

FALL IN LOVE WITH CHARLIE BROWN AND THE



PEANUTS® GANG!

DEAR EDUCATOR,

You may already know and love the timeless characters of the **Peanuts** gang. The most beloved comic strip in history, **Peanuts** has introduced us to Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, and their friends, who have become an integral part of many childhood experiences. Now, you can invite your students to meet the **Peanuts** gang through the fun activities in this teaching kit based on two favorite **Peanuts** specials airing on the ABC Network on February 13, **Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown**, and **A Charlie Brown Valentine**.

The activities in this kit, created by the curriculum experts at Young Minds Inspired (YMI), support creative play and stimulate language arts and math skills. They are designed to seamlessly integrate with and enhance your classroom curriculum for children in grades K-3.

We hope that you will share this program with other teachers in your school. The materials are copyrighted, but you may make as many copies as necessary to meet your students' needs.

Please comment online at www.ymiclassroom.com/feedback-peanuts to let us know your thoughts on this program. We depend on your feedback to continue providing free educational programs that make a real difference in students' lives.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired



SHOW SYNOPSIS

In **Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown**, love and valentines are on everyone's minds. Linus purchases a huge box of chocolates for his beloved teacher, Snoopy puts on a puppet show about love for Lucy and Charlie Brown, and Charlie Brown shows his little sister Sally how to make a valentine – all the while hoping that this will be the year that someone gives him his very own valentine. In **A Charlie Brown Valentine**, Charlie Brown develops a crush on the Little Red Haired Girl, attends a Valentine's Day dance and, after being very disappointed by not receiving any valentines from his classmates, finally receives his first valentine at the end of the episode – but who is it from?

TARGET AUDIENCE

This program is designed for students in grades K-3.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To introduce a new generation to the timeless characters from **Peanuts**.
- To enhance the language arts and math curricula through creative activities that tap into the popularity of the **Peanuts** characters.
- To foster a sense of community by using the themes of the **Peanuts** Valentine's Day specials to encourage being kind to and accepting of others.

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Download and photocopy this teacher's guide and the three activity sheets. Prepare the materials for each activity in advance. The activities are designed to be completed either before or after students have viewed the **Peanuts** specials on February 13 on ABC.

ACTIVITY 1

PEANUTS PUTS ON A SHOW!

In *Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown*, Snoopy performs a puppet show for Lucy. In this activity, students will use fine motor skills to create puppets just like Snoopy did by coloring, cutting out, and gluing pictures of the *Peanuts* characters shown on the activity sheet onto wooden craft sticks.

Materials Needed: Markers or crayons, scissors, glue, 5 wooden craft sticks per student

After you distribute the activity sheet, talk about the personality traits of each *Peanuts* character. Mention how each one is different but they are still all part of the *Peanuts* gang. Snoopy is rather silly and mischievous, Charlie Brown is shy and wants friends, Linus is wise, Lucy is bossy but confident, and Sally is loving. Ask the students to color, cut out, and glue the characters onto the wooden craft sticks.

Younger students (grades K-1):

Divide the students into small groups and encourage them to use the puppets in pretend play, either recreating scenes from the *Peanuts* Valentine's Day specials or using their imaginations to create new ways in which the characters might interact.

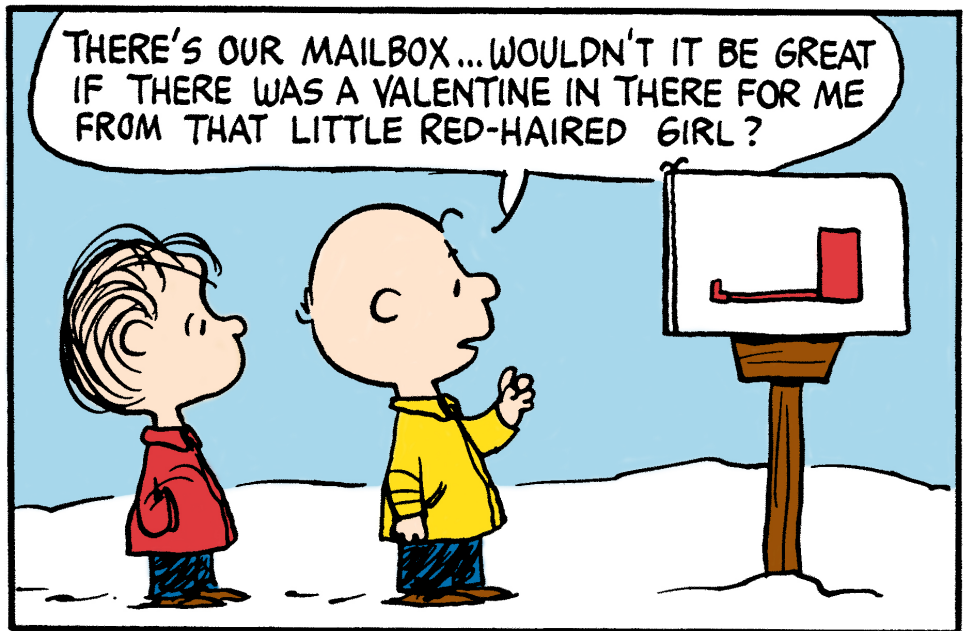
Older students (grades 2-3): Have students write ideas, dialogue, or a simple script for their *Peanuts* puppets as a way to integrate language arts skills into the activity.

Extension Activity: Use the characters to perform a puppet show for another class, or as a special Valentine's Day treat for the students' parents.

ACTIVITY 2

WHO SENT THE MYSTERY VALENTINE?

In *A Charlie Brown Valentine*, Charlie Brown feels left out over the fact that he did not receive a single valentine – until the very end of the episode, when Snoopy hands him a card. It is unclear who the valentine is from, and the episode ends without revealing the sender. In this activity,



students will use clues about the characters to solve the puzzle of who might have sent the mystery valentine.

Materials Needed: Pencil and activity sheet

Review what happened in the episode, with particular focus on how it ended. Talk about how Charlie Brown must have felt at first to have been left out, and then how he must have felt when he finally received a valentine. Remind the students of the importance of showing kindness to each other. Then, tell them they are going to solve the mystery of who sent Charlie Brown the valentine. Distribute the activity sheet and name the characters: The Little Red-Haired Girl, Sally, Snoopy, and Linus. Then, read the following clues aloud, and ask students to put an "X" by each character who is identified in the clue.

1. The valentine was *not* sent by Charlie Brown's sister.
2. The valentine was *not* sent by Snoopy.
3. The valentine was *not* sent by a person who carries a blanket.

This will leave the Little Red-Haired Girl as the person who sent Charlie Brown a valentine.

Extension Activity: Have the students create their own valentines for Charlie Brown or for a loved one in their family.

ACTIVITY 3

GET IN SHAPE WITH CHARLIE BROWN

In *Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown*, Charlie Brown shows Sally how to make a simple heart valentine by folding a piece of paper in half, and then cutting half of a heart along the fold. When opened, the heart is symmetrical. In this activity, students will look for examples of symmetry in different *Peanuts* scenes, then use this concept to cut out their own symmetrical shapes and patterns. Consider integrating this activity into a math lesson on shapes or patterning.

Materials Needed: Activity sheet, pencil, construction paper, and scissors

Have students describe the scene in which Charlie Brown shows Sally how to fold and cut the paper to make a simple heart valentine, and use this example to introduce or review the concept of symmetry. Distribute the activity sheet and ask the students to draw a line through each object to create two symmetrical halves.

Extension Activity: Distribute the construction paper and scissors and ask students to create symmetrical shapes such as a triangle or rectangle by cutting along a fold.