



# Psychology Classics: Superstition in the Pigeon

*B. F. Skinner*

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## Psychology Classics: Superstition in the Pigeon B. F. Skinner A Psychology Classic

Burrhus Frederic "B. F." Skinner ranks among the most frequently cited and influential psychologists in the history of the discipline. Building on the behaviorist theories of Ivan Pavlov and John Watson he was the first psychologist to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Psychological Association (APA.) Originally published in 1948, Superstition in The Pigeon is a learning theory classic.

**Note To Psychology Students** If you ever have to do a paper, assignment or class project on the work of B. F. Skinner having access to Superstition in The Pigeon in full will prove invaluable. A psychology classic is by definition a must read; however, most landmark texts within the discipline remain unread by a majority of psychology students. A detailed, well written description of a classic study is fine to a point, but there is absolutely no substitute for understanding and engaging with the issues under review than by reading the authors unabridged ideas, thoughts and findings in their entirety.

**Bonus Material** Shortly after the publication of Superstition in the Pigeon, Skinner gave a detailed account of his science of behavior in a paper presented to the Midwestern Psychological Association, in Chicago. First published in 1950, the paper entitled Are Theories of Learning Necessary? is also presented in full.

Superstition in The Pigeon by B. F. Skinner has been produced as part of an initiative by the website [www.all-about-psychology.com](http://www.all-about-psychology.com) to make historically important psychology publications widely available.

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