

The Top 10 Lessons I Learned From Charlie Brown, By Jim Allen

For 50 years the daily comic strip “Peanuts” entertained millions of readers. Every day, the adventures of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, and the whole gang provided many laugh-out-loud moments while at the same time offering a daily inspiration and lessons on life. I remember the many lessons they taught me....

1. It’s okay to be afraid...just don’t let your fears control you.

Charlie Brown often sat in bed and spoke of his fears, but no matter how scared he was, he always did the things he wanted to do.

2. Persistence wins out.

Charlie Brown often lost, failed at much, but he never gave up. Even though he knew Lucy was going to pull the football away before he could kick it...Even though he knew the tree was going to eat his kite...Even though he knew his team would lose the ballgame, he kept on trying.

3. It’s what you think of yourself that matters most.

Linus carried a security blanket for years and his friends laughed at him. They also laughed at him because he believed in the “Great Pumpkin.”

Pigpen was a walking cloud of dust and dirt and was often regarded unkindly. Both characters, however, were always proud of themselves and believed they were as good as anybody else—and they were right.

4. Sometimes you need to talk.

One thing the “Peanuts” gang understood was the importance of talking things out. Whether leaning up against Schroeder’s piano or atop the brick wall, they always had someplace to discuss what was of concern to them.

5. Sometimes you need to listen.

Even crabby, self-indulged Lucy knew the importance of listening. She started the famous ‘Psychiatry Booth’ where any and all could come and be heard.

6. Do what you love to do.

Through all their adventures, Schroeder remained constant in his appreciation of Beethoven and his love of playing the piano. He loved to play piano and that’s what he did, regardless of the circumstances. Charlie Brown flew his kite, played baseball, and played football, not just to win (he knew he wouldn’t), but because he loved to do those things.

7. It’s important to have friends who care.

The “Peanuts” gang was made up of individual characters, each with their own foibles and talents, but through it all they were always there for each other.

8. Big dreams lead to big things.

Snoopy was the biggest dreamer of them all, but his wild imagination often led to even wilder, more fantastic adventures in real life. Snoopy knew that you must have a big dream if you are going to lead a big life.

9. Action creates reality.

As Charlie Brown was reminded time and again after prodding from Linus: It takes action to bring about change. Though he often failed, Chuck took action quite regularly...and every now and again things would go his way.

10. Laugh every day!

While the kids themselves may not have seen the humor in the things they did, Schulz made sure that *we* did. Life is only as serious or as humorous as YOU make it...Lighten up. Go play softball. Fly a kite. Dance with your dog. Smile...It makes people wonder what you're up to.

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