

Hey Kids, Meet Charles M. Schulz

American Cartoonist (1922-2000)



Charles M. Schulz was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on November 26, 1922. He was the only child of Dena and Carl Schulz. At just two days old his uncle nicknamed him "Sparky" after Spark plug the horse from the *Barney Google* comic strip.

As a young boy Charles spent his Sunday mornings with his father reading the funnies. Charles always wanted to be a cartoonist, and

it was a very proud moment for him when his first cartoon of their family dog was published in Ripley's newspaper feature, *Believe It or Not*, in 1937.

Schulz put his hopes of becoming a cartoonist on hold during World War II, when he was drafted into the United States Army. He was often found sketching episodes of army life in his sketchbook.

In 1945, after being discharged from the army, Schulz returned to St. Paul, Minnesota to pursue a career in cartooning. By 1947 he was working for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, producing a weekly comic strip called *L'il Folks*, and selling comic gags to *The Saturday Evening Post*. Schulz finally fulfilled his dream of creating a nationally-syndicated daily comic strip when *Peanuts* appeared in newspapers on October 2, 1950.

Charles M Schulz died on February 12, 2000 in Santa Rosa, California. Shultz created for us a cast of memorable characters that became America icons, with his comic strip appearing in more than 2,300 newspapers. He was honored on two occasions with the Reuben Award by the National Cartoonists Society for his talents, and won Peabody and Emmy awards for his animated specials. Schultz said of himself, "I don't think I'm a true artist. I would love to be Andrew Wyeth or Picasso... But I can draw pretty well and I can write pretty well, and I think I'm doing the best with whatever abilities I have been given. And what more can one ask?"

