

The Children's Theatre
OF CINCINNATI

PRESENTS

A
CHARLIE
BROWN™
Christmas



Show Companion Activity Packet

THE POWER OF A CHILD

In this, our Centennial Season, TCT celebrates *The Power of a Child*. Each of our MainStage productions this season feature a unique child, who profoundly and positively impacts the lives of others. TCT hopes to IMPACT, IGNITE, and INSPIRE children of all ages to claim their own unique power to change their worlds for the better.

ABOUT THE SHOW

2019 marks the 54th anniversary of the animated TV special, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Bring your family and celebrate the season with this LIVE rendition of everyone's favorite holiday classic! Don't let the hustle and bustle of the holidays get you down. Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the rest of the Peanuts gang beat back their holiday blues, and remind us all what's most important during the Yuletide season. Beyond the presents, trees, and letters to Santa, the real spirit of the holiday season is about celebrating traditions with family and friends.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

If you can't tell...I love my job. Producing theatre for children is fun, exciting, and entertaining! But it also comes with its own set of challenges and hard work. Behind the scenes, an enormous amount of time and energy goes into making the magic happen. It takes a passionate team of talented people to build, design, rehearse, fundraise, market, and produce a show.

While it is hard work, one of the reasons I am inspired to do what I do each and every day is quite simple: I am blessed with the honor of bringing stories to life for children and the young-at-heart—stories that will build empathy, educate, inspire, entertain, and bring joy. It is especially thrilling when we bring classic TV specials like *A Charlie Brown Christmas* to life! You can feel the nostalgia in the air.

During my first season as Artistic Director, we premiered *A Charlie Brown Christmas* to colossal acclaim. The production was so popular that each season I was asked to bring it back through your calls, e-mails, and surveys. We heard you loud and clear and felt the time was just right for Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, and the rest of Charles Schulz's crew to, once again, pop out of our giant TV screen and onto the stage—especially when we have *Man's Best Friend* played by Bob Herzog!

We hope you are ready for the Peanuts gang to ice skate into your hearts, produce their own Christmas play, and ultimately learn the true meaning of the season! Of course, it wouldn't be Christmas without a festive sing-along led by the big Man-in-Red himself!

A Charlie Brown Christmas is TCT's Christmas present to you. We hope it is a gift your whole family will enjoy and remember for many years to come. Thank you for celebrating the season with us.

May your days be merry and bright.

RODERICK JUSTICE

Producing Artistic Director

For more inside information about the production,
listen to TCT's podcast, [AUDIO FOOTLIGHTS](#)

The Full Paneled Life of Charles M. Schulz

Charles Monroe "Sparky" Schulz (1922-2000) was an American cartoonist, and creator of the comic strip *Peanuts*. He is widely regarded as one of the most **influential** cartoonists of all time. Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Schulz grew up in the neighboring city of St. Paul. His uncle nicknamed him "Sparky" after the horse Spark Plug in the comic strip *Barney Google*, which Schulz enjoyed reading. Schulz loved drawing, and sometimes drew his family dog, Spike, who had a habit of eating unusual things, like pins and tacks. In 1937, Schulz sent a drawing of Spike to the popular magazine *Ripley's Believe it or Not!* His drawing appeared in Robert Ripley's **syndicated** panel, captioned "A hunting dog that eats pins, tacks, and razor blades is owned by C.F. Schulz, St. Paul, Minn." And "Drawn by Sparky". (C.F. was his father, Carl Fred Schulz)

Schulz's first group of regular cartoons, a weekly series of one-panel jokes called *Lil' Folks* was published from 1947-1950 in the St. Paul Pioneer Press. It was in *Lil' Folks* that Schulz first used the name Charlie Brown, and the series often featured a dog that looked much like Snoopy.

After developing *Lil' Folks* into a full comic strip (with four panels rather than one) *Peanuts* made its first appearance October 2, 1950 in seven newspapers. At its height, *Peanuts* was published daily in 2600 newspapers, in 75 countries, and in 21 languages. Over nearly 50 years, Schulz drew 17, 897 comic strips featuring Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, Lucy, and the rest of the gang.

Peanuts also proved popular in other media; the first animated TV special *A Charlie Brown Christmas* aired in December 1965 and won an Emmy award. **Numerous** TV specials followed, the most recent being *Happiness is a Warm Blanket, Charlie Brown* in 2011.

Influential in-flu·en-tial
adjective

1. having great impact on someone or something.
"his work is influential in comic panels"

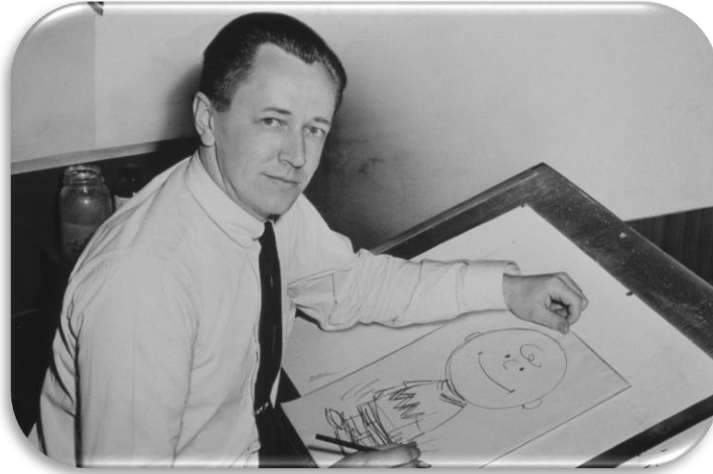
Syndicated syn·di·cated
verb

past tense: **syndicated**; past participle: **syndicated**

1. control or manage by a syndicate.
"the loans are syndicated to a group of banks"
2. publish or broadcast (material) in several newspapers, television stations, etc.
"her reports were syndicated to 200 other papers"

Numerous nu·mer·ous
adjective

1. great in number; many.
"she has attended numerous meetings and social events"



Charles Schulz - 1956

Answer the following questions from the above reading.

1. In what state was *Peanuts* creator Charles M. Schulz born?
 - a. Texas
 - b. Arizona
 - c. Minnesota
 - d. Ohio
2. What nickname did Charles M. Schulz's uncle give him?
 - a. Sleepy
 - b. Sparky
 - c. Goofy
 - d. Schulzie
3. What was the name of the Schulz family dog that was featured in his early cartoons?
 - a. Fido
 - b. Pluto
 - c. Sparky
 - d. Spike
4. What was the name of the series of one-panel joke cartoons that comprised Schulz's first regularly published work?
 - a. Lil' Folks
 - b. Barney Google
 - c. Peanuts
 - d. Family Circle
5. In what year did the animated TV special *A Charlie Brown Christmas* premiere?
 - a. 2011
 - b. 1984
 - c. 1965
 - d. 1950

DRAW

Draw your own 4 paneled cartoon of a special tradition you and your family have.



GRADE LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Grades K-3

CHARLIE'S TREE


In the story, Charlie chooses a small, thinning tree from the lot, and decides it just needs a little love to become a beautiful Christmas tree.

Throughout the year, some trees (called deciduous trees) change with each passing season and look different from Spring to Summer and Fall to Winter.

Complete the 3 missing seasons by drawing what the same tree might look like during each season.

Materials: Crayons, colored pencils, or markers



<p>Winter</p> 	<p>Spring</p>
<p>Summer</p>	<p>Fall</p>

GRADE LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Grades 4 and Above

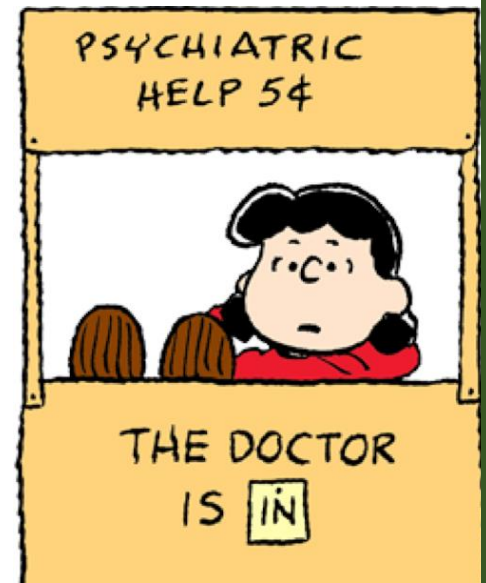
ICE RINK SCIENCE

The Peanuts gang love to ice-skate; you may notice some ice-skating during the show! Although we used props and some real theatre science to bring this scene to life, the process of water becoming ice happens often during the winter.

A **PHYSICAL CHANGE** is any change in a substance that **does not produce** a new or different substance (like cutting, folding, and freezing), while a **CHEMICAL CHANGE** is a change in a substance that **does produce** a totally new and different substance (like burning, rusting, or cooking). When water freezes, it is still water, and can go back to its liquid state!

Below, are examples of physical and chemical changes. Keeping these definitions in mind, below circle "P" for Physical Changes, or "C" for Chemical Changes.

1. A piece of paper is crumpled up and thrown in the trash can. P C
2. Eggs are cooked on the stove. P C
3. A wooden log burns on the fire P C
4. Ice melts. P C
5. A fork and knife are used to cut a holiday turkey. P C
6. A juicy steak is digested in the body after being eaten. P C
7. Cookie dough is baked in the oven to make cookies. P C
8. A puddle of water evaporates. P C
9. A window is broken when a rock is thrown through it. P C
10. A banana browns because it sat out for too long. P C



WORD SEARCH

Find the following words in the puzzle below (WORDS MIGHT BE BACKWARDS,
FORWARDS OR DIAGONAL)

*Christmas - Skating - Schroeder - Ice - Tree - Linus - Lucy - Snoopy - Charlie - Snow -
Gifts - Tradition*

S	Q	Y	U	O	F	D	T	I	R	C	B	J
J	K	Y	P	O	O	N	S	Z	E	H	S	A
E	Y	A	H	B	E	W	Z	U	D	A	T	U
S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	E	R	F	Y
T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	O	L	I	I
M	N	S	E	S	N	K	Y	E	R	I	G	C
K	V	E	U	M	N	G	E	Y	H	E	Z	E
A	R	U	Q	N	Q	O	H	S	C	Y	P	T
T	L	U	C	Y	I	G	W	O	S	G	P	V
U	X	Q	T	H	B	L	S	F	Y	E	J	P

JUMBLE

Unscramble the letters below to reveal the true words.

ALHIDYO _ _ _ _ _

SPENAUT _ _ _ _ _

SNULI _ _ _ _ _

LAFIMY _ _ _ _ _

DOGO REFIG _ _ _ _ _

CARSF _ _ _ _ _

OPTIONAL CLASS OR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

In the story, Charlie Brown is sick of what he views as commercialized Christmas, with the focus on getting instead of giving. What are some ways in which we can embody the true spirit of helping others, and put the focus on giving instead of getting?

ANSWER KEY

QUESTIONS

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. C

ICE RINK SCIENCE

1. P
2. C
3. C
4. P
5. P
6. C
7. C
8. P
9. P
10. C

JUMBLE

HOLIDAY

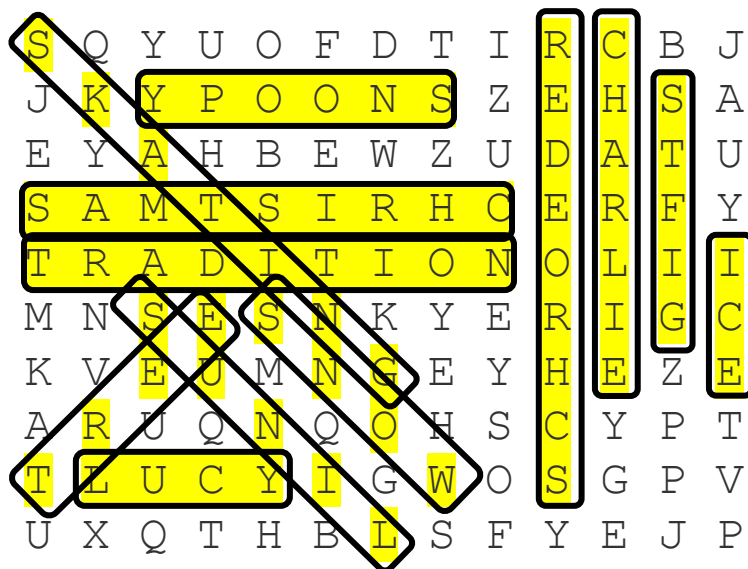
PEANUTS

LINUS

FAMILY

GOOD GRIEF

SCARF



STANDARDS

Science Standards

K.ESS.1: Weather changes are long-term and short-term. Weather changes occur throughout the day and from day to day. Air is a nonliving substance that surrounds Earth and wind is air that is moving. Wind, temperature and precipitation can be used to document short-term weather changes that are observable. Yearly weather changes (seasons) are observable patterns in the daily weather changes

4.PS.1: When objects break into smaller pieces, dissolve, or change state, the total amount of matter is conserved. When an object is broken into smaller pieces, when a solid is dissolved in a liquid or when matter changes state (solid, liquid, gas), the total amount of matter remains constant.

Social Studies Standard Strand

Content Statement: Heritage is reflected through diverse cultures and is shown through the arts, customs, traditions, family celebrations, and language.

Reading Standard

RL.1.1 : Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.