

The Charles Schultz Philosophy

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schultz, the creator of the “Peanuts” comic strip. Ask students to answer the following questions to the best of their ability.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award Winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade’s worth of World Series Winners.

Then ask students, “How did you do?”

The point is that none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Now ask students to answer the following questions.

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with?

Then ask students, “Were these questions easier to answer?”

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care...

As a follow-up writing assignment, ask students to choose an adult on campus who has really helped them at some point this year and write a short thank you note to them. Collect the notes and put them in the staff member’s box.