

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN

di Clark Gesner

Personaggi:

CHARLIE BROWN
LINUS
SALLY
SCHROEDER
LUCY
SNOOPY

1. YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN

LINUS

I really don't think you have anything to worry about, Charlie Brown. After all, science has shown that a person's character isn't really established until he's at least five years old.

SALLY(overlapping)

The only thing wrong with my big brother, Charlie Brown, is his lack of confidence; his inferiority and lack of confidence. His clumsiness, his inferiority, his lack of confidence. His stupidity his clumsiness, his inferiority and his lack of confidence, his...

SCHROEDER(overlapping)

Did you know that Charlie Brown has never pitched a winning baseball game, never been able to keep a kite in the air, never won a game of checkers and never successfully punted a football? Sometimes I marvel at his consistency.

LUCY(overlapping)

Now Charlie Brown has what you call a Failure Face, Linus. Notice how it has failure written all over it. Study it carefully. You rarely see such a good example.

CHARLIE BROWN(overlapping)

Some days I wake up early to watch the sunrise, and I think how beautiful it is, and how my life lies before me, and I get a very positive feeling about things. Like this morning for instance; the sky's so clear and the sun's so bright. How can anything go wrong on a day like this?

I'm late!

SNOOPY

Woof!

ALL(except Charlie Brown)

You're a good man, Charlie Brown

You're the kind of reminder we need

You have humility, nobility and a sense of honor that is very

Rare indeed.

SNOOPY

Woof!

OTHERS

You're a good man, CHarlie Brown

And we know you will go very far

Yes it's hard to believe

Almost frightening to conceive

What a good man you are.

SCHROEDER

You are kind.

OTHERS

You are kind to all the animals

And every little bird

With a heart of gold

You believe what you're told...

LUCY

Every single solitary word

OTHERS

You bravely face adversity

You're cheerful through the day

You're thoughtful

Brave and couteous

LUCY

And you also have some faults

But for the moment let's just say

OTHERS

That you're a good man, Charlie Brown

You're a prince

And a prince could be king

With a heart such as yours

You could open any doors

You could go out and do anything

You could be King Charlie Brown

You could be king!

CHARLIE BROWN

Everybody says to me:

OTHERS

You're a good man, Charlie Brown

CHARLIE BROWN

Every voice in harmony

OTHERS

You're a good man, Charlie Brown

CHARLIE BROWN

All I need is one more try
Gotta get that kite to fly
And I'm not the kind of guy
Who gives up easily
Wonder why they stop to say:

OTHERS

You're a good man, Charlie Brown

CHARLIE BROWN

Never liked me, anyway

OTHERS

You're a good man, Charlie Brown

CHARLIE BROWN

Trying not to rock the boat
Not to make a scene
A good man? Yes
But I confess
I don't know what they mean

I wanna rise like I should

And do everything right- OTHERS

But I lie awake at night... Oooh-

Never sleep

With questions in my ear Oooh-

Loud and deep

I want to join the dance Oooh-

Take the leap

But the answer isn't clear.

Than I hear:

OTHERS

Charlie Brown... Charlie Brown...

You're a good man, Charlie Brown

You're a good man, Charlie Brown

SCHROEDER

Get on the bus

LUCY

Get on the bus

LINUS

Go ahead, get on the bus, Charlie Brown!

SALLY

Don't wanna be late for school!

OTHERS

That's right!

CHARLIE BROWN

Don't wanna be late!

ALL

Don't wanna be late for school!

SNOOPY

Woof!

OTHERS

You're a good man,

Charlie Brown

You're the kind

Of reminder we need

You have humility,

Nobility,

And a sense of honor

That is very rare indeed

CHARLIE BROWN

There they go again

Don't know what they mean

I'm not good,

I'm not bad

I'm somewhere

In between

SNOOPY

Woof!

OTHERS

You're a good man,

Charlie Brown

You're a prince

And a prince could be king

With a heart such as yours

You could open any doors

You could go out

And do anything

You could be King, Charlie Brown

You could be King!

CHARLIE BROWN

I don't understand

CHARLIE BROWN

"Nothing lasts forever"

OTHERS

You could be king

CHARLIE

"All good things must end"

Believe it

OTHERS

I've memorized

That phrase by heart.

So tell me,

I need to know it...

And you were born for this part

You're a good man,

Charlie Brown!

When do the

Good things start?

LUCY/SCHROEDER

LINUS/SALLY

SNOOPY

You're a good man,

Charlie Brown

Bravely facing

Adversity

You're a good man,

Charlie Brown

You can open up

Oh, You're a good man

ALL

You're ad good man,

Charlie Brown!

2. SCHROEDER

LUCY

D'ya know something, Schroeder?
I think the way you play the piano is nice.
D'ya know something else?
It's always been my dream
That I'd marry a man who plays the piano.

At parties he'd play something nice like
"April Showers."
I'm sure you could play something nice like
"April Showers."
Or even "Frere Jacques."
Beethoven's nice too.

Just imagine
What would you think if someday you and I should get married?
Wouldn't you like that if someday we two should get married?

My aunt Marion was right, never try to discuss marriage with a musician.

3. SNOOPY

SNOOPY

They like me.
I think they're swell.
Isn't it remarkable
How things turn out so well?

Pleasant day, pretty sky
Life goes on, here I lie
Not bad, not bad at all.

Cozy home, board and bed
Sturdy roof beneath my head
Not bad, not bad at all.

Faithful friends
Always near me,
Bring me bones,
Scratch my ear

Little birds
Come to cheer me
Ev'ry day
Sitting here,
On my stomach
With their sharp little claws
Which are usually cold,
And occasionally painful,
And sometimes there are so many
That I can hardly stand it...

Rats!

I feel ev'ry now and then
That I gotta bite someone.
I know ev'ry now and then what I wanna be.
A fierce jungle animal crouched on the limb
Of a tree

GIRLS(offstage)

La la la la la la la la la la la

SNOOPY

La la la la la la la la la la la

I'd stay very very still

Till I see a victim come.

I'd wait knowing very well ev'ry second counts.

And then like the fierce jungle creature I am

I would pounce!

I'd pounce!

I'd pounce!

I'd-

You know, I never realized it was so far down to
the ground from up here.

Let me see, where was I?

Oh, that's right, the pretty sky,

Not bad, not bad at all.

Cozy home, board and bed

Sturdy roof beneath my head

Not bad, not bad at all.

Not bad, not bad at all.

I wonder if it will snow tonight.

4. MY BLANKET AND ME

LINUS

Mmmm.

Delightful.

Mmmm.

Sucking your thumb without a blanket-
is like eating a cone without ice cream!

My blanket and me

LUCY

Look at my little baby brother, Linus, with his little baby blanket.

SALLY

There's your baby brother with his silly little blanket.

LUCY

Well, you know how babies are with their blankets.

LINUS

Whaddya mean?

It's a cozy sanctuary

But it's far from necessary

Cause I'm just as self-reliant as before

As a simple demonstration

Of my independent station

I will go and leave my blanket on the floor

Yes I'll walk away and leave it

Though I know you won't believe it

I'll just walk away and leave it on the floor

Yes, I'll walk
Away
And
Leave
It
On
The...

Aarrggghh!

Don't ever let me do that again.

LUCY
You're a hopeless case, Linus...

LINUS
I thought I could do it...
I actually thought I could do it.

It's foolish, I know it
I'll try to outgrow it
But meanwhile
It's my blanket...

LUCY
And me.

SALLY
And me.

CHARLIE BROWN
And me.

SCHROEDER
And me.

LINUS
And
Me.

5. THE KITE

CHARLIE BROWN
Little more speed, little more rope,
Little more wind, little more hope,
Gotta get this stupid kite to fly.
Gotta make sure it doesn't snag
Doesn't droop, doesn't drag
Gotta watch out for ev'ry little- whoops!

Little less speed, little more tack,
Little less rise, little more slack,
Gotta keep my wits about me now.
Gotta make sure it doesn't get the nest of me
Till I get it in the air somehow.

Millions of little kids do it ev'ry day
They make a kite and-"poof"- it's in the sky.

Leave it to me to have the one fool kite
Who likes to see a little kid cry.

Little less talk, little more skill,
Little less luck, little more will,
Gotta face this fella eye to eye.
Now that I've seen you chasing moles,
Climbing trees, digging holes,
Catching your string on everything passing by
Why not fly?

Wait a minute,
What's it doing?
It isn't on the ground.
It isn't in a tree.
It's in the air!
Looat at that.
It's caught the breeze now,
It's past the trees now
With room to spare...

Oh-
What a beautiful sight.
And I'm not such a clumsy guy.
If I really try
I can really
Fly a ki-

6. THE DOCTOR IS IN

CHARLIE BROWN

Oh, Lucy. I'm so depressed. I don't know what to do.

LUCY

I think what you need most of all, Charlie Brown, is to come right out and admit all of the things that are wrong with you.

CHARLIE BROWN

All right, I'll try
I'm not very handsome or clever, or lucid,
I've always been stupid at spelling and numbers.
I've never been much playing football or baseball
Or stickball, or checkers, or marbles, or ping-pong

I'm usually awful at parties and dances,
I stand like a stick or I cough, or I laugh,
Or I don't bring a present, or I spill the ice cream
Or I get so depressed that I stand and I scream...

Oh, how could there possibly be
One small person as thoroughly, totally, utterly
Blah as me.

LUCY

Well, that's ok for a starter.

CHARLIE BROWN

A starter?

LUCY

Certainly. You don't think that mentioning these few superficial failings is going to do you any good, do you? Why, Charlie Brown, You really have to delve.

You're stupid, self-centered and moody

CHARLIE BROWN

I'm moody

LUCY

You're terribly dull to be with

CHARLIE BROWN

Yes I am.

And nobody likes me,

Not Frieda, or Shermmy, or Linus, or Schroeder-

LUCY

Or Lucy.

CHARLIE BROWN

Or Lucy.

LUCY

Or Snoopy.

CHARLIE BROWN

Or Sn-

Wait a minute. Snoopy likes me.

LUCY

He only pretends to like you because you feed him.

That doesn't count.

CHARLIE BROWN

Or Snoopy.

Oh why- was I born just to be

One small person as thoroughly, totally, utterly-

LUCY

Wait!

You're not very much of a person...

CHARLIE BROWN

That's certain

LUCY

And yet there's a reason for hope.

CHARLIE BROWN

There's hope?

LUCY

For although you are no good at music,

Like Schroeder, or happy like Snoopy,

Or lovely like me,

You have the distinction to be

No one else but the singular, remarkable, unique

Charlie Brown.

CHARLIE BROWN

I'm me!

LUCY

Yes- it's amazingly true,
For whatever it's worth, Charlie Brown,
You're you.

CHARLIE BROWN

Gosh, Lucy you know something. I'm beginning to feel better already.
You're a true friend, Lucy, a true friend.

LUCY

That'll be five cents, please.

7. BEETHOVEN DAY

SCHROEDER

Call the principal
And hand him the news
We've got a holiday
That he can't refuse
A day of harmony,
A day of music:
Beethoven's birthday!

SALLY

Beethoven Day?

SCHROEDER

A reverential mission

LINUS

Beethoven Day?

SCHROEDER

The hope of each musician
No more am I the only guy
To stand up and say:

Hooray, Beethoven,
Hooray!

CHARLIE BROWN

Beethoven Day?

LINUS

Yes. As in Ludwig van Beethoven, composer.
Born 1770, died 1827. The eldest of three sons,
Ludwig's mother was the daughter of the chief overseer
of the kitchen...

LUCY

Whatever... Schroeder, I just want you to know that
I'm on your side. I want to help, publicity-wise, with Beethoven's Birthday.

SCHROEDER

Thank you for your support, but I just don't
want to see Beethoven's birthday commercialized.

LUCY

Commercialized?

SCHROEDER

Yes. The next thing you know they'll be selling Beethoven sweatshirts.

SNOOPY(wearing a Beethoven sweatshirt)

Beethoven Day.

SCHROEDER

If you're wondering
"Now, how do we start?"
Just blow the music
Til you know it by heart!
We're gonna celebrate
We'll throw a party
Beethoven's Birthday!

OTHERS

Beethoven Day!

SCHROEDER

And when you say the title...

OTHERS

Beethoven Day!

SCHROEDER

You hear a great recital
The right of every boy and girl
To stand up and say:

OTHERS

Hooray, Beethoven,
Hooray!

SCHROEDER

Beethoven Day

OTHERS

Beethoven Day
Beethoven Day

SCHROEDER

Beethoven Day

OTHERS

Beethoven Day
Beethoven Day

SCHROEDER

Beethoven Day

OTHERS

Beethoven Day

SCHROEDER

Beethoven Day

OTHERS

Beethoven Day

SCHROEDER

Beethoven Day- hey, hey, hey!

OTHERS

Beethoven Day!

SCHROEDER

A philharmonic rumble

OTHERS

Beethoven Day!

SCHROEDER

A polyphonic jumble

A humble dedication as we

Stand up and say:

ALL

Hooray, Beethoven,

Hooray!

LUCY

I got it! We'll demand full-Page ads in every newspaper!

LINUS

We'll start a chain of Beethoven superstores!

SALLY

We'll build a Beethoven theme park!

CHARLIE BROWN

We could have a bake sale!

SCHROEDER

Wait! That's too commercial!

Let's imagine it.

That glorious hour

Filled with emotion

Yet inspired with power

When we all honor

The man we adore

On the day we place

The newest face

On Mount Rushmore!

OTHERS

Mount Rushmore.

Beethoven Day!

SCHROEDER

A moment of reflection

OTHERS

Beethoven Day!

SCHROEDER

A classical injection!

So facing this direction

We begin it today

A musical collection

Everybody can play

The right of every boy and girl

OTHERS

Beethoven hooray!

It's Beethoven Day

To stand up and say:

Hooray, A time for celebrating
Beethoven! Beethoven way
 La la la la
Hooray! La la la la
 La la la la la

ALL
Hooray!

8. THE BOOK REPORT

LUCY
A book report on Peter Rabbit, Peter Rabbit, Peter ra-

LINUS(overlapping)
A book report on Peter Rabbit, Peter ra-

SCHROEDER(overlapping)
A book report on Peter Rabbit, ra-

CHARLIE BROWN(overlapping)
A book report on Peter ra-

ALL
-Abbit.

LUCY
Peter Rabbit is this stupid book
About this stupid rabbit who steals
Vegetables from other peoples' gardens
(She counts the words so far)
Hmm. 83 to go.

SCHROEDER
The name of the book about which
This book report is about is
Peter Rabbit which is about this
Rabbit.
I found it very-
I liked the part where-
It was a-

It reminded me of "Robin Hood"
And the part where Little John jumped from the rock
To the Sheriff of Nottingham's back.
And then Robin and everyone swung from the trees
In a sudden surprise attack.
And they captured the sheriff and all of his goods
And they carried him back to their camp in the woods
And the sheriff was guest at their dinner and all
But he wriggled away and he sounded the call
And his men rushed in and the arrows flew-
Peter Rabbit did sort of that kind of thing too.

LUCY
The other people's name was Macgregor.
(counts to 23)

Ohh!

Linus

In examining a book such as Peter Rabbit, it is important that the superficial characteristics of its deceptively simple plot should not be allowed to blind the reader to the more substantial fabric of its deeper motivations. In this report I plan to discuss the sociological implications of family pressures so great as to drive an otherwise moral rabbit to perform acts of thievery which he consciously knew were against the law. I also hope to explore the personlaity of Mr. Macgregor in his conflicting roles as farmer and humanitarian.

Peter Rabbit is established from the start as a benevolent hero and it is only...

CHARLIE BROWN(overlapping)

If I start writing now
When I'm not really rested
It could upset my thinking
Which is no good at all.
I'll get a fresh start tomorrow
And it's not due till Wednesday
So I'll have all of Tuesday
Unless something should happen.
Why does this always happen,
I should be outside playing
Getting fresh air and sunshine,
I work best under pressure,
And there'll be lots of pressure
If I wait till tomorrow
I should start writing now.
But I if I start writing now
When I'm nbot really rested
It could upset my thinking
Which is
No good at all.

LUCY

The name of the rabbit was Peter
(counts to 30)
Yes!

SCHROEDER

Down came the staff on his head- smaah!
And Robin fell like a sack full of lead- crash!
The sheriff laughed and he left him for dead- ah!
But he was wring

LUCY

35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40.

SCHROEDER

Just then an arrow flew in- whing!
It was a sign for the fight to begin- zing!
And then it looked like the sheriff would win- ah!
But not for long.
Away they ran.
Just lke rabbits.
Who run a lot
As you can tell
From the story

Of Peter Rabbit
Which this report
Is about.

SALLY/SNOOPY
Rabbits rabbits rabbits rabbits...

CHARLIE BROWN LUCY
How do they expect us to
Write a book report There were vegetables
Of any quality In the garden
In just two days
 Such as carrots and spinach
 And onions and lettuce
How can they And turnips and parsley
Conspire to And okra and cabbage
Make life so mis'erable And string beans and parsnips
And so effectively Tomatoes, potatoes, asparagus
In so many ways Cauliflower, rhubarb and chives.

LINUS
Not to mention the extreme pressure exerted on him
by his deeply rooted rivalry with Flopsy, Mopsy and
Cottontail!

SALLY/SNOOPY
Rabbits, rabbits, chasing rabbits...

CHARLIE SCHROEDER LINUS LUCY SNOOPY/SALLY
If I start The name of What drove Peter Rabbit Rabbit
Writing now The book Is this stupid Chasing
When I'm not A bout which An otherwise Book about this Rabbit
Really rested This book Moral rabbit Stupid rabbit Chasing
It could Report is Who steals Rabbit
Upset my About is To perform Vegetables Chasing
Thinking Acts of From other Rabbit
Which is Peoples'
Not good Gardens.
At all
Not good Peter Rabbit, Thievery? Gardens, Chasing!
At all. Peter Rabbit Thievery! Gardens, Chasing!

Oh.

 All for one Sociological 75, 76 Rabbits,
 Ev'ry man Implications Rabbits
 Does his part Fam'ly Chasing
First thing Pressure 77,78,79,80 Rabbits
After dinner 81, Find a rabbit
I'll start Oh. Simple plot 82. Do or die!

LUCY
And they were very, very, very, very, very
Happy to be home .

SCHROEDER/SALLY/SNOOPY
The end.

LUCY
...94, 95. The very, very, very end.

LINUS

A-men

CHARLIE BROWN

A book report on Peter Rab-

CHARLIE SCHROEDER LINUS LUCY SNOOPY/SALLY

-Bit Peter Rabbit Sociological Peter Rabbit Rabbit!

Was Peter Rabbit

Just start A lot like Peter Rabbit

Writing Robin Hood Implications Peter Rabbit Rabbit!

Peter Rabbit

You can do it Joined with Peter Rabbit Rabbit!

Peter Rabbit Peter Rabbit

Was Peter Rabbit

Nothing to it A lot like Familial Rabbit!

Robin Hood Condemnations

Got to

Start-

Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit!

Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit!

Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit!

Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit!

Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit!

Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit!

Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit!

CHARLIE BROWN

I haven't even started yet!

ALL

Peter Rabbit!

End of Act I

9. MY NEW PHILOSOPHY

SALLY

"oh, yeah. That's what you think."

SCHROEDER

What?

SALLY

That's my new philosophy: "Oh, yeah? That's what you think!"

SCHROEDER

Well, why are you telling me?

SALLY

What?

SCHROEDER

Why are you telling me?

SALLY

"Why are you telling me?" I like it!
That's a good philosophy: "Why are you telling me?"
Why are you telling me?"

"Why are you telling me?"
My new philosophy
The teacher gave a "D" on last week's homework
She said, "Miss Sally Brown,
Your grades are going down."
I could have told her-

SCHROEDER

You new philosophy?

SALLY

My new philosophy!
(as teacher)
Miss B?
(as herself)
I'm she

Look see.
A "D?"
A "D."
Well, why are telling me?
And that's my new philosophy!

SCHROEDER

That's your new philosophy?

SALLY

Why are you telling me?
My new philosophy!

SCHROEDER

That's great, Sally, but I've gotta go practice Chopin's
Nocturne in B-Flat minor.

SALLY

No!! I like it! "No!" That's a good philosophy.
"No!" "No!" "No!"

SCHROEDER

That's you new philosophy, huh?

SALLY

Yes. I mean-- "No!"
Just like a bust bee
Each new philosophy
Can fly from tree to tree and keep me moving
When life's a dizzy maze
On alternating days
I choose a different phrase-

SCHROEDER

Your new philosophy?

SALLY

My new philosophy!

SCHROEDER

Sally!
Some philosophies are simple:
"Man does not eat by bread alone."
Some philosophies are clear:

SALLY
"Leave your message at the sound of the tone."

BOTH Some philosophies pick and choose
Deciding what goes in it.

SCHROEDER
Some take a lifetime,

SALLY
Mine take a minute.

SCHROEDER
But, Sally, anything that takes only a minute can't be
very lasting. For instance, Beethoven took over two years
to complete his brilliant Ninth SYmphony.

SALLY
"No!"

SCHROEDER
I can't stand it!

SALLY
"I can't stand it!" I like it!
It's like a gurantee.
My new philosophy.
And things are sure to be a whole ot brighter
"Oh, yeah? That's what you think!"
"Why are you telling me?"
"No!"
"I can't stand it!"
Now life is free and easy,
Much more philosophy-zy,
With my brand new-

You know, someone had said that we should live every day as
if it were the last day of our life.

LUCY(passing by and overhearing)
Aaugh! This is the last day!! This is it!! I only have
twenty-four hours left!! Help me! Help me! This is the last
day!! Aaugh!

SALLY
Clearly, some philosophies aren't for all people.
And that's my new philosophy!

10. T-E-A-M(The baseball game)

CHARLIE BROWN
Gimme a "T"!

OTHERS

"T"!

CHARLIE BROWN
Gimme an "E"!

OTHERS
"E"!

CHARLIE BROWN
Gimme a "A"!

OTHERS
"A"!

CHARLIE BROWN
Gimme a "M"!

OTHERS
"M"!

CHARLIE BROWN
What've you got?

ALL
Team!
There is no team like the best team
Whis is our team right here.
We will show you we're the best team
Of the very Little League this year
And in no time We'll be big time
With the Big League baseball stars.
For all we have to do is win just one more game
And the championship is ours.

CHARLIE BROWN
Dear Pen pal...
You'll never guess what happened today
At the baseball game.
It's hard to believe, what happened today
At the baseball game.
I was the manager, Schroeder was catcher
And all of the team was the same as always
But somehow or other disaster struck
At the baseball game.
Huddle up!

LUCY
I got it!

LINUS
I got it!

SCHROEDER
I got it!

SNOOPY
Woof woof woof!

LUCY(to Charlie Brown)
I thought you had it

CHARLIE BROWN

Three balls, two strikes,
The bases were loaded with two men out
I pitched my curve, but somehow they hit it
A good strong clout
"Lucy" I hollered, "It's coming right to you"-
She caught it as easy as pie-- then dropped it.
I don't think it's good for a team's morale
To see their manager cry.

Snoopy helped out by biting the runner
And catching the ball in his teeth;
Linus caught flies from a third-story window
By holding his blanket beneath.

yes, we had fortitude,
no one could argue with that.
And one run would win us the game
As I came up to bat.

LUCY

All right, Charlie Brown, we're all behind you-sort of.
I mean this man can't pitch. He pitches like my grandmother,
Charlie Brown. Now all you have to is bear down, just bear
down- and when you get on first, watch for my signals.

OTHERS

Go Charlie Brown, Charlie Brown, Charlie Brown-
There is no team
Like the best team
Which is our team
Right here
We will show you
We're the best team
In the very Little League this year
An in no time we'll be big time
With the Big League baseball stars

For all we have to do is
Win just one more game...

LUCY

...And the championship is ours!!

OTHERS(echoing)

Ours! Ours! Ours!

CHARLIE BROWN

Two me were on with two outs and me
With one strike to go

OTHERS(whispered)

One strike... One Strike...

CHARLIE BROWN

Then I saw her- this cute little
Red-headed girl I know
Firmly I vowed I would win it for her
And I shouldered my bat and I swung...

OTHERS

Oh!

CHARLIE BROWN

Dear pen pal, I'm told where you live
Is really quite far
Would you please send directions
On how I can get where you are?

Your friend, Charlie Brown.