

DREAM BIG

WITH CHARLIE BROWN AND THE

PEANUTS[®] GANG!

Grades 9-12

DEAR EDUCATOR,

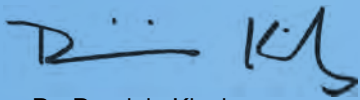
Welcome back to school! Start the year off right with standards-based language arts lessons based on the big-screen adventures awaiting your students when the beloved *Peanuts* characters appear in 3D CGI at theaters everywhere on November 6 in ***The Peanuts Movie***.

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 9-12 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 9-12.

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

The first day of school can be a mixture of anticipation and apprehension – especially when it's the first day at a new school. In this activity, students practice their dialogue writing and characterization skills by imagining and writing about the Little Red-Haired Girl's arrival on the first day at Charlie Brown's school.

Materials Needed: Pencil and activity sheet, extra notebook paper

Ask the class to share what it feels like to be the new student at school. Prompt them to think back to when they were in elementary school. Was it more difficult to make friends then than it is now? Why or why not? Tell them that **The Peanuts Movie** starts with a similar situation when a new girl moves into Charlie Brown's neighborhood. Show students the movie trailer at peanutsmovie.com/videos.

Have them talk about how the new girl might feel on her first day of school, what challenges she might encounter, and how the other *Peanuts* characters could make her feel welcome.

Assign students to work in small groups to create skits about experiences the Little Red-Haired Girl might have during her first day at Charlie Brown's school. What might happen at lunch time, recess, or on the school bus? How might the other *Peanuts* characters welcome her – or not? Student groups should select *Peanuts* characters from the activity sheet and create a skit about their interactions with the Little Red-Haired Girl in a first-day-of-school situation. Then, have each group perform their skit for the class.

ACTIVITY 2

SHOW YOUR CHARACTER

In this activity, students use SAT vocabulary and reading comprehension skills to identify traits of *Peanuts* characters and of themselves.

Materials Needed: Pencil, activity sheet, and graph paper

Start by asking students what is meant when someone is described as being *gregarious*. Ask them to suggest synonyms for *gregarious*, such as *talkative*. Explain that *gregarious* is an example of a word that helps us picture what someone is like in a very descriptive, colorful way. Then tell students that they are going to solve a vocabulary crossword based on the personalities of the characters from **The Peanuts Movie**. Distribute copies of the activity sheet and compare answers when students complete the puzzle.

Answers: ACROSS 4. ingenious, Schroeder; 6. banal, Charlie Brown.

DOWN 1. judicious, Linus; 2. idiosyncratic, Snoopy; 3. pugnacious, Lucy; 5. naïve, Peppermint Patty.

Now have students read and discuss their responses to the paragraph about Charlie Brown's efforts to change himself into a winner. 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.

As a follow-up, have students create their own crosswords on graph paper, either about themselves or, working in small groups, about a famous person.

ACTIVITY 3

DREAM BIG!

This activity focuses on Snoopy's adventures as a World Famous Author to inspire students to use their creative writing skills to finish one of Snoopy's stories. Students will complete the activity by creating their own deliberately awful opening sentence to an imaginary story, à la the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction contest.

Materials Needed: Pencil and activity sheet

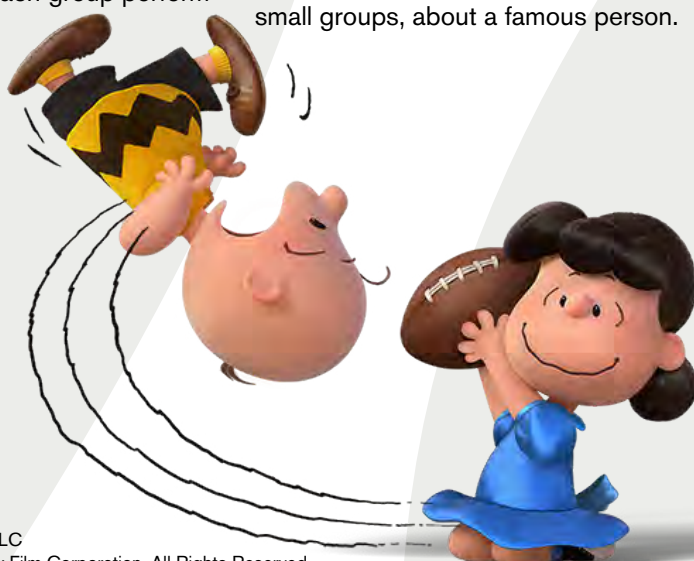
Tell students that you are going to read the first line of a novel written by a very famous author: "It was a dark and stormy night." Explain that the author is Snoopy, and that he actually plagiarized the line from *Paul Clifford*, a best-selling novel written in 1830 by British author Edward Bulwer-Lytton. Many literary critics consider this the worst opening sentence of any novel ever published and a perfect example of "purple prose" – what we would call, "over the top."

Distribute the activity sheet and ask students to come up with their own "over the top" opening sentence for an exciting story. Have students read their sentences aloud, then collect the activity sheets, shuffle them, and pass them out so that each student has a classmate's opening sentence. Have students use that opening sentence to write a story in 250 words or less.

After students have shared their stories, talk about how we recognize "over the top" writing, and how good writers sometimes write this way on purpose. Tell students that, in fact, there is a writing contest that celebrates this kind of bad writing – the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, which "challenges entrants to compose the opening sentence to the worst of all possible novels." Read students some opening-line samples from the contest website at bulwer-lytton.com/winners.html (review them ahead of time first; some might not be appropriate). Then have students organize a school-wide contest, with prizes, modeled on the official contest.

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NEW TO YOUR SCHOOL

Remember what it was like to be the new kid in school? Or how you and your friends reacted when a new kid walked into your class? That's what happens at the start of **The Peanuts Movie** when the Little Red-Haired Girl moves into Charlie Brown's neighborhood.

Here's your chance to create your own movie scene about the Little Red-Haired Girl's first day at a new school. Working in small groups, choose *Peanuts* characters from the list below and one of the listed school situations – or make up a situation of your own. Then brainstorm ideas for a skit about your characters in that situation on the Little Red-Haired Girl's first day of school. How might the character you've chosen welcome her – or not?

Check off the characters and situation for your skit.

| CHARACTER & PERSONALITY | | SCHOOL SITUATION |
|--|--|---|
|  <input type="radio"/> CHARLIE BROWN Shy, ordinary, awkward | | <input type="radio"/> Lunch in cafeteria |
| <input type="radio"/> PEPPERMINT PATTY Athletic, not too bright |  | <input type="radio"/> Recess |
|  <input type="radio"/> SCHROEDER Witty, musical | | <input type="radio"/> School bus |
| <input type="radio"/> LINUS Clever, kind |  | <input type="radio"/> _____ Other idea |
|  <input type="radio"/> LUCY Bossy, loud, outspoken | | <input type="radio"/> _____ Other idea |
| <input type="radio"/> THE LITTLE RED-HAIRED GIRL Quiet, friendly |  | <input type="radio"/> _____ Other idea |



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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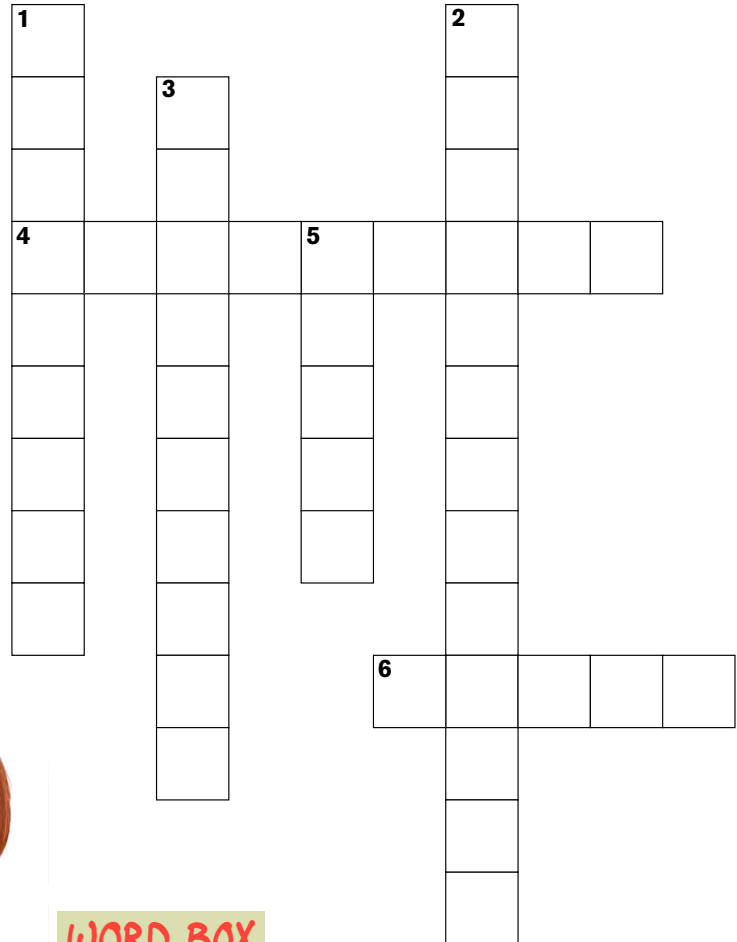
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SHOW YOUR CHARACTER

Match the vocabulary words in the Word Box below with their definitions by filling in the puzzle. Then write the number of the correct definition next to the *Peanuts* character it describes.

| DEFINITIONS | CHARACTERS |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | |
| 4. talented; gifted | ___ Lucy |
| 6. dull; unoriginal | ___ Charlie Brown |
| | ___ Peppermint Patty |
| DOWN | |
| 1. fair; wise | ___ Linus |
| 2. quirky; unique | ___ Snoopy |
| 3. aggressive; combative | ___ Schroeder |
| 5. unsophisticated; simple | |



WORD BOX

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| banal | ingenious | naïve |
| idiosyncratic | judicious | pugnacious |



Next, read this paragraph and discuss whether you think Charlie Brown is a winner or loser. Would you call him a hero? Why or why not?

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.



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Snoopy dreams big! Even though he is really a dog, he imagines himself as all kinds of colorful characters: Joe Cool, a flamenco dancer, a World War I flying ace, and even as a World Famous Author.

Snoopy writes novels when he is a World Famous Author, but he always starts his novels with the same sentence: "It was a dark and stormy night." If you were starting a novel, what would your opening sentence be? Try to make it an "over the top" opener like Snoopy's!

Now exchange sheets with a classmate. Using your classmate's opening sentence, write a complete story in 250 words or less. Share your story in class.

A cartoon illustration of Snoopy sitting on his red doghouse, typing on a typewriter. Woodstock is perched on the typewriter. The scene is set against a blue circular backdrop.

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