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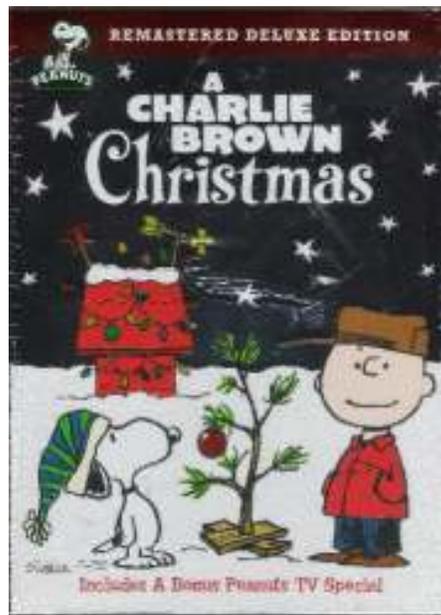
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### 5 interpersonal relationship lessons from 'A Charlie Brown Christmas'



During the Christmas season, we all have our [relationships](#) on our minds—namely, what we are going to get loved ones for Christmas and how we are going to spend the holiday. For many people, part of the day will also include watching "[A Charlie Brown Christmas](#)", which gives a lot of relationship lessons in the spirit of the [holiday](#).

**1. Christmas can be the loneliest time of the year.** When Charlie Brown checks the mailbox and finds that he has no Christmas cards, he thinks about how [lonely](#) he is. The holidays serve as a reminder of how alone Charlie Brown really is and how no one really likes him.

**2. There is a name for all of our neuroses.** When Charlie Brown turns to Lucy for psychiatric advice, she presents him with so many options of neuroses that he doesn't know which one fits his problems. Eventually, Charlie Brown decides on a catchall for all of his [feelings](#)—he's [afraid](#) of everything.

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**3. Concern is not always what it seems to be.** When Sally [writes](#) her letter to Santa, she begins by asking about how old St. Nick enjoyed his summer and how his [wife](#) is doing. But this is just a ruse for what she really wants—a lengthy list of presents or cold hard [cash](#).

**4. When a woman fishes for compliments, you'd better take the bait.** Lucy thinks that her undeniable beauty makes her a shoo-in for the role of the Christmas Queen in the play. When she tells Charlie Brown that she wants the part, he is not forthcoming with compliments about her ravishing looks. This makes Lucy [angry](#) because Charlie Brown doesn't understand that when she was fishing for a compliment, it was his duty to take the bait.

**5. Sometimes the pitiful needs your love.** Although Charlie Brown knows that he will face ridicule for choosing a pitiful little tree for the Christmas play, he feels the unloved Christmas tree needs him. Although they do initially make fun of Charlie Brown, the other children end up seeing the pitiful little tree's charm and give it the love—and decorations—that it needs.

*This article originally appeared on my [Interpersonal Relationships Examiner](#) page on December 24, 2009.*

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