

Charles Schulz Philosophy

Charles Schulz, the wonderfully talented creator of the comic strip *Peanuts*, was a man who earned the respect and admiration of people around the world. He died on February 12, 2000, but his works are a powerful legacy, and they will endure for generations to come. Rich Pfeiffer, general manager at Pointe Frontier Retirement Community, recently sent me information that reveals insights into the philosophy of Schulz. Here it is:

You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just read straight through and you will get the point.

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 10 people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half-dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and best actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do? The point is: None of us remembers the headliners of yesterday. These are not 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.

Here is another quiz. See how you do on this one.

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 with whom you enjoy spending time.

Was that test easier? 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 who care.

And everyday, in the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles and in the work of Life Care at Home, our associates are making a difference in the lives of the residents they serve. In that sense, their philosophy and that of Charles Schulz line up exactly.

--Beecher Hunter