Beagles Can't Climb Trees

The late Charles Schulz, creator of the comic strip *Peanuts,* is widely regarded as one of the most influential cartoonists of all time. His works contain important life lessons. Here is an example from one of his cartoons:

In the first frame, Lucy is standing next to a tree. Looking up, she shouts to Linus, "What are you doing in that tree?"

Linus answers from the branches of the tree, "Looking for something." Then he adds, "Can you see Snoopy? We climbed up here together, but now I don't see him."

Lucy unsympathetically shouts back up the tree, "Beagles can't climb trees."

The next frame shows Snoopy falling out of the tree, right on his head with a loud *klunk*. "You're right!" Snoopy concludes.

Then Lucy lets Snoopy have it. "You stupid Beagle, what are you doing climbing around in a tree?" Snoopy's sore head is still spinning.

Linus interrupts from the tree. "Don't yell at him. We're trying to find a strange creature in a nest …"

Lucy walks off, saying, "You're both crazy! Go ahead and knock yourselves out. I couldn't care less!"

Then Snoopy – with his head still sore and spinning – thinks, "Rats … I was hoping for a hug!"

When we've been stupid and we have hurt ourselves, we generally like to be hugged. Children know this; Snoopy knew it. But we adults sometimes get it wrong. We don't like to admit our faults.

Or maybe we've had a hard day at work and need a little pumping up. Or we've received some bad news about a health problem – for ourselves or a loved one. Perhaps it is good news – clearance on that health report, a promotion, or a beautiful compliment from one of our residents or patients that put us in a celebratory mood.

Like Snoopy, any one of these events calls for a hug. Let's give it. We'll feel better for it – and so will the recipient.

– Beecher Hunter