A Charlie Brown Christmas
By Charles M. Schulz

Scene One

Narrator 1: It was finally Christmastime, the best time of the year. The houses were strung with tiny colored lights, their windows shining with warm yellow glow only Christmas could bring. The scents of pine needles and hot cocoa mingled together, wafting through the air, and the sweet sounds of Christmas could be heard in the distance.

Track #4- “CHRISTMAS TIME IS HERE” (Grades 3-5)

Narrator 2: Fluffy white snowflakes tumbled from the sky onto a group of joyful children as they sang and laughed, skating on the frozen pond in town.

Track #5- “WINTER WONDERLAND” (Grade 3)

Narrator 3: Everyone was happy and full of holiday cheer. That is, everyone except for Charlie Brown.

Charlie: (to Linus) I think there must be something wrong with me. I just don’t understand Christmas, I guess. I might be getting presents and sending Christmas cards and decorating trees and all that, but I’m still not happy. I don’t feel the way I’m supposed to feel.

Linus: (to Charlie) Charlie Brown, you are the only person I know who can take a wonderful season like Christmas and turn it into a problem. Maybe Lucy is right. Of all of the Charlie Browns in the world, you are the Charlie Browniest.

Track #6- Play 30 seconds or so of soundtrack music “Skating” to change scenes. Fade the music when Charlie gets to the microphone after looking in the mailbox.
Scene Two

Charlie walks to the mailbox and pokes head inside. As Charlie walks to the microphone, he slumps his shoulders and hangs his head, as he is disappointed because it is empty.

Charlie: Rats! Nobody sent me a Christmas card today. I know nobody likes me. Why do we have to have a holiday season to emphasize it?

Violet walks to the microphone reading a Christmas card.

Charlie: (sarcastically) Thanks for the Christmas card you sent me Violet.

Violet: I didn’t send you a Christmas card!

Charlie grumpily shoves his hands into pockets and makes face.

Charlie: Don’t you know sarcasm when you hear it?

Track #7- “HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS” (Grade 4)
Scene Three

Charlie is sitting in front of Lucy’s psychiatric booth. Lucy is standing near Schroder at the microphones.

Narrator 4: Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, but Charlie Brown was still sad.

Schroder: (to Lucy) I think you have a customer.

Schroder motions towards Lucy’s psychiatric booth. Lucy walks over and sits down.

Lucy: May I help you?

Charlie: I am in sad shape…

Lucy: (interrupts) Hold up there Charlie Brown! I need 5 cents from you for my kind of advice!

Charlie reaches in his pocket and drops a nickel in Lucy’s money can. Lucy shakes the can near her face on each side of her cheek and smiles.

Lucy: Boy, oh Boy, I love the beautiful sound of cold, hard, cash. That beautiful, beautiful sound. Nickels, nickels, nickels. That beautiful sound of plunking nickels. Alright, now what seems to be your trouble?

Charlie: I feel depressed. I know I should be happy, but I’m not.

Lucy: (proudly) Well, as they say on TV, “the mere fact that you realize you need help indicates that you are not too far gone.” I think we better pinpoint your fears. If we can find out what you’re afraid of, we can label it. Are you afraid of responsibility? If you are, then you have hypengyophobia. How ‘bout cats? If you’re afraid of cats, you have ailurophasia. Are you afraid of staircases? If you are, then you have climachaphobia. Maybe you have thalassophobia. This is a fear of the ocean. Or gephyrobia, which is the fear of crossing bridges. Or maybe you have pantophobia. Do you think you have pantophobia? (As Lucy speaks these lines, she should gradually rise until standing keeping her hands on the booth, leaning in towards Charlie Brown’s face near the end.)

Charlie: What’s pantophobia?

Lucy: The fear of everything.

Charlie: (-leaning in towards Lucy and speaking more loudly) That’s it!

Lucy acts startled, leans backward, and sits back down.)
Charlie: Actually Lucy, my trouble is Christmas. I just don’t understand it. Instead of feeling happy, I feel sort of let down.

Track #8- “WHERE ARE YOU CHRISTMAS?” (Grade 5)

Scene Three continues after the song

Lucy: You need involvement. You need to get involved in some real Christmas project. How would you like to be the director of our Christmas play?

Charlie: Me? You want me to be the director of the Christmas play?

Lucy: Sure Charlie Brown, we need a director. You need involvement. We’ve got a Shepherd, musicians, animals, everyone we need. We’ve even got a Christmas Queen! (Lucy indicates herself as the Queen by pointing to herself when she says this line.)

Charlie rolls his eyes in disgust.

Charlie: I don’t know anything about directing a Christmas play.

Lucy: Don’t worry; I’ll be there to help you. I’ll meet you at the auditorium. (pauses for a second) Incidentally, I know how you feel about all this Christmas business, getting depressed and all that. It happens to me every year. I never get what I really want. I always get a lot of silly toys, or a bicycle, or clothes, or something like that.

Charlie: What is it you want?

Lucy: Real Estate.

Track #9- “WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS” (Grades 3-5)
Scene Four

Track #10- Play Soundtrack music “Snoopy’s Decorating Music”

Snoopy hauls a large box overflowing with colorful holiday lights and decorations from off stage to his house. Charlie follows Snoopy to his house. Snoopy pulls the decorations out of the box and decorates his house. Fade the music after 40 seconds or so.

Charlie: What’s going on here?

Snoopy grins and hands Charlie a flyer, then continues to decorate his house.

Charlie: (reading from the flyer with voice increasingly growing louder) FIND THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS. WIN MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! SPECTACULAR! SUPER-COLOSSAL! NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AND DISPLAY CONTEST.

Charlie looks up towards the sky with dismay.

Narrator 5: Even his very own dog had gone commercial. The thought of the contest made Charlie brown feel positively sick. Was money all anyone cared about? Charlie Brown couldn’t stand it.

Charlie throws the flyer in the air and walks away.

Track #11- “IT’S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS” (Grades 4-5)
Scene Five

Sally: (holding a pen and clipboard) I’ve been looking for you, big brother. Will you please write a letter to Santa Claus for me? You write it, and I’ll tell you what I want to say.

Narrator 6: Charlie was in a hurry to get to the school auditorium on time for play rehearsal, but he couldn’t say no to his sister.

Charlie takes the pen and clipboard from Sally.

Charlie: Okay, shoot.

Sally: I have been extra good this year, so I have a long list of presents that I want.

Charlie: (sighs) Oh, brother.

Sally: Please note the size and color of each item, and send as many as possible. If it seems too complicated, make it easy on yourself: just send money. How ‘bout tens and twenties?

Charlie: (dismayed) Tens and Twenties. Oh, even my baby sister!

Sally: All I want is what I have coming to me. All I want is my fair share.

Track #12- “NUTTIN’ FOR CHRISTMAS” (Grade 3)
**Scene Six**

**Lucy:** Our director will be here any minute and we’ll start rehearsal. Here he comes.

*The cast claps. Then Snoopy boos.*

**Charlie:** *(shrugging and speaking to the audience)* Man’s best friend. *(pauses for a second, then speaks to the cast)* We’re going to do this play, and we’re going to do it right!

**Lucy:** Alright, I’m here to assign roles. Frieda, you’re playing the innkeeper’s wife.

**Frieda:** Do inn keepers wife’s have naturally curly hair?

**Lucy:** Pig Pen, you’re the innkeeper.

**Pig Pen:** In spite of my outward appearance, I shall try to run a neat inn.

**Lucy:** And Shermy, you’re the Shepherd.

**Shermy:** Every Christmas is the same. I always end up playing the shepherd. *(After saying his line, he will pick up the shepherd’s staff next to the microphone.)*

**Narrator 4:** Snoopy was delighted to play the roles of all the different animals. From sheep *(pause while Snoopy makes a “baa” sound)*, to cow *(pause while Snoopy makes a “moo” sound)*, to penguin *(the teacher will tap the woodblock while Snoopy waddles like a penguin)*.

**Lucy:** *(to Linus who is standing at the microphone next to her)* Memorize these lines, so you can recite them on cue.

**Linus:** This is ridiculous! I can’t memorize something like this so quickly! Why should I be put through such agony? Give me one good reason why I should have to memorize this!

**Lucy:** *(Lucy holds up one hand towards Linus and pulls her fingers in to make a fist when counting each number.)* I’ll give you five good reasons: One, two, three, four, five!

**Linus:** *(nodding and backing away from Lucy)* Those are good reasons. *(to the audience)* Christmas is not only getting too commercial, it’s getting too dangerous.

**Lucy:** *(Lucy puts her hands on her hips.)* And get rid of that ridiculous blanket! What’s a Christmas Shepherd going to look like holding a silly blanket like that?

**Charlie:** Alright! Lets have it quiet! Places everybody. Schroeder set the mood for the first scene.
Track #13- Play soundtrack music “Christmas is Coming”

Schroeder begins to “aiplay” on the keyboard. The cast dances. Stop music after 20 seconds.

Charlie: Cut! Cut! It’s all wrong! (Stop music.) Lets rehearse another scene instead.

Frieda: Pig Pen’s dust is ruining the style of my naturally curly hair!

Sally watches Linus intently and rests her head on his shoulder briefly.

Sally: Isn’t he the cutest thing?

Lucy: We want a lunch break!

(Snoopy nods many times in agreement.)

Charlie: Good grief… There’s no time for foolishness. Lets take it from the top again!

Track #14- Play soundtrack music “Linus and Lucy.”

Schroeder begins to “aiplay” on the keyboard. The cast dances. Stop music after 20 seconds.

Lucy (to Charlie): What’s the matter? Don’t you think it’s great?

Charlie shakes his head.

Lucy: Look, let’s face it. We all know that Christmas is a big commercial racket. It’s ruined by a big eastern syndicate, ya know.

Charlie: Well, this is one play that’s not going to be commercial. What our play needs is the proper Christmas mood. We need a Christmas tree.

Lucy: (She claps with excitement.) Hey, perhaps a tree. A great big shiny aluminum Christmas tree! That’s it! Get the biggest aluminum tree you can find. Maybe paint it pink!

Narrator 7: Charlie Brown left Lucy in charge of rehearsal, and set out with Linus to find the perfect tree for their play.

Track #15- Play Soundtrack music “O Tannenbaum” to change scenes. Play the music for 30 seconds or so while Charlie and Linus get the tree. Fade the music once Charlie and Linus get to the microphones.
Scene Seven

*Charlie is holding the sparse “Charlie Brown Christmas tree” (without the red ornament.)*

**Linus:** Gee, do they still make wooden Christmas trees?

**Charlie:** This one seems to need a home.

**Linus:** I don’t know, remember what Lucy said? This doesn’t seem to fit the modern spirit.

**Charlie:** I don’t care! We’ll decorate it, and it will be just right for our play. Besides, I think it needs me.

**Track #16- “O Christmas Tree” (Grades 3-5)**
Scene Eight

Track #15 again- Play Soundtrack music “O Tannenbaum” to change scenes. Play the music for 30 seconds or so while the cast enters standing in semi-circle in the background and Charlie puts the tree on the piano. Fade the music once Charlie is back at the microphones.

Charlie places the sparse tree on the piano then walks to the microphones. The cast is standing in the background.

Charlie: We’re back!

Violet: Boy, are you a blockhead Charlie Brown. You were supposed to get a good tree. Can’t you even tell a good tree from a poor tree?

Patti: (sighs) You’re hopeless Charlie Brown.

Lucy: You’ve been dumb before, but this time you really did it.

The cast and snoopy laugh, then exit.

Charlie: I guess you were right Linus; I shouldn’t have picked this little tree. Everything I do turns into a disaster. I guess I don’t really know what Christmas is about. Isn’t there anyone who understands what Christmas is all about?

Linus: Sure, I can tell you what Christmas is all about.

Linus: (to the audience) “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, ‘fear not, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger.’ And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men.’

Linus: (towards Charlie) That’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

Track #15 again- Play soundtrack music “O Tannenbaum” to change scenes. Play the music for 30 seconds or so while Linus exits and Charlie picks up the tree. Fade the music in and out during the speaking parts in Scene Nine until students sing “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.”
Scene Nine

Linus exits. Charlie picks up the tree off the piano and smiles. He walks back to the microphone.

Charlie: Linus is right; I won’t let all this commercialism ruin my Christmas. I’ll take this little tree home, and I’ll decorate it, and I’ll show them it really will work in our play.

Charlie walks to Snoopy’s doghouse holding the tree. He takes the red ornament off of Snoopy’s house and puts it on the tree. He sets the tree on the ground. The tree bends and falls over. Charlie droops his shoulders and hangs his head to show he’s sad on the way back to the microphone.

Charlie: I killed it! Everything I touch gets ruined!

Charlie exits. The cast enters and walks to the tree. Linus stands the tree back up and walks to the microphone. The cast circles the tree so it is no longer visible to the audience.

Linus: I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It’s not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love.

The cast discretely switches out the sparse tree for the smaller, fuller tree. They take decorations off of Snoopy’s house and put them on the fuller Christmas tree. They discreetly hide the sparse tree. They turn on the lights. Linus wraps his blanket around the base. The cast moves behind the tree to a semi-circle to reveal it to the audience. Lucy walks to the microphone.

Lucy: Charlie Brown is a blockhead, but he did get a nice tree.

Track #17- Play soundtrack music “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

The cast and all students on the risers stand, sway, and hum “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.” Charlie enters and walks to the microphones. Pause the music at 1:00 min. Students on the risers should stay standing.

Charlie: What’s going on here?

All Cast and Students: Merry Christmas Charlie Brown!

Narrator 8: His little tree that no one had wanted, and he could hardly believe his eyes. His friends’ efforts had transformed it into something truly special. And everyone sang:
Track #15- “HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING” (Grades 3-5)

The cast and all students on the risers sway and sing “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” starting at 1:04 into the song. Students should stay standing when the song is finished.

Narrator 9: Surrounded by his friends, Charlie Brown realized Linus had been right about the true meaning of Christmas. This was the Christmas spirit he had been looking for all along.

Narrator 5: At last, the season seemed 100 times brighter. And for Charlie Brown, it was truly the merriest Christmas ever.

Track #18- “Sing We Now of Christmas” (Grades 3-5)

The End