Q As The Bright Notes Study Guide series offers an in depth tour of more than 275 classic works of literature exploring characters critical commentary historical background plots and themes This set of study guides encourages readers to dig deeper in their understanding by including essay questions and answers as well as topics for further research

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