



2010

Sparky: The Life and Art of Charles Shulz

Debbie Barr

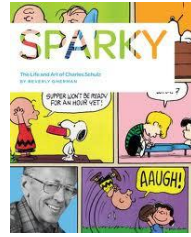
Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Barr, Debbie (2010) "Sparky: The Life and Art of Charles Shulz," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 31 : Iss. 2 , Article 14.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol31/iss2/14>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.



Gherman, Beverly. *Sparky: The Life and Art of Charles Schulz*. Chronicle Books, 2010. ISBN 9780811867900. \$16.99. 128 p.

Reviewer: Debbie Barr

Reading level: Primary, Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational books; Biographies;

Subject: Schulz, Charles M. (Charles Monroe), 1922-2000--Juvenile nonfiction;

Cartoonists--United States--Biography--Juvenile nonfiction; Books--Reviews;

Charles Schulz has charmed the hearts of Americans through fifty years of "Peanuts" comic strips. Not everyone knows the life of the man behind the comics. Raised in Minnesota, Schultz was nicknamed "Sparky" as a child and began drawing at an early age. His childhood was filled with the teasing, friends, and comics that later influenced his work. As he grew older he pursued art as a career, learning through correspondence school and submitting his drawings to magazines and papers. Eventually his strip, published as "Peanuts" (although he was not too fond of the title), produced a daily comic that became his career for over fifty years. Even when his health prevented him from working, "Peanuts" continued—and still continues—to be a source of humor, wisdom, and nostalgia for its readers.

Sparky: The Life and Art of Charles Schulz is the perfect tribute to the great comic strip artist. The pages are brightly colored, with many of photographs, drawings, and strips of "Peanuts" added into the mix. It is a slim volume, but does an excellent job of representing Schulz's life, especially the stories and aspects that affected the tales of Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and their friends. Readers will enjoy seeing the progression from "Lil' Folks" (the original name for the strip), into the comic that is so familiar and well-known today. Fans of Schulz, both young and old, will enjoy this fun and enlightening biography.

Volume 31, no. 2 (November/December 2010)