Anka, Paul (1941-) Encyclopedia Article

Anka, Paul (1941-)

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

Anka, Paul (1941-) Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Anka, Paul (1941—).....3

Anka, Paul (1941—)

With his 1957 number one hit record, "Diana," about a teenage boy's unrequited crush on an older girl, 16-year-old singer-songwriter Paul Anka tapped into a collective angst. Catapulted into the ranks of the 1950s post-Elvis Presley teen idols, the Canadian-born Anka was a pervasive presence on the airwaves with songs including "Lonely Boy," "Put Your Head on My Shoulder," and "Puppy Love," the latter about his romance with former Mousketeer, Annette Funicello. With his adenoidal sound, and a self-confidence that belied his years, he was more at home with ballads than rock 'n' roll. As a result, he weathered changing tastes to reinvent himself as an in-demand cocktail circuit headliner. His sophistication as a songwriter also grew. Along with hits for Barbra Streisand and Tom Jones, Anka wrote Frank Sinatra's signature song, "My Way," and the theme to *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*.

Further Reading:

Bronson, Fred. *The Billboard Book of Number One Hits.* New York, Billboard Publications, 1988.

Nolan, Tom. "Paul Anka: The Lonely Boy Grows Up." *Rolling Stone.* October 24, 1974, pp. 9, 20.

Time. "Anka's Aweigh." December 8, 1975, p. 61.