

Chapter 1 : Consider the Lobster: s Archive : [calendrierdelascience.com](http://calendrierdelascience.com)

*CONSIDER THE LOBSTER ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED AUGUST For 56 years, the Maine Lobster Festival has been drawing crowds with the promise of sun, fun, and fine food.*

Although some people may disagree with Wallace and assert that because lobsters are not human, cooking lobsters cannot be considered a moral decision, this view is false and the process of cooking lobsters does involve ethical considerations. Wallace finds it critical to point out some of the difficult ethical questions that come out of the Maine Lobster Festival MLF. Specifically in the scenario at home, once the cook places the live lobster into the pot of boiling water and closes the lid, vigorous scrabbling and clawing can be heard coming from the pot. In other words as Wallace points out bluntly, the lobster acts just as any rational person that is in pain would. More importantly, Wallace points out that lobsters seem to meet the two criteria that ethicists use to determine whether an animal is capable of suffering: Moreover, once lobsters are dropped into the pot of boiling water, one cannot deny that the frantic scrabbling coming from the pot is a sign of suffering and pain. Since Wallace believes that displaying preference for one condition versus another is an important indicator of suffering, Wallace logically concludes that lobsters are in fact capable of experience suffering. It confuses Wallace as to how people justify eating animals for their own gustatory enjoyment and experience. Conversely, Wallace wonders what moral justifications people have to dismiss the claim. Overall, Wallace believes that this is a question that is worth public discussion and consideration. However, some people believe that they are justified in cooking and eating lobster because lobsters are not human. Not surprisingly, Wallace points out that the Maine Lobster Festival wholeheartedly supports this claim. From this analogy, these people would argue that lobsters are more similar to small, irritating insects rather than to humans. Furthermore, these people would likely point out that lobsters and insects both fall under the taxonomic classification of Arthropoda whereas organisms such as humans, dogs, and cats fall under the taxonomic classification of Chordata. Along the same vein of thought, lobsters are even insect-like in appearance with a segmented body, antennae, and an exoskeleton made of chitin. In other words, they are giant sea insects that are far from human and thus underserving of moral consideration. Foremost, if lobsters are not human, it logically follows that cats and dogs are also not human. If lobsters, being not human, are undeserving of moral considerations, why then do these same people feel justified in advocating for the rights of these house pets? I contend that there cannot simply be two categories of organisms in the world: At the same time, why people feel more strongly about protecting the penguins, whales, and abused dogs than lobsters? What gives penguins greater moral consideration over lobsters? For those that would use the lack thereof pain receptors as the primary mechanism to distinguish penguins and dogs from lobsters, this argument is both invalid and incorrect. According to scientific evidence, lobsters have neurotransmitters that are similar to those in humans that allow them to register pain. Moreover, even though they are covered in a tough exoskeleton, they can receive stimuli as readily as organisms that have fleshy skin. Lobsters are thus sentient creatures that are able to feel pain. However, I think the most important reason that cooking lobster is and should be considered an ethical issue is because of how people instinctively react towards the cooking process. When cooks hear the lobster s clattering madly around in the kettle, they cannot help but feel uncomfortable and are motivated to leave the kitchen and not come back until the timer has gone off. Feelings of guilt, however, are not exclusive to issues concerning other humans. Cooking lobster is thus an ethical issue that people ought to think about and take into account the next time they perform it in the comfort of their home or watch it happening before their eyes at the Maine Lobster Festival. Perhaps it will even change their minds.

**Chapter 2 : Consider the Lobster and Other Essays Quotes by David Foster Wallace**

*David Foster Wallace was born in Ithaca, New York, in and raised in Illinois, where he was a regionally ranked junior tennis player. He received bachelor of arts degrees in philosophy and English from Amherst College and wrote what would become his first novel, *The Broom of the System*, as his senior English thesis.*

It is, however, vintage DFW and hence cannot be rated below 5 stars, even if a couple of essays were so-so. Consider The Essay This is a fine collection of essays. For practical purposes, everyone knows what an essay or a book review is. The first extremely explicit essay on an inside look into the Porn industry turned this reviewer off slightly being the prude that I am but from then on it was increasingly easy to figure why so many of my most respected friends have such an intellectual crush on DFW. I have too now, I guess. Or maybe it is puppy love. Hard to know for sure. It is such a bad place to first encounter DFW, he is all infinite there with no restrictions on his interpolative imagination, the finite essays are so much more fun, accessible and lovable and most importantly, imitable at least in intent, if not in style. Therein lies the most important reason to fall in love - he is really placing himself at a level that you can aspire towards. Not too difficult, not too complex, but deliciously complex enough to stretch comprehension and understanding. It is not terribly difficult to fall in love from there. This reviewer acknowledges that there seems to be some, umm, personal stuff getting worked out here; but the stuff is, umm, germane. As you get into the essays, you will find that the jungle of footnotes and the sub-foot-notes and sub-sub- well no point in scaring off potential readers will soon become a veritable tangle. Not to mention the thicket of interpolations - interpolation upon interpolation upon interpolation, ad infinitum. But with certain literary narrative writers like me, we want the writing to sound like a brain voice, like the sound of the voice inside of the head, and the brain voice is faster, is absent any breath, and it holds together grammatically rather than sonically. Not sure if this applies to his fiction as well but, if you happen to miss the footnotes, you would miss half the fun, not to mention half the book. It was a source of constant amazement to observe how DFW uses a review or any given essay to explore every pet topic imaginable. It was even more amazing to imagine how his editors let him do that. In illustration of this amazement: Quite a bit longer, actually. Surely, you get the drift In sum, give DFW any topic and he will conjure out of it the angst of the modern condition, link it with some fundamental disconnect and manage to be completely non-pretentious and genuine while doing that. He suspends your inner cynic. That is genius, whatever else you might say.

Chapter 3 : David Foster Wallace - Wikipedia

*Consider the Lobster and Other Essays* () is a collection of essays by novelist David Foster calendrierdelascience.com is also the title of one of the essays, which was published in *Gourmet* magazine in

Quotes from Consider the Lobster: See, for example, the aforementioned Main Eating Tent, for which there is a constant Disneyland-grade queue, and which turns out to be a square quarter mile of awning-shaded cafeteria lines and rows of long institutional tables at which friend and stranger alike sit cheek by jowl, cracking and chewing and dribbling. It is also loud, and a good percentage of the total noise is masticatory. The suppers come in styrofoam trays, and the soft drinks are iceless and flat, and the coffee is convenience-store coffee in more styrofoam, and the utensils are plastic there are none of the special long skinny forks for pushing out the tail meat, though a few savvy diners bring their own. Most of us have been in supermarkets or restaurants that feature tanks of live lobsters, from which you can pick out your supper while it watches you point. Is it all right to boil a sentient creature alive just for our gustatory pleasure? A related set of concerns: Is the previous question irksomely PC or sentimental? Is the whole thing just a matter of personal choice? There are, of course, other ways to kill your lobster on-site and so achieve maximum freshness. This is alleged either to kill the lobster instantly or to render it insensate, and is said at least to eliminate some of the cowardice involved in throwing a creature into boiling water and then fleeing the room. The truth is that if you, the festival attendee, permit yourself to think that lobsters can suffer and would rather not, the MLF begins to take on the aspect of something like a Roman circus or medieval torture-fest. There are limits to what even interested persons can ask of each other. Dahlberg is mostly right, I think. To make someone an icon is to make him an abstraction, and abstractions are incapable of vital communication with living people. Even though the hypocrisy hurts, even though opening grosses and marketing strategies are now bigger news than the movies themselves, even though Cannes and Sundance have become nothing more than enterprise zones. That the whole mainstream celebrity culture is rushing to cash in and all the while congratulating itself on pretending not to cash in. Underneath it all, though, we know the whole thing sucks. As big as 20 Wal-Marts end to end. Real marble and fake marble, carpeting you can pass out on without contusion, , square feet of casino alone. Domed ceilings, clerestories, barrel vaults. In Caesars Palace is America conceived as a new kind of Rome: An empire of Self. The whole thing is almost too pretty to stand. Double-takes all over the hotel. Even just standing around or putting coins in a slot machine, the performers become a prime attraction. For a regular civilian male, hanging out in a hotel suite with porn starlets is a tense and emotionally convolved affair. There is, first, the matter of having seen the various intimate activities and anatomical parts of these starlets in videos heretofore and thus weirdly feeling shy about meeting them. But there is also a complex erotic tension. A crude way to put the whole thing is that our present culture is, both developmentally and historically, adolescent. That our endless and impossible journey toward home is in fact our home. They are also always incorrigibly narcissistic, philandering, self-contemptuous, self-pitying and deeply alone, alone the way only an emotional solipsist can be alone.

Chapter 4 : Consider the Lobster - charlesreid1

*I just finished reading Consider the Lobster by David Foster Wallace. What I'm left with is an absolute amazement at the immense amounts of knowledge related in the essays. What I'm left with is an absolute amazement at the immense amounts of knowledge related in the essays.*

DFW claims that tourism affects the human psyche in the same way it ruins the tourist venue. Since tourism will not provide any enlightenment or deeper truth about being alive, and instead undermines what it means to be individual, nothing at all is to be gained from it at all. He has exposed a very problematic cycle, and one that is likely unstoppable in modern culture. Human egocentrism As the title states, "Consider the Lobster" asks the reader that very thing: Even though he is at a Lobster festival, the reader gets snippets of his purpose in this essay. Even though he is sent out to review this festival for Gourmet magazine one would think his goal is to promote the festival. But in reality he leads the reader to question his eating of the lobster and the cruel way cooking a lobster truly is. He defends his willingness to eat lobster by telling the reader that "I [Wallace] believe that animals are less morally important than human beings" This depicts the moral reasoning many people have over eating lobster, the lobster is portrayed as a lesser being and hence, we do not feel guilt when eating it. Context In this essay, Wallace looks at the philosophical ramifications of eating animals, particularly lobsters. Wallace poses the difficult to express thought: Is it all right to boil a sentient creature alive just for our gustatory pleasure? Given that this article was an assignment given to him from Gourmet magazine, this is a particularly interesting and controversial stance to take. Presumably, the readers of such a magazine consider themselves culinary experts, or at least appreciators, making them the type of people who have no problem boiling a lobster alive to enjoy the meat inside. Wallace himself acknowledges at the end of the essay that he recognizes that his given audience might not be receptive to this article, and perhaps he is correct. More amazing, however, is that Wallace is able to ask the question he asks, describe the torture of the lobsters, and then decide that he likes to eat meat, and thus determines that humans are morally superior to animals. Appealing to philosophers of environmental ethics, including the famous paper "Animal Liberation" by Peter Singer, Wallace simply poses a challenging question, considers it and then offers an answer. Despite his own self awareness to animal ethics, Wallace recognized that the audience of Gourmet might not be so in tune with his thinking, or even willing to relate: Brendan Wolfe of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote, "'Consider the Lobster" originally appeared in Gourmet magazine, and it was controversial for all the obvious reasons. Few carnivores were amused by what they perceived as an attack on their morality" SF.

## Chapter 5 : "Consider the Lobster": A Summary | English Department - University of Maryland

*Summary. In Consider the Lobster David Foster Wallace discusses the morality behind consuming calendrierdelascience.com opens this reading by discussing the Maine Lobster Festival where over 25, pounds of fresh-caught lobster are consumed each year and continues with Maine's lobster industry as a whole.*

Thursday, September 27, "Consider the Lobster" by David Foster Wallace The essay "Consider the Lobster" by David Foster Wallace, is a very well written article, about the inhumanities involved in eating that big, delicious, butter soaked piece of lobster that many people consider a delicacy. In his very educational story, he discusses everything from how the lobster is baited and harvested, how they are stored in the supermarket, and eventually the cruel ways in which the lobsters are cooked and eventually consumed. Logos is established by, again, the research he put into doing this essay. He displays it in a way that helps the reader to very easily understand and identify with his findings, and therefore understand his argument. As well as explaining that the lobsters migrate with changing water temperatures, and because they have highly developed hairs covering their body, and they can sense heat very easily. The question he presents is how, if the lobster is highly sensitive to temperature, is it humane to boil them until death, just so that they can be enjoyed by the human palate. He explains how the lobsters grab onto the side of their holding container as they are being dumped into the pot of boiling water. They clink and scratch their claws on the lid of the vat of boiling water, appearing desperate to escape. Simply think about the food you are putting in your mouth, because it was, at one point in time, a living breathing creature. All Wallace asks in his essay is for people to think about what you are about to eat; before you put their flesh into your mouth. His arguments are, in my opinion, very effective. He convinced me to do more than to think about the way lobsters are prepared before eating it, he also convinced me to not want to eat lobster at all. My dad is a hunter and has always butchered his kills. I grew up with eating, harvesting and killing animals as being a normal part of life. It was a necessity, a way to cheaply feed the family. Just as many states, including the gulf states who harvest shrimp and many other sea creatures to eat and even alligators to sell their skins and their meat, they do it to make a living. Lobsters, as discussed above, are inhumanely prepared and killed, whereas deer, cattle and hogs are killed with a. Mammals have a centralized nervous system, much like our own; getting shot point-blank in the head gives the animal a very quick death. Still painful, but the pain is so quick, and it is over before they knew what happened; and they typically die immediately. Wallace even states "when it comes to defending [the lobsters], even to myself, I have to acknowledge that I have an obvious selfish interest in this belief, I like to eat certain kinds of animals, and would like to keep doing so" p Wallace self-discloses here, by telling his readers that while he feels sorry for the lobsters and how cruelly they are killed, he still likes to eat whatever he wants, including lobster if he so pleases. Work from to present pp.

## Chapter 6 : Observer review: Consider the Lobster by David Foster Wallace | Books | The Guardian

*Originally published in the August issue of Gourmet magazine, this review of the Maine Lobster Festival generated some controversy among the readers of the culinary magazine.*

## Chapter 7 : Consider the Lobster (essay) - DFW

*"Consider the Lobster": A Summary. David Foster Wallace's article "Consider the Lobster," originally published in Gourmet magazine, investigates a topic not generally covered by such publicationsâ€”the sensations of one of the animals who becomes our food.*

## Chapter 8 : David Foster Wallace Books - Consider the Lobster

*In David Foster Wallace's essay, Consider the Lobster, Wallace argues that animal (and more specifically lobster)*

*suffering is an issue that is both complex and uncomfortable. Although some people may disagree with Wallace and assert that because lobsters are not human, cooking lobsters cannot be.*

## Chapter 9 : Consider the Lobster and Other Essays by David Foster Wallace

*Consider the Lobster by David Foster Wallace Abacus £, pp The secret pleasure of reading David Foster Wallace is still, for a fortunate minority, just possible in Britain. But only just.*