

DREAM BIG

WITH CHARLIE BROWN AND THE

PEANUTS GANG!

Grades 6-8

DEAR EDUCATOR,

Welcome back to school! Start the year off right with standards-based language arts lessons based on the big-screen adventures awaiting your students when the beloved *Peanuts* characters appear in 3D CGI at theaters everywhere on November 6 in ***The Peanuts Movie***.

The activities in this kit, created by the curriculum experts at Young Minds Inspired (YMI), are designed to reinforce the movie's timeless themes of perseverance, heroism, and staying true to oneself. They will seamlessly integrate with and enhance your classroom curriculum for students in grades 6-8 by supporting creative thinking and stimulating language arts skills.

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 ymiclassroom.com/feedback-peanutsmovie 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

MOVIE SYNOPSIS

Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, and the rest of the beloved *Peanuts* gang make their big-screen debut, like they've never been seen before, in state-of-the-art 3D CGI animation. Charlie Brown, the world's most beloved underdog, embarks upon an epic and heroic quest, while his best pal, the lovable beagle Snoopy, takes to the skies to pursue his arch-nemesis, the Red Baron. From the imagination of Charles M. Schulz and the creators of the ICE AGE films, ***The Peanuts Movie*** will prove that every underdog has his day.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This program is designed for students in grades 6-8.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- To introduce a new generation to the timeless characters from *Peanuts*.
- To enhance the language arts curriculum through creative activities that tap into the popularity of the *Peanuts* characters.
- To foster school spirit, imagination, the power of dreams, and the heroism behind perseverance as inspired by themes from ***The Peanuts Movie***.

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 at the start of the school year, and can be used to build anticipation for the premiere of ***The Peanuts Movie***.



PEANUTS

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ACTIVITY 1

NEW TO YOUR SCHOOL

There's much to look forward to at the start of the new school year, but with that anticipation often comes a bit of apprehension as students wonder what the new school year will hold – particularly when it comes to making new friends. In this activity, students practice their writing and characterization skills by imagining and describing their reaction to a new student – the Little Red-Haired Girl who appears in **The Peanuts Movie** – from the point of view of a specific *Peanuts* character.

Materials Needed: Pencil and activity sheet

Ask the class to share what it might feel like if you were the new student at school, and also what it might feel like if a new student entered your classroom and potentially affected the classroom dynamics. Tell students that **The Peanuts Movie** starts with a similar situation when a new girl moves into Charlie Brown's neighborhood. Then show them the trailer at peanutsmovie.com/videos. Ask students to talk about how the new girl might feel on her first day of school and how the other *Peanuts* characters can make her feel welcome.

Now tell students that they are going to write a monologue from the point of view of a *Peanuts* character of their choosing (or some other fictional character), describing his or her reaction to the Little Red-Haired Girl's arrival in class, and what that character might – or might not – do to make the new student feel welcome. When students are done, ask them to perform their monologues for the class.



ACTIVITY 2

SHOW YOUR CHARACTER

Sometimes less is more, especially in the case of writing. In this activity, students will learn how just a few words can pack a powerful punch. After viewing movie poster slogans that describe various *Peanuts* characters as examples, students will create slogans to describe themselves.

Materials Needed: Pencil and activity sheet

Start by telling students that they are going to play a guessing game. Then describe yourself using a somewhat long and complex sentence, such as "This person is rather on the short side, likes to wear trendy clothing, and can be sarcastic." Once the students guess it is you, write the sentence on the board. Then, write a shortened version, such as "Short. Stylish. Sarcastic." Ask which is more effective. Tell students that often, shorter statements are more powerful because they are more easily remembered, and that is why slogans are used in advertising.

Now have students match each character to the slogan shown for his or her movie poster.

Answers: 1. B; 2. C; 3. A.

Talk about whether or not the slogans are effective at describing the characters. Then ask students to write similar slogans to describe themselves. Collect the papers, read the slogans aloud, and have students guess whom they are describing.

Finally, have students read the paragraph about Charlie Brown's efforts to change himself into a winner. After they have answered the questions, discuss the responses as a class. Revisit this lesson after students have seen the film to share other examples of how Charlie Brown tries to change, and discuss what makes him a winner despite his disappointments.

ACTIVITY 3

DREAM BIG!

This activity focuses on Snoopy's adventures as an inspiration for students to study point-of-view in writing and characterization.

Materials Needed: Pencil and activity sheet

Ask students to define point-of-view in writing, and review the concept if necessary. Then ask students if they can identify the characters shown on the activity sheet that Snoopy imagines himself to be (flamenco dancer, World War I flying ace, star baseball player). Point out that Snoopy's adventures happen in the first-person point of view – he immerses himself completely in his imagination and experiences adventures as if he were that person. Now tell students to create a character and write a short story about their adventures from that character's first-person point of view.

Revisit this lesson after students have seen **The Peanuts Movie** and discuss how Snoopy's dreams of being a hero compare with the heroism of Charlie Brown.



PEANUTS

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NEW TO YOUR SCHOOL

The Peanuts Movie begins with a new girl arriving in Charlie Brown's neighborhood. Imagine that you are one of the characters in the *Peanuts* gang – what would you say to welcome the Little Red-Haired Girl to your school? Choose one of the characters below and use the other side of this paper to write a monologue expressing how you think he or she would react to the Little Red-Haired Girl's arrival in class. Then describe what your character might – or might not – do to make the new student feel welcome.



**LUCY: THE BOSSY
GIRL IN CLASS**



**SCHROEDER:
THE CLASS MUSICIAN**



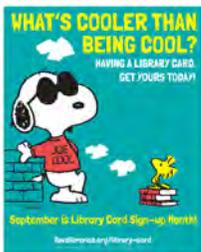
**CHARLIE BROWN: THE GUY ALL THE
OTHER KIDS CONSIDER A BLOCKHEAD**



**MARCIE: THE SMART
GIRL IN CLASS**



**PEPPERMINT PATTY:
THE CLASS ATHLETE**



DREAM BIG WHEN CHARLIE BROWN AND THE PEANUTS GANG MAKE THEIR BIG-SCREEN DEBUT IN **THE PEANUTS MOVIE** IN 3D CGI ON NOVEMBER 6, 2015!



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SHOW YOUR CHARACTER

Every member of the *Peanuts* gang is a completely original character, but each of them can be described in just a few words. What words describe these three characters? Write the letter of each character's three-word slogan under his picture. Then create your own three-word slogan to describe yourself.



1. _____

A. Lights. Camera. Beagle.

2. _____

B. Likable. Loving. Loyal.

3. _____

C. Misfit. Blockhead. Hero.

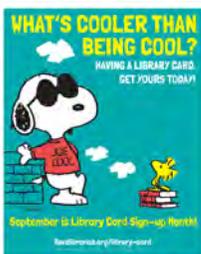
My slogan: _____

Now read this paragraph about Charlie Brown and answer the questions below. Be ready to explain your answers in a class discussion.

How does one define a winner? Is it the person who comes in first every time? The person who is most popular or who gets the top test scores? Charlie Brown wants to be a winner, but he can't seem to win at anything. He can't fly a kite without it getting stuck in a tree, his baseball team loses every game, and he's so shy that he can't figure out how to talk to the new girl at school. He's teased, laughed at, and blamed when things go wrong, but one thing's for sure: Charlie Brown is not a quitter. No matter how many times he fails, he brushes himself off, gets up, and tries again.

How would you define a winner? Do you think Charlie Brown is a winner or a loser, and why?

Charlie Brown's slogan calls him a hero. What does Charlie Brown do that you could call heroic?



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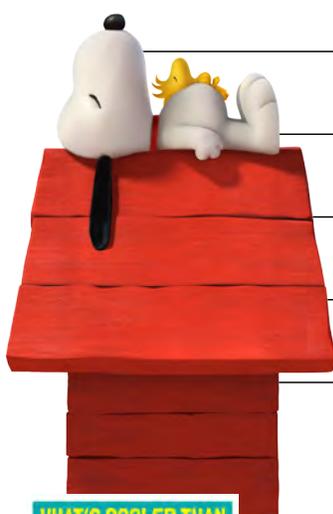
DREAM BIG!

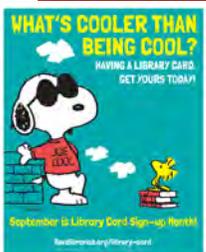
Snoopy dreams big! Even though he is really a dog, he can imagine himself as the hero of all kinds of adventures. Look at these pictures of Snoopy from **The Peanuts Movie**. What role is he playing in these different adventures?



Now it's your turn to dream big. Imagine that you are a character about to have an amazing adventure. Who are you? What role do you play? What adventure will you have? Write a short story about your imaginary adventure from the point of view of your character.

MY CHARACTER IS: _____





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