

~~SCHROEDER taps out the melody with one finger, like a toy piano sound.~~

~~LUCY. (Shouts) That's it!~~

~~SCHROEDER is blown off his seat.~~

~~CHARLIE BROWN and LINUS enter from stage left  
with the small tree and place it on the piano.~~

~~CHARLIE BROWN. We're back!~~

~~The KIDS and SNOOPY enter stage right and gather around,  
astounded at the sad little tree.~~

~~VIOLET. Boy, are you stupid, Charlie Brown.~~

~~PATTY. What kind of a tree is that?~~

~~LUCY. You were supposed to get a good tree.  
-Can't you even tell a good tree from a poor tree?~~

~~VIOLET. I told you he'd goof it up.  
-He's not the kind you can depend on to do anything right.~~

~~PATTY. You're hopeless, Charlie Brown.~~

~~FRIEDA. Completely hopeless.~~

~~CHARLIE BROWN. Rats.~~

~~LUCY. You've been dumb before, Charlie Brown.  
-But this time, you really did it. What a tree!~~

~~KIDS and SNOOPY laugh.~~

~~Finally, the KIDS stop laughing and exit stage left.~~

~~SNOOPY continues to laugh, then exits stage left.~~

~~LINUS approaches CHARLIE BROWN.~~

~~CHARLIE BROWN. I guess you were right, Linus.  
I shouldn't have picked this little tree.  
Every thing I do turns into a disaster.  
I guess I really don't know what Christmas is all about.  
(Unhinged) Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?~~

LINUS. Sure, Charlie, Brown. I can tell you what Christmas is all about.

LINUS walks to center stage, dragging his blanket.

Optional SFX: Add reverb to Linus's voice.

Lights, please?

*The lights dim. In a solo spot, LINUS begins telling his story.  
The KIDS enter quietly from stage left, one by one,  
and gather around the stage to listen.*

LINUS. (cont.) And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,  
keeping watch over their flock by night.  
And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,  
and the glory of the Lord shone round about them,  
and they were sore afraid.  
And the angel said unto them,  
"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy,  
which will be to all people.  
For unto you is born this day  
in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.  
And this shall be a sign unto you.  
Ye shall find the babe wrapped in  
swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."  
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude  
of the heavenly host praising God and saying,  
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

*LINUS picks up his blanket and approaches CHARLIE BROWN. SFX is off.*

That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

**END**

~~No. 7~~

~~After Linus' Message~~

~~(Orchestra)~~

~~CHARLIE BROWN picks up the little tree and walks downstage left  
to the corner of the stage, past the group of quiet KIDS.  
CHARLIE BROWN gazes up at the stars while  
remembering Linus's words.  
All of the KIDS exit stage right as  
CHARLIE BROWN crosses.  
KIDS push the piano off stage right.~~