

10 Things You Didn't Know About Charles Schulz



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► **Charles Schulz had an O'Gara's connection.** Charles Schulz's father, Carl, owned The Family Barbershop, which was located in what's now the Shamrock Room at O'Gara's in St. Paul. (1)

► **There's a reason Lucy kept pulling the football away from Charlie Brown.** One of Charles Schulz's childhood memories was of holding a football steady for another kid, while resisting the urge to pull it away. Years later, this would become a recurring theme in Peanuts. (2)

► **Charles Schulz never wanted to do anything else but draw comics.** In his own words, "My dad was always a great comic strip reader, and he and I made sure that all four newspapers published in Minneapolis and St. Paul were brought home. I grew up with only one real career desire in life, and that was to someday draw my own comic strip." (3)

► **Charles Schulz was a hockey fanatic.** His life-long passion for the game began during his boyhood in the Twin Cities, where he and his friends would play on his iced-over backyard. He'd also play in the basement with his grandmother, Sophie Halverson. "...My grandmother would take a broom that I gave her and stand in front of this make-believe goal while I shot tennis balls at her with a hockey stick. I like to think she made a lot of great saves." (4)

► **Charles Schulz was inducted into the National Hockey Hall of Fame.** A lifelong supporter of the sport, Schulz supported youth hockey groups and often served as a referee. In 1975 Schulz established Snoopy's Senior Hockey Tournament for players aged 40 and over. It's still held every July and attracts former NHL players and teams from around the world. (5)

► **The little red-headed girl was real. And a Minnesotan.** Charlie Brown's unattainable crush is based in reality. While working at Art Instruction School in Minneapolis, Charles Schulz met and dated a red-haired girl named Donna Mae Johnson. Eventually she accepted another man's proposal instead of Schulz's, which broke his heart. (6)

► **Many Peanuts characters are based on Minnesotans.** While working at Art Instruction, Inc., Schulz met fellow instructors, Charlie Brown, Linus Maurer, and Frieda Rich, all of whom inspired the names of some of the most iconic characters of the Peanuts comic strip. (7)

► **Peanuts reached readers in 75 countries, 2,600 papers and 21 languages every day.** Comic strips, merchandise, and product endorsements brought in over \$1 billion per year. Charles Schulz was reported to have earned between \$30 and \$40 million annually. (8)

► **Charlie Brown... the stalker?** In April 2013, the man who gave Charlie Brown his voice in the first Peanuts television specials pled guilty to threatening and stalking both his ex-girlfriend and the plastic surgeon who gave her a breast enhancement for which he paid. Good grief! (9)

► **Lucy got her karmic due.** Lucy made an appearance in the animated television series Family Guy. Peter Griffin, the main character, says he is tired of Charlie being humiliated and repeatedly kicks Lucy until she promises to Charlie kick the ball. Even though Charlie finally kicks the ball, Peter kicks Lucy one more time because she isn't a real psychiatrist. (10)

► **For five summers after Schulz's death in 2000, artists all over St. Paul designed and displayed individual renditions of Peanuts characters.** Over two million people from all fifty states flocked to this tribute to Schulz. The first year featured statues of solely Snoopy, the second Charlie Brown, the third Lucy, followed by Linus, and finally Snoopy with Woodstock. (11)

► **A full-length 3-D Charlie Brown feature film will be released in 2015.** The screenplay was co-written by Schulz's son Craig and his grandson Bryan. (12) [AL](#)