

John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John's Summer Nights [B1]

La prima canzone di uno dei musical più acclamati di tutti i tempi è un duetto in stile 'botta e risposta' su una tipica avventura estiva.



The story of a teenage summer romance in the 1950s, as told from the different points of view of Danny Zuko, a US high school student, and Sandy Olsson, an Australian who has moved to America, Summer Nights was a [massive](#) hit in 1978. It will always be associated with John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, who performed it for the film version of the musical [Grease](#). However, the song, written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, was first recorded by Barry Bostwick and Carole Demas for the 1972 Broadway production. At the start of the new high school year, Danny, a macho [womaniser](#), [brags](#) about the physical aspects of his [fling](#) to his gang, the T-Birds, exaggerating or even inventing some parts. Meanwhile, [strait-laced](#) Sandy shares her far more innocent (and [accurate](#)) version to the Pink Ladies, referring mainly to her emotions. The song is a stereotypical [depiction](#) of the [alleged](#) difference between teenage boys and teenage girls. In today's wider woke culture, some lyrics have provoked controversy, particularly the boys' question "Did she [put up a fight](#)?" The lyrics are a

succession of rhyming [couplet](#) and are almost all in the simple past tense, with their friends using the imperative to ask the [storytellers](#) to “tell me more”. The song [winds down](#) with the revelation that the relationship has ended. [Little do Danny and Sandy know](#) that they are now at the same high school — fans of [Grease](#) know what happens next! Summer loving, had me a blast Summer loving, happened so fast I met a girl crazy for me Met a boy cute as can be Summer days, [drifting away](#) To-ah! Oh, the summer nights Well-a, well-a, well-a, huh Tell me more, tell me more Did you get very far? Tell me more, tell me more Like, does he have a car? Uh huh (doo doo) She swam by me, she got a [cramp](#) He ran by me, got my suit [damp](#) I saved her life, she nearly [drowned](#) [He showed off](#), splashing around Summer sun, something’s begun But ah! Oh, the summer nights Well-a, well-a, well-a, huh Tell me more, tell me more Was it love at first sight? Tell me more, tell me more Did she [put up a fight](#)? Dow, doobie do, doobie do Took her bowling in the [arcade](#) We went [strolling](#), drank lemonade We made out under the [dock](#) We stayed up ‘til ten o’clock Summer [fling](#), don’t mean a thing But ah! Oh, the summer nights Whoa, whoa, whoa Tell me more, tell me more But you don’t gotta brag Tell me more, tell me more ‘Cause he sounds like a drag Shoo bop bop, shoo bop bop He got friendly, holding my hand Well, she got friendly down in the sand He was sweet, just turned eighteen Well, she was good, you know what I mean Summer heat, boy and girl meet But ah! Oh, the summer nights Whoa, whoa, whoa Tell me more, tell me more How much dough did he spend? Tell me more, tell me more Could she get me a friend? It turned colder, that’s where it ends So I told her we’d still be friends Then we made our true love [vow](#) Wonder what she’s doing now Summer dreams, ripped at the seams But, oh Those summer Nights! (Tell me more, tell me more, more, more)

Glossary

- **cramp** = crampo
- **damp** = bagnato
- **He showed off** = mettersi in mostra
- **vow** = voto
- **massive** = enorme
- **womaniser** = donnaioolo
- **fling** = avventura, flirt
- **Little do Danny and Sandy know** = quello che non sa
- **accurate** = fedele
- **depiction** = descrizione
- **put up a fight** = opporre resistenza
- **dock** = molo
- **brags** = vantarsi
- **drifting away** = andare alla deriva
- **arcade** = sala giochi
- **couplet** = versi
- **storytellers** = narratori
- **winds down** = concludersi
- **drowned** = annegare
- **strolling** = passeggiare
- **Grease** = brillantina
- **strait-laced** = puritana
- **alleged** = presunto