

Annie's Baby: The Diary of Anonymous, a Pregnant Teenager Study Guide

Annie's Baby: The Diary of Anonymous, a Pregnant Teenager by Anonymity

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Plot Summary

"Annie's Baby, the Diary of Anonymous, A Pregnant Teenager," edited by Beatrice Sparks, Ph. D., is an epistolary written, as indicated in the title, in a diary format. Annie is a typical fourteen-year-old girl who finds herself between childhood and adolescence as witnessed by her love of soccer and rollerblading as well as a growing interest in the opposite sex. Annie lives with her mother who is a high school teacher. Her father abandoned the family when Annie was just five. She often expresses her sadness in not having a father in her life.

One day as she is walking off the soccer field when she is sweaty and her clothes are grass-stained, Annie is stopped by the most handsome boy she has ever seen to talk. He tells her that he is looking for a friend. He is new at the school and does not know many kids. Annie cannot believe that this dream of a boy can be interested in her. She searches for him in the halls after that and finally spots him again. He is just as friendly and invites her out on a date. Since she is not allowed to date yet, Annie lies to her mother that she is going to a friend's house. Danny, who is sixteen, picks her up at her friend's house and they immediately hit it off.

Danny confides that he has been in a terrible car accident, spending months in traction and is a year behind in school. Annie feels sorry for him and is sure that he feels embarrassed about being older than the other kids. She feels protective of him and wants to always be there for him. They begin to do everything together. Things are going fine and Annie is in love and is sure that Danny is in love with her as well.

However, after one party, Danny becomes very aggressive and wants to go farther than what Annie is ready for. Danny becomes angry with her and Annie begins to feel guilty. She really wants Danny to be her boyfriend and eventually she gives in to his desires and they begin to have sex. Danny seemed to be too busy for her on many evenings before sex but the times he does have time for her, all they did is have sex. Sometimes the sex is rough and he often slaps and punches her. She tries to hold onto her fantasy that they are in love but finds out the brutal truth when she discovers in horror that she is pregnant.

Danny denies that the baby is his and if she pushes it, he says that the entire football team is prepared to say that she is a tramp and has sex with everyone. Annie is afraid to tell her mother and the only method she has for expressing her fears, anger, and confusion is through the entries that she makes in her diary which she refers to as "Daisy Diary." She records every step of her ordeal in her diary and even has imaginary conversations with Daisy who encourages her to talk to her mother.

Annie finally does just that and is surprised and relieved to discover that her mother is solidly behind her. Annie's mother helps her daughter take on a role that is far too adult for her young age and helps her decide on what is the best thing to do for herself and for her baby.



Pages 1 through 75

Pages 1 through 75 Summary and Analysis

September 11, Monday: Annie's day starts as an ordinary one. She showers and finishes a science paper. Later, after playing soccer, she limps off the field. She is sweaty and her uniform is grass-stained when suddenly a handsome boy comes running up to her. She cannot believe that he is talking to her. He tells her he is new there and is looking for a "sweaty, sporty sort of friend." (p. 2). The guys on his team begin calling for him and he runs off. As he runs off, he refers to her as his "friend." She is astonished.

September 12, Tuesday, 6:32 am: Even though the boy said he wants a sweaty sort of friend, Annie figures he'd like her to be pretty, too. She uses her mother's facial mask and tried on several outfits before she decided on one. 4:21 pm: Annie walks the halls every chance she gets, looking for the boy. But she never runs into him. Maybe he pulls that line on every girl, she thinks. 6:59 pm: That night she passed up going to the mall with her girlfriends, Jenny and Deanna, and goes rollerblading by school hoping to catch sight of the boy but does not have any luck.

September 14, Thursday, 4:42 pm: Annie is trying to forget the boy but she cannot get him out of her thoughts. September 21, Thursday, 4:50 pm: Coming off the soccer field with Molly, someone comes up behind Annie and puts his hands over her eyes. She prays it is the boy but figured it probably isn't. But to her surprise, it is him! She learns that his name is Danny and that he has been looking for her all week. He gives her a ride home in his 1982 red Mustang convertible but cannot stay and talk because he has to go to work at his father's restaurant. His father has just bought the Four Seasons Restaurant in town. Danny asks Annie to go to the movie on Saturday.

September 22, Friday, 4:29 am: Annie wakes up early and cannot wait for Saturday. She hopes she will be able to talk intelligibly when she and Danny are alone. She figures Danny is rich with his fancy car, the big house he lives in and his father's fancy restaurant. His parents are divorced and his mother lives in New York. Annie's parents are divorced, too. Her dad just kind of disappears from her life when she is five. Annie's mother is a great mom.

Annie never thinks that she is pretty or smart and that her small apartment could be anything in comparison to Danny's big house. She wonders if she is good enough for Danny. She remembers her Aunt Martha telling her that people are only worth what they think they're worth. Annie decided she better meet Danny somewhere else since at fourteen, her mother thought she is too young to date. 4:40 am: Annie cannot fall asleep. She has never been so happy in her life.

September 23, Saturday, 11:41 pm: Annie has a wonderful date with Danny. It is the best date she ever had and it is the first and only date she ever has had. Danny picks



her up at her friend Jenny's house. She feels comfortable with him immediately. There are no awkward pauses.

Annie learns that being rich is not everything. Danny has a rough, miserable life. He is sixteen and over a year behind in school because of a horrible accident he had that put him in traction for months. She is so moved by his story, that she cries. They hug each other. She is honored that he has confided in her. He calls her his Earth Angel. Annie feels sorry she lied to her mother but she is really glad she did. Whether she winds up with him or not, she will always remember that night and how they bonded. They park by Pebble Creek and make out but do not go very far. They never make it to the movie. Annie feels an overwhelming need to support and help Danny by always being there for him. She senses he is embarrassed about being behind in school.

September 24, Sunday, 2:14 am: Annie has a nightmare about Danny being in pain and learning to walk again. She wakes up and writes about it in her diary, her tears stained the pages as she writes.

September 27, Wednesday, 4:21 pm: Annie and Danny have lunch in the cafeteria. He teases her about not wanting her mother to meet him. They have seen a movie the night before when they should have been studying in the library. All she remembers about the movie is the roses that the guy filled the girl's room with. She can almost smell them, enveloping her, smothering her. Her writing is a little hokey, she thinks, but it is her mom's doing. She knows Annie wants to be a writer and encourages her to use descriptive, dramatic phrases. After lunch, Annie and Danny go outside and lay on the grass under the library window. He plucks a yellow dandelion and promises to fill her room with roses some day. Danny reaches over and kisses her. She is in heaven. No one has ever felt the way she did at that moment in her mind. 10:03 pm: Annie looks out the window at the moon wishing she could write love poems like Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

September 28, Thursday, 4:27 pm: Annie only sees Danny for a few minutes but he brings her a gift of a matchbox from his father's restaurant with candy kisses stuck inside.

September 29, Friday, 9:22 pm: Annie and Danny have been eating lunch together when friends of his, Bruster and Kel, rush up and grab Danny away. He looks apologetic as he is whisked away. She does not see him again that day. She misses him when they are not together.

September 30, Saturday, 12:56 pm: Annie goes to the mall with Jenny and Deanna after school on Friday. Danny has to go to football camp for the weekend. She hates being away from him all weekend. She wishes she could talk to someone. Her mother is too overly protective. Her friends are as dumb as she is. She cannot talk to a counselor at school and a shrink would cost too much. She decides she had to settle for "Daisy Diary," who will be her alter ego. She fights the jealousy she feels about Danny being at the camp. She needs to support him in what he wants to do. Still, she misses him so much.



October 1, Sunday, 2:27 am: Danny is expected home Sunday night. Annie hopes he will call. She writes a poem to him about how much she misses him. 11:31 am Annie is in misery. Meg tells her that she saw Danny riding around with Tanya last night. Tanya is a slut. Annie cannot believe that he could be interested in her.

2:22 pm: Annie is so upset that she develops a headache and starts throwing up. She takes Niteall so she could sleep and escape from reality. 4:30 pm: Annie's mother wakes her. Danny is on the phone. He tells Annie he misses her. She decides not to scream at him about Tanya. He is so tired when he came home from camp that he went right to sleep. Meg must have seen someone else. Danny could come and get her at her apartment since her mother is going to be away at a friend's house for a while. Annie was ecstatic.

10:47 pm: Annie tells her mother she was going to Jenny's to study. Her mother is angry when Annie came home almost an hour past her curfew. But even her mother's anger cannot dampen her happiness. Annie and Danny play tennis that afternoon and then drive up to Hampton Hill. He picks a spot that looks out over the city lights. A lot of kids, he tells her, go up there to do the deed. But he just likes the view and being outdoors. They begin kissing but are interrupted as a police car comes driving up. Danny becomes cross with Annie when she starts tearing up. He tells her to be quiet or else the cops would think he is trying to rape her. The cops tell them to get on their way. As they drive down the hill, he asks if she is a virgin. When she said she is, he tells her he is too.

October 2, Monday, 4:30 pm: Annie sees Danny outside the cafeteria. She is hurt when he says he has to eat with a couple of the guys on the football team. She admonishes herself for feeling hurt. She should be proud of him and understand.

October 3, Tuesday: Annie and Jenny go to the Pro Shop after school to get new soccer shorts. Later she goes to the market with her mother to get some food for the party her mother's having for the Honor Students at the school where she teaches. She always encourages Annie to do her best so she'd be in the honor program. Her mom takes her to Mi Casita, her favorite Mexican restaurant. But nothing is fun without Danny. She is totally hung up on him.

October 5, Thursday, 9:19 pm: It almost seems like Danny is ignoring her. He is always tied up with his team or his father's restaurant. What about time for her, she wonders. October 7, Saturday, 10:10 pm: Annie is on the senior tennis team at the State run-off. Her team wins in doubles play and she helps! At 10:38 pm She writes that she wishes that Danny would have been there with her.

October 10, Tuesday: Annie is eating with Danny until Tad comes up and drags him off. It is a guy thing. Annie admits that she feels resentful and even jealous. She is especially jealous of Tanya who always seems to be hanging around. Annie realizes that she is in love with Danny. Annie is grateful for her diary since she has no one else to vent her frustrations to and share her feelings with. Her diary is everything to her—



her mentor, friend, cheerleader, and advisor. Above everything, her diary does not judge her.

October 11, Wednesday, 2:31 am: It is a down day. Annie feels stupid and gullible. There is not one bright spot in her life. October 12, Thursday, 5:12 am: Annie's pillow is wet. She must have cried herself to sleep. October 13, Friday, 4:37 pm: Danny stops her in the hall and invites her to a party.

October 14, Saturday, 12:21 am: Everyone is at the party from jocks to cheerleaders. Kelly's parents are gone for the weekend so the guys bring in a keg of beer. Danny frowns at her when she refuses to drink any beer. He starts flirting with Marcie, the prettiest girl there, so Annie decides she'd go along with the crowd and drink. Soon she is as giddy and silly as everyone.

Annie and Danny dance to slow music and she feels like they are alone in the world. On the way home, he pulls over and is all over her. She fights him off and he hits her. She attributes his bad behavior to his being drunk. He is mad when he drops her off and calls her a boob and a mama's baby. But Annie vows to put that incident out of her mind. It isn't like him. It is the beer and the few puffs he took on that cigarette. Later, she wonders if he really meant to hit her. She is also wondering if he is really a virgin.

11:30 am: Danny has not called yet and by 1:16 pm, he still hasn't called. At 4:12 pm Annie calls the restaurant and leaves word for Danny to call her. By 10:56 pm, he still hasn't called. Maybe he wants her to apologize. She vows to do that first thing Monday.

October 15, Sunday: Still no call. Annie stays by the phone all day. October 16, 2:57 am: Annie is awake and sure she'd never sleep again. Her heart is broken. Her diary is not even helping her. 5:02: Annie feels like she has been beaten up. She wishes she could curl up with her mother and blabber about all her misery. Annie returns to pouring her heart out to her diary since she has no one else. She has tried to talk to Danny at school to apologize but he pushes her aside. He ridicules her in front of his friends who all laugh at her. She runs off down the hallway. She feels like she was losing her mind. She argues with her diary. She wants to keep Danny. Her diary said she cannot. But without Danny, she is nothing.

October 20, Friday, 4:30 pm: Annie is depressed. Her mom tries to find out what was wrong but Annie will not talk to her. Danny ignores her at every turn. Her friends tell her he is not worth the pain she was going through. 10:58: No one can understand how horrid she feels. She and her friends all suffer from feeling that they are not as good as, as smart as, as pretty as, or as thin as the ideal. She still had conflicted feelings about her father. She understood how bad he must have felt when he lost his job. Danny has to realize that he cannot handle liquor. She tells her diary that everyone is doing it and that she has acted like a scared little girl. Her diary tells her that she is wrong and not everyone is doing it. Well, she wants to do it because she wants to fit in and wants her and Danny to be a couple. The vow of chastity she makes at the youth conference is not as important any longer.



October 26, Thursday, 10:47 pm: Six days without Danny and Annie is completely miserable. Danny is still ignoring her. She almost dies when she sees Pam Doms in his car one day. Annie argues back and forth with her diary about what she can do to win Danny back. She has to have it. The diary tells her all she has to lose was her dignity. Annie says that it is her life and it is up to her how she would live it.

October 27, Friday, 5:57 pm: Annie is mortified. She left a stupid, groveling note in Danny's locker. If that letter got out, she'd be the laughing stock of the school. 6:03 pm: Annie considered transferring to another school. 9:31 pm: Danny called and he isn't mad. He thought she is mad at him. He wanted to forgive and forget. The past is the past. He wanted to start all over except he still wanted to get her a room full of flowers. They planned to see each other the next night.

October 28, Saturday, 8:26 pm: Danny unexpectedly has to work at his father's restaurant. Annie turned down a chance to go to Hot Springs with Jenny and her family. She wouldn't have had fun thinking about Danny. Jenny, Deanna, Molly and Annie all went to the Methodist Christian Youth Conference two years in a row. Meg couldn't go because she is Catholic. All the friends were a lot alike—God-fearing, honest and kind. She has thoughts of bringing Danny along to the Youth Conference in the summer.

October 29, Sunday, 2:30 am: Everything is going to be fine between Annie and Danny. He isn't drinking or using any longer. She would keep him straight and virtuous. She is thankful for her mother who always taught her about being good and doing the right thing. 11:21 am: Danny called. He could see her that afternoon.

10:18 pm: Annie needs to pour her heart out. All she has is Daisy. But it is just too hideous to even tell Daisy. Danny has picked her up by a restaurant then they went to his house. He'd forgotten something, he says. They are alone in the house and went into the study. After they goof around for a short while, he tells her to take all her clothes off and dance dirty for him. He rushes after her. He slaps her and calls her vile names. Annie cried and is frightened. Danny became more aggressive and violent. He rapes her. He hits her again after he is done. She got on her knees and begged him to forgive her. He pushed her out of his house and tells her to find her own way home. His house is on the other side of town from hers. It is pitch dark and she is scared. She runs all the way home. She is thankful that her mother isn't home.

Annie has no idea what she would tell her mother. Her eye is swelling and she has a big bruise on her face and her clothes were torn. She pulled off her clothes and washed her face. Annie got some grease from the garage and smeared them on her clothes. She'd tell her mother she got hit by a car. Naturally, her mother is very upset and wanted to report the accident. But Annie talks her out of it. She'd never be able to identify the car. Besides, she is jogging in the dusk and she ran into the car.

October 30, Monday, 11:57 am: Annie's mom sits with her until she falls asleep. 11:46: Annie has slept all day. November 1, Wednesday, 10:06 pm: Annie's mother is still worried about her. She fears that Annie is in shock. November 2, Thursday, 1:14 am:



Annie has a horrible dream. It made her feel the need to escape. 1:41 am: Annie found comfort singing the childhood song, "Jesus Loves Me."

5:22 am: Annie thinks of asking her mother to have her transferred to another but she has no reason other than the incident with Danny which she vowed she would never reveal. Annie still loved Danny. She makes up some excuses for his behavior. Sleep deprivation can make people have strange behavior. She feels she has to help him.
6:22 am: She decides to write him a note saying she cannot live without him.

November 3, Friday, 4:37 pm: Annie does not see Danny at school. She begins to feel stupid and that she has made a fool out of herself. 11:49 pm: Danny called. He is crying and begged her forgiveness. He hates himself for what he did. They talk for over two hours. He really loves her. November 17, Friday, 9:30 pm: Annie has not written in her diary lately because she has been so busy with Danny. They are together all the time. Danny is being very good to her. She didn't like it at first, but she began to enjoy sex with him. November 18, Saturday, 1:15 am: Annie sneaked out and went to a party with Danny. November 19, Sunday, 6:15 pm: Danny has to work both shifts at the restaurant. Annie is bored without him. November 23, Thursday, 9:03 pm: It is Thanksgiving Day. Danny has to work at the restaurant all day but Annie thought he'd at least call her. November 26, Sunday, 10:20 pm: Danny is tied up all day again.

November 30, Thursday, 11:14 pm: Annie and Danny take a walk in the canyon. They have sex but didn't use a condom. Annie is worried but she does not say anything. December 2, Saturday, 9:40 pm: Danny does not call all day. December 8, Friday, 4:44 pm: Annie gets angry with Danny. When he can't get away he should call her, she tells him, so she can do something with her friends. He tells her he does not want her hanging around with her friends. December 15, Friday, 4:41 pm: Danny became jealous when he saw her talking with another boy, Jake Goldman. December 18, Monday, 1:45 am: Annie confides that she is really unhappy and wishes she could talk to someone. Annie thinks that the people in Danny's circle are a bad influence on him. They are all rude and crude. She gets "the pill" from a friend of Danny's but forgets to take it sometimes. Danny continues to hit her and in fact he hits her a lot.



Pages 76 through 156

Pages 76 through 156 Summary and Analysis

December 23, Saturday, 11:21 pm: Annie writes that Danny is hurting her lately when they have sex. Her friend, Liz, tells her rough sex is a guy thing. December 24, Sunday, 3:30 pm: It is Christmas Eve and Annie's mother goes to church. Annie says she doesn't feel good and stayed home. Annie wonders if she is committing adultery. 7:30 pm: Danny comes to the apartment. He introduces himself to Annie's mother who invited him in. He has come to drop off a present but tells Annie not to open it until Christmas.

December 25, Monday, 2:13 am: Annie is awake wondering what is in the big present Danny brought. 10:21 am: Annie ripped the wrapping off and finds a series of boxes within boxes. When she finally gets to the last box, she finds a bracelet that is inscribed with the words, "Hi, Friend."

December 31, Sunday, 9:15 pm: Annie's mother plans to spend the evening with friends. Annie is going to be at Jenny's but would be seeing Danny. January 1, Monday, 10:59 am: Annie confesses to Daisy that she broke her promises on Christmas Day not to have any more sex until she gets married. January 4, Thursday, 9:49 pm: Annie admits that Danny only sees her when he wants to have sex. January 6, Saturday, 12 Noon: Annie sneaks out again with Danny to go to a party. She is nervous because he isn't using condoms all the time.

January 14, Sunday, 9:47 pm: Annie misses her period. She vows not to worry because she is sure she'd start soon. January 16, Tuesday, 6:02 am: Annie and Danny have been at a friend's house. Another girl there, Tina, confessed she just has an abortion. Annie is frightened. She cried right along with Tina, more for herself than for her friend. January 23, Tuesday, 4:47 pm: Annie started spotting a little. She takes it as a good sign.

February 10, Saturday, 8:20 am: Danny is scheduled to work all day. 10:17 pm: It is time for Annie's period and she is counting the days. February 14, Wednesday, 3:51 pm: Annie and Danny exchanged Valentine's presents. She is two days late. She wishes she could talk to Danny about it but she wouldn't dare. 6:01 pm: Annie has bought a pregnancy kit and get the depressing news that she is pregnant. She isn't ready for this—she is only fourteen! How would she ever tell her mother? Almost worse, how will she tell Danny, she wonders? Maybe the test is wrong. She bought another pregnancy kit.

February 15, Thursday, 3:33 am: The test is positive again. 8:15 am: Annie's mother is really worried about her. 5:55 pm: Annie met Tina at Ritter's Park. They talk for an hour. She tried to convince Annie that up until three months, the fetus isn't really anything. Annie feels more confused after she talks to Tina. 7:10 pm: Danny called but Annie tells him she is grounded and couldn't even talk on the phone.



February 17, Saturday: Both Danny and Annie's mother are sure that something is wrong with Annie. She avoided Danny whenever possible. And at home, she just stayed in her room all the time. Annie finally admits to Daisy that she might be two months pregnant. Annie has the choice of either having a baby at fourteen or having an abortion.

February 20, Tuesday: 1:22 am: Annie's mother is insistent that she go to the doctor. 1:23 am: The phone number to the anti-abortion office flashed through Annie's mind. 2:01 am: Annie tried to decide whether to go to Planned Parenthood, the anti-abortion office or church. February 21, Wednesday: Annie dreams she has drawn out money from her savings account and taken the bus to the clinic that Tina tells her about. She has the abortion and comes home and takes her mother's sleeping pills.

February 22, Thursday, 3:14 pm: Annie really does go to talk to the anti-abortion people. She toys with the idea of suicide but is afraid she wouldn't get to heaven. Daisy tells Annie to talk to her mother. Danny called. Annie pretended she has laryngitis and couldn't talk. February 23, Friday: After missing several days, Annie returned to school. She saw Danny in the hall. He tells her she hoped that she'd be ungrounded soon. He needs her.

February 29, Thursday, 4:49 pm: Annie puts a note in Danny's locker that she has to talk to him and wants to meet for lunch. He wants to go to his house and blabs all the way there not even asking what she wants to see him about. At the house, he grabs her and she fights him off. He is about to hit her when she tells him she is carrying his unborn child. He slaps her and calls her a whore. He hits her in the stomach and says the baby could be anybody's. When she says they could get married, he goes into a rage. He isn't about to give up his life for her and her slimy baby. He tells her it is her problem. He drives off and leaves her to get home as best she could. 6:01 pm: Annie is waiting for her mother to come home. She decides to tell her. March 2, Saturday, 2:30 am: Annie's mother isn't angry at all. She hugs Annie and tells her they'd get through it together. They'd take one step at a time but they'd go forward with their lives.

March 4, Monday, 4:32 pm: Annie and her mother talk all weekend. She encouraged Annie to continue going to school. 8:22 pm: Annie's mother made an appointment for Annie to see a doctor. March 5, Tuesday, 6:06 pm: Annie saw Dr. Stewart who tells her she is three months pregnant. Annie would look to her mother to help her decide what to do. March 6, Wednesday, 4:31 pm: Annie felt she doesn't fit in anywhere. Danny avoided her at school and is spreading the word that she is pregnant and that it isn't his.

March 7, Thursday, 7:59 am: Annie and her mother comes to the same decision: they are going to have a baby! Her mom is sorry that Annie get herself into such a predicament but she doesn't judge or condemn her. March 14, Thursday, 9:42 pm: Although it is proving to be difficult, Annie vows to stay in school. March 15, Friday, 4:34 pm: Annie passes Danny in the hall. He looks right through her as if he doesn't know her. Annie is humiliated and hurt. It is finally dawning on her that she hasn't understood what love is and that Danny never loved her.



March 16, Saturday, 4:33 pm: Annie is starting her fourth month of pregnancy. She is beginning to have a hard time pulling her jeans up. April 4, Thursday, 12:02 am: Annie is sure the baby is a girl. She is considering naming her "Dawn." Feeling isolated from everyone except her mother, Annie writes that once she has Dawn, she'd never be lonely again. April 10, Wednesday, 4:19 pm: Annie is feeling more and more isolated at school. She hated going.

April 12, Friday, 5:29 pm: Annie's mother finds a school for unwed mothers. After hearing about it, Annie thinks it might be good for her. April 13, Saturday, 12:01 am: Annie feared that she'd be with a bunch of tramps at her new school. April 17, Wednesday, 4:20 pm: Annie is scheduled to start her new school the next day. She realizes that she may have been isolating herself from her friends. She talks with Jenny who tells her how much she misses being with her. Later, they talk on the phone like old times. Annie tells Jenny everything she has been going through.

April 22, Monday, 5:05 pm: Annie starts her new school. There are only nine girls. The other girls are already friends. She feels like an outsider once again. 9:00 pm: Going to the new school is a huge mistake. April 25, Thursday, 5:23 pm: While in the bathroom at school, the girl in the next stall is crying. Annie rushed to her and saw that she is vomiting. As it turned out, she has taken every pill she could find trying to get out of her predicament. The girl, Tammy, begged her not to tell anyone. She swore that she'd vomited up all the pills. Tammy comes from a dysfunctional family and, after hearing her story, Annie felt protective of her even though she is a year younger than Tammy.

April 30, Tuesday, 5:10 pm: Annie learns that Tammy could hardly read. How in the world could she get a job to support her baby?! Annie wracked her brain trying to think of how she could help Tammy. May 1, Wednesday, 1:49 am: Annie thinks of a plan to help Annie. She'd volunteer to work with her an hour before school and a half hour after. 6:21 am: Mrs. Milton, Annie's teacher is very appreciative of Annie's offer to help Tammy. She is understaffed and needed the help. May 9, Thursday, 9:14 pm: Teaching Tammy to read is exhilarating for Annie. She never felt so fulfilled in her life. Tammy confesses that neither one of her parents could read. Annie invites Tammy over for the weekend. Her mother buys Tammy a new dress and has her hair cut and permed.

May 12, Sunday, 11:01 pm: It is Mother's Day. Tammy, Annie, and her mother has a great day. Annie cannot believe Tammy's transformation. Her mother says it has more to do with the inner beauty she is beginning to feel more than the external changes. May 13, Monday, 2:14 pm: Annie has a brainstorm. Tammy should go to beauty school. After seeing the transformation in herself, she should be excited about helping others improve themselves.

May 17, Friday, 5:14 pm: Annie continues to work with Tammy, taking her to the library, and checking out a bunch of beginner books. At home, Tammy is teaching her sisters and brothers and even her mother to read. Annie plans to volunteer for the library's illiteracy program after her baby is born. At school, a counselor meets with the girls and talks about sex and relationships. All the girls still believe that a special guy is out there for them except Lolanita who has lots of boys and thinks none of them are worth it. The



counselor also talks about the responsibility of the fathers of the girls' babies. Lolanita's questions are about how she could get on food stamps and welfare after the baby is born. Annie couldn't relate to that mentality. She and her baby would have a bright future and she would work hard to achieve it.

May 22, Wednesday, 10:56 pm: Some of the girls at school plan to be doctors and lawyers but yet never even open up a school book. Annie and her friends, Tammy, Marinda, and Marie, have more practical goals. Mrs. Milshaw thinks she might be able to get a scholarship for Tammy to attend beauty school. May 23, Thursday, 5:20 pm: Annie is feeling fat and repulsive. May 24, Friday, 9:19 pm: Annie's doctor tells her she is losing weight which isn't good for her or the baby. Why does she feel so fat if she is losing weight?

May 27, Monday, 10:46 pm: The counselor comes into school again. Beta is asking questions about welfare. Daranela is still considering an abortion. The boy who fathered Geraldina's baby already has five babies and doesn't support any of them. Annie realized that there is a lot of guys out there spewing the "I love you" routine to gullible girls. May 28, Tuesday, 7:26 pm: Annie observed that there is a real segregation at school, even in their small class: the worldly girls and the naïve dumbheads. Annie fell into the latter group. Annie is having her own conflicts. She doesn't go to the mall with Tammy because she is ashamed of being seen with her. May 29, Wednesday, 8:45 pm: Annie realized she is missing out on the carefree life that she should be having.

May 31, Friday, 5:29 pm: Annie is invited to Jenny's 15th birthday party. She is worried about going because she isn't sure how Jenny's parents would react to her. June 7, Friday: Annie doesn't go to the party. Mrs. Milton broke her wrist and asked Annie to help her. June 10, Monday, 9:06 pm: Most of the girls doesn't seem interested in learning how to feed and care for their babies. The counselor has a baby when she is a teen but go to college and becomes a psychologist. She tells the girls it isn't easy, but it is possible.

June 11, Tuesday, 1:32 pm: Annie is feeling very pregnant. She noticed that the kids at her old school has advanced from whispering and giggling about her when they saw her at the mall to blatantly telling jokes about her. Sometimes the parents are worse than the kids. Annie struggled with Daisy who tells her to be her old self. June 14, 5:50 pm: Things are going better at school and at home. Annie's mother convinced her to see the glass half full instead of half empty.

June 17, Monday, 7:10 pm: Lolanita has her baby. She has a hard time but everything turned out okay. Annie doesn't look forward to labor. 11:21 pm: Annie is tired of her feet swelling and leg and back cramps and going to the bathroom all the time. Now that she is bigger, she doesn't look forward to pelvic exams. June 18, Tuesday, 3:16 am: Annie dreamed that she and Danny are back together. She doesn't want to wake up. He has changed and wants to settle down and be a good husband. 4:02 am: Annie wonders if she should write him a note or call him. She writes a poem to him. She wishes she could just forget him. June 20, Thursday, 9:48 pm: Some of the girls doesn't seem to comprehend that it is expensive to care for a baby. Some looked at a baby as a pet



kitten and an as an excuse not to go to school. The counselor tells the class that the Republican Party is trying to get laws passed that would deny federal funds to single teen mothers. There is outrage from some in the class.

June 23, Sunday, 11:09 pm: Tammy has a baby girl and everything goes okay. Annie is worried about Tammy going home too early and about the dingy place where the baby would be living. June 26, Wednesday, 8:45 pm: Annie and her mother go to see Tammy and her baby. The baby is red and looked shrunken. Its soiled diaper is disgusting. Annie wants to turn and run. She prayed that her baby wouldn't be so pathetic. She is upset because her school lasted all summer. June 29, Saturday, 7:24 pm: Annie's mother took her to see Tammy and her baby again. The baby looked more human; of course, it isn't as beautiful as her baby would be. Tammy tried to tell Annie a few things about delivering her baby but Annie doesn't want to hear it. Annie brings Tammy a whole pile of books to read. Lolanita never comes back after having her baby. Tammy will not be like that.



Pages 157 through 231

Pages 157 through 231 Summary and Analysis

July 5, Friday, 10:21 pm: Tammy brings her baby, Janie Dee, to school today. Tammy lets the other girls help bathe her so they can have some first-hand experience. It is scary how small Janie Dee is. Tammy looks good. Annie wonders where all the extra skin would go after birth. July 8, Monday, 8:21 pm: School is getting difficult. Tammy has her baby there everyday and it cried all the time. It is making Annie edgy. Annie is growing tired of being pregnant and all the physical changes she is forced to put up with.

July 12, Friday, 1:31 pm: On the way to the hospital, Annie is screaming and crying and cursing Danny. Her mother is driving fast and honking at everyone to get out of her way. They are met at the emergency room by techs who takes Annie by gurney down endless hallways. Finally, she is in the operating room. She called for her mother right before she conked out—from a shot she is given.

July 26, Friday, 2:16 pm: It is two weeks since Mary Ann is born. She is two months early and is premature and sickly. If she isn't eating, she is crying or wetting or soiling her diaper. Annie realized that she hasn't listened to her counselor who tells the class that it isn't easy caring for a baby. Annie feels like a caged animal and looks forward to going back to school.

July 27, Saturday, 3:19 pm: Any is feeling the full impact of the responsibility she has. July 29, Monday, 2:29 pm: Mary Ann is gaining weight very fast which means that they can soon be on the bus and back to school. July 30, Tuesday, 8:30 pm: Annie's mom comes home late and looks exhausted. She has applied for a few night and weekend jobs. Annie is more worried about having to take care of the baby by herself all the time than about her mother working two jobs. Annie said Danny and his father would probably help. Her mother tells her she has talked to both of them. Danny denies that the baby is his and if Annie pushed it, the entire football team would swear they are having sex with her. On a positive note, Mary Ann is calming down and Annie is falling in love with her.

July 31, Wednesday, 5:10 pm: Annie's father sends a pink stroller to her with a note saying he wanted to be part of her life. August 1, Thursday: 10:12 pm: Annie hates that her mother, who has a master's degree, has to take an evening job as a waitress. 12:47 pm: Annie's mother is late getting home. She worked at a private party and got a \$200 tip. August 2, Friday, 12:00 Noon: Annie is having homeschooling since Baby Annie isn't big enough to go to school. Her teacher, Mrs. Darnell, tells her she has a lot to offer and expected a lot from her. Annie is taking the baby for frequent walks. She is feeling very lonely. She envies seeing her old schoolmates riding bikes and having fun in the park while she sat on a bench with the old men who are feeding pigeons. 2:30 pm: Annie is delighted when Mrs. Abbot, who lived in the building, tells Annie she'd watch the baby if



she ever needed help. August 3, Saturday, 4:42 pm: Annie takes Mrs. Abbot up on her offer and goes rollerblading in the park. She never has so much fun.

August 4, Sunday, 10:37 pm: When Annie comes home from her walk, her mother is sitting in the chair asleep. Annie feels horrible that she and Mary Ann are such a burden on her. August 7, Wednesday, 1:49 pm: Annie filled out applications for part-time work at fast-food restaurants and retail stores. She thought that Mrs. Abbot can watch the baby while she worked. It would relieve some of the stress from her mother. She doesn't get any of the jobs because at fifteen, she is legally too young to work.

August 8, Thursday, 1:15 pm: Mrs. Abbot watched Mary Ann occasionally. She wouldn't take any money. Getting out by herself is saving Annie's mind. 6:45 pm: On one of her outings, Annie ran into a friend from seventh grade, Will Peters. They are both riding their bikes. They has a soda together and Will asked Annie to go out on Friday. August 10, Saturday, 12:44 pm: Annie figured she must be a magnet for trouble. Her mother doesn't want her to date until she is sixteen so, again, she has to lie about what she is doing. They goes to a typical party with beer and loud music. After a short while, she tells Will she wanted to leave but he doesn't want to. Another guy drove her home and asked for her phone number. She gave him a wrong number.

August 15, Thursday, 6:59 pm: Annie and Mary Ann goes back to school. Mary Ann and Janie Dee are both in the nursery during class. Annie and Tammy are both overly protective of their babies. They really doesn't want anyone else to touch them. Annie and Tammy are both on an accelerated track so they can graduate early. If she stayed on track, Annie would graduate at seventeen. Annie has thoughts about being a pediatrician or a writer. Going back and forth to school everyday with Mary Ann and all her equipment on the bus isn't easy. Then there is all the work at home after school. She wrote that she wished she has never met Danny, never got pregnant and wished that all three of them are dead. August 16, 5:10 pm: Annie is sorry for what she wrote the night before. She doesn't really want to be dead and doesn't want Mary Ann to be dead. Danny? Maybe...

August 17, Saturday, 1:17 am: Annie cannot get out of her black funk. She is desolate and feels she lost herself. Each day she feels more confused and depressed. School is becoming a bore. Her mother usually works on the weekends. Her friends from school lived too far away to get together socially. Annie realizes she has to get some help.

3:21 am: Annie cannot believe what she does. In the afternoon, she has to get out or else she knew she'd explode. She takes Mary Ann to the mall and saw some of her friends window shopping. She feels like pushing their heads through the glass windows—she doesn't know why. The baby's diaper needs changing so Annie takes her in the ladies room. She makes a mess all over herself and keeps kicking and screaming. The thought runs through Annie's mind to take the blanket and suffocate her. Sitting out in the mall later, people stop to say how pretty the baby is. A young couple comes by and she thought of asking them if they wanted her. She is calling in sick a lot to school. There are still unpaid hospital bills stacking up at home that the insurance doesn't cover. She understands why some of the girls wanted to go on welfare.



August 18, Sunday, 11:42 pm: Annie takes Mary Ann to the grand opening of a new mall. There is a baby store there. Annie becomes obsessed with a \$90 baby dress that is in the window. On a strange impulse, Annie rolls the stroller out where a nicely dressed woman walking her way would see her. She ducks behind a bush and then inexplicably ran out of the mall and is three blocks away when she panics. She runs back and caused such a commotion when she doesn't see Mary Ann that the police apprehend her and bring her to the security office. They want to know why she abandoned her child. She lies and says she is vomiting and has diarrhea and goes to the ladies room. They are skeptical but finally believe her. Annie has never been so relieved when she hears Mary Ann's little cry coming from a nearby room. They bring the baby into her and take her home in a squad car.

August 10, Monday, 5:15 am: Annie writes that she has written so many awful things in Daisy Diary that she decides to cut it up in little pieces and throw it in the trash. 5:57 pm: Annie cannot bring herself to tear up her diary and throw it away. August 20, Tuesday: Dr. Milshaw plans to set up a therapy group for the girls. Annie wished she can go to therapy alone. August 21, Wednesday, 9:47 pm: A new girl Gracia moves into the apartment building. She and Annie do a few things together. Gracia has a boyfriend, Roger, who Annie doesn't especially trust. Annie would like a boyfriend herself. Maybe she is jealous of Gracia.

August 22, Thursday, 10:44 pm: Annie catches Dr. Milshaw alone. She is upset about how the other girls in the group talk about their babies. Dr. Milshaw said it is good that they vent their feelings. When people are tired and under a lot of stress, they can have strange thoughts and actions that they wouldn't ordinarily have. It is all normal. After returning to the group, Annie begins to pour her heart out about all the things she has thought and done and the negative feelings she sometimes has about her baby. Dr. Milshaw also brings up the subject of adoption, citing data that indicated that babies of young unwed mothers are at risk. Annie vowed that Mary Ann would never be at risk again.

August 27, Tuesday, 5:16 pm: Annie's mother makes arrangements for her to stay with a distant relative for a few days. This relative is a shrink and Annie is apprehensive. September 1, Sunday, 9:47 am: Annie stays with Dr. B. for a few days. She tells her all about her mother, her baby, and her diary. Annie feels better and glad she spent time with her. September 3, Tuesday, 8:27 pm: Annie is working on transcribing the tapes that Dr. B. recorded when Annie is there. Dr. B. said having Daisy Diary has been a healthy way to express her emotions.

Tape Transcriptions

Dr. B. has Annie talk about her life before it goes "off track." She tells Dr. B. about her friends, school and playing soccer. Then she met Danny. Dr. B questioned her about Danny's behavior. She asked if he has been abusive. Not at first, Annie answered. She sensed he is dangerous but she thought she loved him and cannot stay away from him. Dr. B. helps Annie get into a deeply relaxed state and asked that she describe what she can have done when she thought Danny might be mean. Annie answered that she wished



she would have talked to someone. But her mother would have lectured her and grounded her. As soon as she has characterized her mother as being judgmental, Annie quickly takes it back. Her mother isn't like that. Annie has just said that because it is difficult for her to take responsibility for her own behavior. Dr. B. said that hormonal changes led to the natural need to procreate, which is what continued life. But people need to learn to control those urges. To find out what "love" really is, Dr. B. gave Annie a little quiz. She tells Annie it would help her understand her emotions and clear up some confusion.

Dr. B. tells Annie that under no circumstances is it acceptable for a boy to hit a girl. And the thinking that "everybody does it" is simply a fallacy. Abusive behavior including rough sex, Dr. B tells her, is deviant behavior. Annie complained that the boy seems to get off the hook when a girl gets pregnant. Dr. B. tells her that there are attempts to pass legislation that would hold the boy more responsible. There are a lot of victims associated with unwed mothers—the young girls themselves, the babies, and the taxpayer. She also speaks of the different methods of birth control including Depo-Provera shots and Norplant implants that make the girl temporarily sterile. Annie tells Dr. B. that she decided to be celibate until she marries not so she won't get pregnant but because it is part of her value system.

September 16, Monday: Dr. B. also mentions that the "Baby Think-It-Over Doll" has positive impacts on young people. The doll, computerized to cry every fifteen minutes, gives young people who keep it for a weekend, a touch of reality about babies. October 1, Tuesday, 9:10 pm: Mary Ann has been sick for weeks with a fever that wouldn't go down. Annie is sick herself and is seeing the homeschooling teacher twice a week. Annie is losing interest in school.

October 2, Wednesday, 7:59 pm: Annie's mother discovers her passed out on the floor. The doctor said she is exhausted and run down. October 5, Friday, 6:45 pm: Taking care of Mary Ann is becoming increasingly difficult. 9:20 pm: Annie knows her mother is worried about her but she always tries to appear cheerful and upbeat. October 6, Sunday, 11:49 pm: Annie's mother has Bishop Marden from their church come by and talk to them. He is very comforting and supportive. He tells her not to be hard on herself—she is going through a huge adjustment. His presence makes her realize that it has been rough not having a father and it would be rough for Mary Ann as well. He touched on the subject of adoption saying that many loving couples aren't blessed with children and long to have them. In fact, a couple that he is related to, is childless. Annie can never give up her baby.

October 10, Thursday, 8:21 pm: Annie and her mother meet Bishop Marden's relatives—the couple wanting to adopt a baby. Their names are JoJo and Steve. Mary Ann is crying but stops the minute JoJo picked her up. Annie is adamant that she wouldn't give her baby up. 10:31 pm: Annie and her mother talked about possibly giving Mary Ann up. Annie doesn't have a father and feels it hurt her. She doesn't want Mary Ann to go through the same thing. And it isn't fair to burden her own mother with the baby. What if her mother wanted to remarry? What if something happened to her mother and she'd be on her own with the baby with no way to support her?



January 7, Tuesday: Annie has been in pain for the past three months since giving Mary Ann up. Would she ever feel normal and happy again, she wonders. January 9, Thursday, 6:23 pm: Annie's mother comes home with great news. She is offered a high-paying position in a private school upstate. January 27, Monday, 6:32 am: As Annie brings the last box out to the car, she turned and looks at her and Danny's names that she has carved in the tree the first day she met him. Although that time in her life would always be part of her, she is leaving it behind to start a new life.



Characters

Annie Murphy

Annie Murphy is a typical fourteen-year-old girl. She still plays soccer and loves rollerblading and riding her bike but she is just beginning to have interest in boys. She is very gullible and naïve, living with just her mother who is very protective of her only child. When Danny walks up to her one day and singles her out as someone he wants to be friends with, Annie is astonished. Danny is a new boy at school but he is sixteen, handsome, and on the football team. She cannot believe that he is interested in her!

Unknown to Annie, Danny is a predator who is looking not for a friend but a naïve young girl who he could use, abuse, and who would put up with his lies. He is experienced enough to recognize those qualities in young Annie. Annie breaks her mother's rule about not dating until she is sixteen. She sneaks out of her house and goes to house parties with older kids - parties that included loud music, beer, drugs, and sex.

Annie thinks that she and Danny are in love and she finally gives into his forceful insistence that they have sex. Danny prefers not using protection and Annie winds up very pregnant. Danny denies the baby is his and wants nothing more to do with Annie. She learns out the hard way that her mother is the best friend she can have asked for. Annie has her baby and her mother stands by her through the difficult process of deciding what the best thing is for her and for her baby.

Danny

Danny is sixteen-years-old when he is transferred to Annie's school. He approaches Annie and tells her he needs a friend. Annie is blown away that a cool guy like Danny wants to be her friend. Danny evokes sympathy from Annie by telling her that he was in a terrible accident and was in traction in the hospital for months and got behind in school. There is never any evidence whether that story was true or if it is a tall tale that Danny fabricates in order to prey on Annie's sympathy.

Danny is a handsome and popular young man on campus. He is a football player and in with the "cool" kids who have parties with underage drinking, loud music, drugs, and sex. Danny introduces Annie into this world and begins to convince her that she is the only one for him. She eventually caves to his pressure to have sex. However, he is too busy many nights to see her and when he does fit her in, it seems all they do is have sex. When she tries to resist his advances, he punches and beats her. One night, he overpowers her and rapes her.

When Annie tells Danny that she's pregnant, he immediately says that the baby isn't his. When Annie's mother pushes the issue with him, he tells her that the entire football team is ready to swear that Annie is a tramp and that the whole football team had sex



with her. As cruel and heartless as Danny is to her, Annie has a difficult time getting over him. There are no indications that he has a difficult time getting over her.

Mrs. Murphy

Mrs. Murphy is Annie's mother. She has a PhD in education and teaches at a local high school. She is totally supportive of her daughter when she learns that she is pregnant.

Mary Ann

Mary Ann is Annie's baby. She is born two months early but eventually begins gaining weight and flourishing.

Jenny

Jenny is one of Annie's best friends before she gets involved with Danny. Annie often tells her mother that she is at Jenny's house when she is actually with Danny.

Tammy

Tammy is another girl at the school for unwed mothers. Annie takes to Tammy who is almost illiterate. Annie volunteers to help Tammy learn to read.

Dr. Milshaw

Dr. Milshaw is a counselor who comes to the school for unwed mothers that Annie attends. She tells the girls about relationships, what love really means, birth control, STDs and caring for babies.

Dr. B.

Dr. B. is a psychologist and a distant relative of Annie's mother. Annie's mother arranges to have Annie spend a few days with Dr. B. because she senses that Annie is very depressed.

Bishop Marden

Annie's mother has Bishop Marden from their church visit them. He comforts Annie and tells her not to be too hard on herself. He also mentions that a young couple he is related to is childless and anxious to adopt a baby.



JoJo and Steve

Annie meets the childless couple that Bishop Marden spoke about. Mary Ann immediately takes to JoJo. With her mother's support, Annie makes the decision to allow JoJo and Steve to adopt Mary Ann.



Objects/Places

Daisy Diary

Daisy Diary is Annie's name for her diary. She depends heavily on her diary especially during her ordeal with Danny and her pregnancy. Daisy is the only "person" she could talk to.

School for Unwed Mothers

After Annie becomes pregnant, school grows to be very difficult for her. Her mother locates a school for unwed mothers, which Annie agrees to attend. Annie finds the counseling at the school very beneficial.

Jenny's House

Jenny is Annie's best friend at school. After Annie starts seeing Danny, she meets him at Jenny's house because she is not allowed to date yet and does not want to let her mother know she is seeing a boy.

Hampton Hill

Danny takes Annie to Hampton Hill. It is a make-out place but Danny first tells Annie that he only comes up there because he likes the view.

The Park

When Annie can get away for a few hours from her baby, she loves to ride her bike or rollerblade in the park. It is a way to recapture the youth that she feels she has lost.

The Mall

One day at the mall, Annie is overcome with the responsibility of having a baby. She leaves her baby in her stroller and runs off. She hopes a woman she sees coming her way will take her.

The Mall Security Office

Annie runs back to get her baby who she has left in the mall. She makes such a commotion when she cannot find Mary Ann that the police take her to the security office to interrogate her about why she has abandoned the baby.

The Big Tree

The last thing Annie looks at when she and her mother moved is her and Danny's name that she has carved on a big tree in front of her apartment. That year will always be part of her life, she thinks when she looks at it, but she knows it is time to move on.

Four Seasons Restaurant

Danny's father is apparently wealthy and owned and operated a fancy restaurant in town called the Four Seasons.



Themes

Abandonment

"Annie's Baby," is the story of a fourteen-year-old girl who gets pregnant. Her father abandoned the family when Annie was five and she lives in an apartment with her single mother who is a school teacher. Annie's mother has struggled to support herself and her daughter which Annie, of course, has observed and lived under. She sees life as a struggle without a man. She compares her life in a small apartment with a mother who just makes it to her friends who live in big houses and have a mother and father and extra money to throw around. Annie was abandoned by her father but she, in her immaturity, has translated that to mean that life without a man is inferior to that with one.

Being gullible, naïve, unsophisticated, and at a time of life in which she is beginning to leave her childhood behind her and starting to notice boys, she is vulnerable to Danny, a young sexual predator who singles her out as easy prey. She is duped into thinking that he wants to be friends. He's a new boy and is behind in school because of a horrible accident he had that landed him in the hospital for months. Annie clings to the idea of a man in her life. She feels that it will fill the emptiness she sometimes feels because her father left her. Annie may have gone through a form of transference. In a sense, Danny represented her father who has returned and really did love her all along. Perhaps like Danny, a horrible accident happened to her father that kept him from coming back.

Annie is immediately overly protective of Danny to a degree that it is not rational. She hardly knows him yet she vows to support him and be there for him. Her reaction is much more deeply rooted than just being enraptured by a handsome young man. He represents what she never had and what she was denied. Since the pain of the abandonment by her father had been severe and unresolved, she is determined to hang onto this replacement man and keep him happy. When a child is abandoned she often blames herself, thinking that something within her drove the parent away. From that point on, the abandoned child is desperate to find someone to love and will do everything possible to make that someone love her back.

Communication

The problems that the protagonist in "Annie's Baby," has reveal a lack of communication. They would be greatly diminished if Annie could talk to her mother and other adults in her life. Annie is a great communicator; in fact, she wants to become a writer one day. She has a way with the written word. However, where she lets herself down is her inability to talk and to communicate her fears, confusion, and anger to adults during the tragedy of becoming pregnant at fourteen.



Annie can avoid a lot of problems and stress if she is willing to talk to her mother before and after she becomes pregnant. At fourteen, Annie was not allowed to date yet. But she was so enraptured by the new boy, the handsome Danny, that she decided to lie and date see him anyway. Had she been open with her mother about Danny, perhaps her mother would have allowed her to see the boy on a limited basis. As it turns out, Danny does not want a restricted relationship since he has targeted Annie as a sex partner, but that also should act as a warning to Annie that he has no interest in a serious relationship with her.

When her period is late, she is panicked. Danny prefers not to use protection and she is afraid that he will get angry with her if she insists. If she talked to him and demanded that protection is used, his refusal and anger would have shown his true colors. She also has plenty of reason to believe that he is just using her. He conveniently is busy on many nights and cannot see her. Friends tell Annie that they see him with other girls. When he does have time for her, the only thing they do is have sex. If she had confronted him about other girls and his frequent unavailability, she would have had to face reality. However, she remains silent like many girls who will put up with anything to have a boyfriend.

Of course she eventually has to tell her mother that she was pregnant and once she finally talked to her, she finds out that her mother was totally on her side and is very understanding and loving. Prior to that, although Annie thought of going to a counselor or a pastor, the only means she had of expressing herself is through entries in her diary. Although it is not as healthy as talking with her mother or some other responsible adult would have been, it is a way for her to vent her emotions and helps her cope with the terrible challenges that she is facing.

Self-Esteem

The lack of a good self-image contributes to the huge problem that Annie found herself in. When the handsome new boy, Danny, singles Annie out, she cannot believe that someone that "cool" can be interested in her. The obvious question is, "Why not?" Annie is a smart and talented girl. She is a gifted student who has great ambitions to become a writer—in fact judging from some of the entries in her diary, she already writes better than many adults even at her young age.

Annie sells herself short. She often comments about being dumb. She may have been using hyperbole but sometimes when a person tells herself something often enough it begins to seem true. She and her girlfriends do not hang out with the wild, drinking and partying set. Annie, along with her friends, think that they are not as good, as smart as, as pretty as, or as thin as that elusive, dreamy icon of a girl that only existed in their imaginations.

After Annie gets in the worst trouble a fourteen-year-old girl can imagine, she initially blames herself for being so dumb. While she may have been half-right, she does not get into that spot by herself. She does not even dream of blaming Danny. In fact, she wants



to marry him. When he cruelly rejects her and even punches her in the stomach, she only hates herself more for not being more desirable.

Most young people have to go through ups and downs to find themselves and finally arrive at a place where they know who they are and actually like that person. Annie's struggle to get to that point in life was a more arduous one than most. Perhaps she appreciated arriving there more than most and learned to love and appreciate who that person was.

Style

Perspective

"Annie's Baby, The Diary of Anonymous, A Pregnant Teenager," is an epistolary, written in a diary structure. It is written in the first-person point of view but not as a regular narration. It's a voyeuristic experience for the reader to peek into the heartfelt emotions that the young girl reveals only to her diary. Annie uses her diary to pour her heart out over the terrible mess that her life had become. The story is very organized because of the format which consists of dated and timed entries and tells Annie's story in a logical and chronological order.

The book is apparently written by "Anonymous" and edited by Beatrice Sparks, PhD. Near the end of the book, Annie visits "Dr. B." who is a counselor and who is apparently Dr. Sparks. The back of the book has reference material and other resources and data about relationships, sexually transmitted diseases, the care of babies, birth control methods, and abstinence. These sections are provided by Dr. Sparks who is an author, therapist, and counselor for youth in need. These are obviously included in hopes that some young person will benefit from them. Dr. Sparks is well qualified for the role that she played in developing this book. Dr. Sparks holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Human Behavior.

The "Foreword" in the book is written by Dr. Sparks. She thanks Annie for sharing her story and holds the hope that Annie's words will reach out and help other young girls who find themselves in the same predicament or on the precipice.

Tone

"Annie's Baby," is an epistolary and is constructed in a diary format. Annie actually names the diary because at one point in her ordeal, her diary is the only "person" she has to talk to, or thinks it is. The book is a series of dated and timed entries that are written by Annie. Since the entries are written by a fourteen-year-old, there is a youthful and even immature tone to some of the writing. Since she is being raised by an overly protective and religious single mother, Annie is careful not to swear in her entries. When she gets to a word that is obviously one she has been raised not to use, she leaves a blank.

Just like many young teenaged girls, she writes in histrionics in some of her wording, which are indicative of her youth and emerging adolescence. Phrases like she "wants to die" and that she'll "never be happy again" are interspersed throughout the book. Since Annie doesn't have anyone to talk to as she progresses through a bad relationship that ends up in her becoming pregnant, she often has conversations with her diary who she has personified by naming it Daisy Diary. Daisy takes the place of Annie's mother who gives Annie the advice that her mother would. Of course, this advice is coming from



Annie, which indicates that her mother's upbringing is deeply entrenched within her. Lying to her mother and breaking her mother's rules contributes significantly to Annie's angst throughout the story.

Annie also shows flourishes of a gifted writing ability. She wants to become a writer when she grows up. Annie also wrote several poems in the book, which also shows her talent in writing and expressionism.

Structure

"Annie's Baby," is an epistolary, constructed in diary format. There are no chapters. The narrative is separated by dates and times which represent the entries that Annie made in her diary which she referred to Daisy Diary. The style of these entries is the same throughout. On some dates, she makes multiple entries. Following is an example of such an entry: "November 3, Friday, 4:37 pm and 11:49 pm."

The author uses the diary as a vehicle for Annie to express her innermost feelings. The time span of the book is just over one year which encompasses the heart of the book which is fourteen-year-old Annie's unwanted pregnancy. Initially, when she doesn't feel she can talk with her mother or anyone else, she confides in her diary all the fears, emotions and confusion she is experiencing. Later, she learns from a psychologist that expressing her emotions in the diary during such a very difficult time was a very healthy way to cope with the very adult struggles she was being forced to endure.

Included under the September 3rd entry, "Tape Transcriptions," is a psychological test entitled, "What Is Love?" After the last entry of the diary portion of the book is a section entitled, "Questions from Teenagers About Pregnancy and STDs (Sexually transmitted Diseases)." Another section follows entitled, "Statistics," which provides data about out-of-wedlock births. A section entitled, "Violence," informs on how young girls are victimized by abusive boyfriends. The section entitled, "Crisis and Information Hotline Numbers," provides contact information and sources on sexually transmitted disease, unwanted pregnancies, suicide prevention and for reporting abuse and domestic violence. The final section is entitled, "Abstinence," which provides the names of organizations that have abstinence outreach programs.



Quotes

"I'm new here, and...I'm looking for a friend. A sort of, not embarrassed to be a sweaty, sporty sort of friend" (p. 2).

"Danny's dad must be super-rich to give him his own sweet convertible, as well as to buy the restaurant and big old Pederson house on the river" (p. 7).

"We're worth what we think we're worth in life, and if we think we're worth two cents people will treat us like we're worth two cents!" (p. 8).

"I'm beginning to feel trapped and suffocated in this gray, nothing, empty existence. I want out! I need lights, music, excitement!" (p. 45).

"I looked at him with disbelief. Before my eyes he had changed from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde...I started crying and he called me vile names. When I tried to fight him off, he slapped me across the face" (p. 54).

"I'm sitting at my window looking at a smiling quarter moon, a sky sprinkled with shining, twinkling stars and listening to the music of the night and smelling its fragrances" (p. 61).

"I once saw what a pressure cooker does when it explodes. That's exactly how I feel, just one second from having my brains dangling from the ceiling and my lungs and guts plastered to the doors and walls" (p. 93).

"I feel like Alice in Wonderland: everything is getting curiouser and curiouser by the second, and I'm getting more lost and more lost in the rabbit holes; and the stupid Cheshire Cat won't tell me anything about the keys to the big door and the little door" (p. 99).

"I wonder if I'll ever be able to put all the pieces back together again. Now I know what the Humpty Dumpty children's poem really means!" (p. 117).

"Mama, Mama. I want my mama. I don't want this dumb baby; I want my mama" (p. 162).

"If a boy hits you, it shows he not only does not respect you, he does not respect himself!" (p. 212).

"The past will forever be a part of my present and my future!" (p. 231).

Topics for Discussion

How did not having a father in her life effect Annie? Why is feeling of abandoned a potentially damaging one?

What signs were there that Danny wasn't what he appeared to be? Why did Annie, who seemed to be very smart, choose to ignore those signs?

Why did Annie isolate herself? Why did she begin to feel comfortable at school? What steps could she have taken to make her situation better?

Why did Annie abandon her baby in the mall? Was it a cry for help or was she being selfish? Why did she fantasize about suffocating her baby?

How did Daisy Diary help Annie? Why, at one point, did Annie want to tear her diary up into little pieces?

How did Dr. B. help Annie? What did Annie learn about relationships, love, teen pregnancies, and birth control?

Why did Annie finally decide to give her baby up for adoption? How would this decision impact Annie? How would it impact her mother and her baby?