



**Social Studies  
School Service**

[www.socialstudies.com](http://www.socialstudies.com)

## Downloadable Reproducible eBooks

Thank you for purchasing this eBook from  
[www.socialstudies.com](http://www.socialstudies.com) or [www.writingco.com](http://www.writingco.com).

---

To browse more eBook titles, visit  
<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebooks.html>

To learn more about eBooks, visit our help page at  
<http://www.socialstudies.com/ebookshelp.html>

For questions, please e-mail [eBooks@socialstudies.com](mailto:eBooks@socialstudies.com)

---

## Free E-mail Newsletter—Sign up Today!

To learn about new eBook and print titles, professional development resources, and catalogs in the mail, sign up for our monthly e-mail newsletter at  
<http://socialstudies.com/newsletter/>

Reflections:

*A Student Response Journal for...*

# *Flowers for Algernon*

*by Daniel Keyes*

Copyright © 2002 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.  
1-800-932-4593. [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com) Permission to copy this unit for  
classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. *This material,  
in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.*

ISBN-10 1-58049-933-3  
ISBN-13 978-158049-933-0  
Reorder No. 200756

---

*Flowers for Algernon*

## **T o T h e T e a c h e r**

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

For *Flowers for Algernon*, we also have these materials:

*Teaching Unit*  
*Book*

See our catalogue, visit our web site at [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com), or call 1-800-932-4593 for more information.

---

## *Response Journal*

### **To The Student**

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

# Class Record Sheet

Student Name						
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						
8.						
9.						
10.						
11.						
12.						
13.						
14.						
15.						
16.						
17.						
18.						
19.						
20.						
21.						
22.						
23.						
24.						
25.						

\_\_\_\_\_

## Response Sheet

Date\_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

## **progris riport 1**

1. In this first report, Charlie is following Dr. Strauss' instructions to write down, in the same way he talks, everything that happens to him. In one long paragraph, Charlie reveals many details about his life. He also reveals that he is a hard-working, optimistic, and agreeable person. Using the same format and style as Charlie does, write one paragraph revealing details about your life and about yourself.

## **progris riport 2**

2. Charlie patiently tries over and over again to see pictures in the inkblots. He wants to please Burt, and he wants to pass the test, but he cannot see any pictures in the ink. Write about a time you failed at something. How did you feel? How did you respond to your failure?

## **progris riport 3**

3. Charlie tells Professor Nemur that he tries to learn because "all my life I wantid to be smart and not dumb and my mom always tolld me to try and lern." For what reasons do you try to do your best in school? List the reasons, beginning with the most important ones.
4. Charlie muses about how Gimpy might react if Charlie became smarter. Imagine you could take a pill before going to sleep, which makes you a smarter person when you awake. Who would you like to surprise with your new intelligence? How do you envision this person's reaction to the new you?

## **progris riport 4**

5. Charlie loses ten races to Algernon. Consider how you might feel if a mouse seemed to be more intelligent than you. What do you think about the way Burt and the others are treating Charlie? Write a letter to Burt about ignoring Charlie's feelings. In the letter, make specific suggestions about how he might have conducted the experiment without humiliating Charlie.

## **progris riport 5**

6. In this progress report Charlie writes about a conversation between Professor Nemur, Burt, and Dr. Strauss. Re-write the conversation as a dialogue. It might begin as follows:

**Prof. Nemur:** I am worried about using Charlie for the experiment.

**Dr. Strauss:** He is the best candidate we have tested so far.

7. Animal rights groups protest some scientific experiments because they believe using animals for research is cruel and immoral. Assume there is a human rights group protesting the use of mentally handicapped humans in scientific experiments. What arguments might such a group make against utilizing Charlie?

## **progris riport 6**

8. Even though Charlie does not intend to be funny, his progress reports are sometimes humorous. Find an example of humor in this progress report. Write a brief paragraph to a classmate who doesn't get the humor explaining why the incident is funny.



## **PROGRESS REPORT 7**

9. Charlie writes in his progress report that “If your smart you can have lots of frends to talk to and you never get lonley by yourself all the time.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Write Charlie a letter explaining your point of view.
10. The scientific method is defined as a method of keeping careful records of all aspects of the experiment so that the results are reproducible. What scientific evidence is there in this chapter that the operation is successful? Write a brief, factual entry Burt might make on Charlie’s medical chart detailing his progress.

## **PROGRESS REPORT 8**

11. Charlie is impatient. Nothing is happening quickly enough for him. Have you ever felt this way? What would you say to Charlie to help him to deal with his frustration?
12. The other college students question why Charlie, who is obviously slow, is at the college. The experiment is a secret, so Charlie cannot explain why he is on campus, and Burt tells them that Charlie is cleaning the psychology department. Assume that the experiment is not a secret, that Charlie is a minor celebrity on the campus, and that all the other students know why he is there. Write a conversation Charlie might have with two other college students who meet him in the cafeteria. What questions might they ask Charlie? How would he answer those questions?
13. Dr. Strauss reveals to Charlie that Algernon is smarter than other mice because he also had the operation. Algernon appears to be remaining smart, so Dr. Strauss is hopeful that Algernon’s increased intelligence is permanent. Before undergoing a dangerous procedure, it is customary for a patient to be fully informed of the danger and to sign a waiver form releasing the doctors from any responsibility if the procedure fails. Write the waiver form Dr. Strauss should have had Charlie sign to be fully informed about the possible long-range effects of this operation.

---

## *Response Journal*

14. In a flashback, Charlie relates how he came to attend the Beekman College for retarded adults. Briefly describe how you felt on your first day of school. Write your story as a flashback in the same way Charlie tells his story.
15. Friends seem to be very important to Charlie. Even though his friends from the bakery play mean tricks on Charlie and laugh at him, he still considers them to be his friends. In one or two paragraphs describe an incident from your life, the movies, or a book you have read, when a group of friends amuse themselves by picking on or making fun of someone else.

## **PROGRESS REPORT 9**

16. Charlie learns what it means “to pull a Charlie Gordon,” and he feels ashamed. If you could talk to Charlie at this point in the story, what would you tell him about human nature?
17. Dr. Strauss says to Charlie, “The more intelligent you become the more problems you’ll have, Charlie.” State whether or not you agree or disagree with Dr. Strauss. Relate an incident from your life to support your answer.
18. Dr. Strauss and Professor Nemur have different definitions of intelligence. Professor Nemur says that I.Q. “was something that measured how intelligent you were,” but Dr. Strauss says that I.Q. “showed how much intelligence you could get.” Write your own definition of intelligence based on your life experiences. This can be a short sentence or you may expand on it.
19. Charlie is learning not to trust anyone, even Burt and Dr. Strauss. At the end of this progress report, Charlie wants to keep some of his reports private. Write one or two paragraphs on the importance of privacy in your life.

## **PROGRESS REPORT 10**

20. Gimpy is the only one at the bakery who shows Charlie some compassion. Compose a thank you letter from Charlie to Gimpy expressing Charlie's gratitude.
21. Charlie enjoys talking and listening to the college students. He writes, "Now I understand one of the important reasons for going to college and getting an education is to learn that the things you've believed in all your life aren't true, and that nothing is what it appears to be."

State whether or not you agree with Charlie's conclusion. Support your answer with experiences from your life, especially about obtaining new knowledge.

22. Rose wants Charlie to be like the other children. Her inability to accept Charlie the way he is causes pain for herself, Charlie, and her husband Matt. Have you even felt like someone important in your life refuses to accept you for who you are? Write a letter to Rose explaining to her how Charlie feels when she tries to mold him into someone he cannot become.

## **PROGRESS REPORT 11**

23. In this report Charlie, records how he feels on his first date with Alice Kinnian. At one point in his writing he says, "I was a blundering adolescent in her eyes, and she was trying to let me down easy." At the conclusion of the date, Charlie does not kiss her good night, but he regrets that decision. He writes, "But next time, I'm going to kiss her good night." Imagine you are an advice columnist in a newspaper. Charlie has written you a letter asking you for advice on how to behave on his next date with Alice Kinnian. How would you answer his letter?

---

## Response Journal

24. Charlie faces a moral dilemma when he realizes Gimpy is stealing from Mr. Donner. He does not want to get Gimpy into trouble, but he also cannot stand by and watch Gimpy steal from Mr. Donner. What is your opinion of Charlie's solution to the problem? What would you have done in a similar circumstance?
25. Alice Kinnian is reluctant to become romantically involved with Charlie for two reasons. First, she believes the involvement may be harmful to Charlie, who is still intellectually and emotionally developing. Secondly, she believes the involvement may end painfully for herself. Write a dialogue between Alice and her best girlfriend and confidant discussing the situation.
- Alice: I just don't want to hurt him or myself.
- Friend: But do you like him?
- Alice: Well...
26. Charlie has a hallucination when he tries to become sexually close to Alice. He writes, "I looked up to see a boy of fifteen or sixteen, crouching nearby. 'Hey!' I shouted. As he stood up, I saw his trousers were open and he was exposed." What can you infer about the identity of the boy Charlie imagines?
27. The following passages allude to the biblical story of Adam and Eve. God forbade them from eating fruit from the tree of knowledge:
- If you'd read your *Bible*, Charlie, you'd know that it's not meant for man to know more than was given to him to know by the Lord in the first place. The fruit of that tree was forbidden to man....It was evil when Adam and Eve ate from the *tree of knowledge*. It was evil when they saw they was naked, and learned about lust and shame. And they was driven out of Paradise and the gates was closed to them. If not for that none of us would have to grow old and be sick and die.

---

## *Flowers for Algernon*

In the form of a conversation between yourself and a classmate who does not understand, explain how this allusion applies to Charlie.

**Friend:** Huh? Charlie didn't eat anything to get smart.

**You:** That's not the point...

## **PROGRESS REPORT 12**

28. Clearly Matt and Rose disagree on how to raise their children. Write two paragraphs, one from Matt's point of view and the other from Rose's point of view, discussing their differing philosophies. Which one do feel is right? Why?
29. Charlie realizes that he no longer loves Alice. He writes, "I am just as far away from Alice with an I.Q. of 185 as I was when I had an I.Q. of 70." A couple can be separated by differences other than I.Q. For example, a couple may be incompatible because of different religious beliefs. What qualities do you look for in a romantic partner?

## **PROGRESS REPORT 13**

30. On his first airplane ride, Charlie is anxious about wearing the seat belt because he does not like to be strapped down. His anxiety over the seat belt triggers a childhood memory of his trips to see Dr. Guarino. Sometimes a childhood memory can be triggered by an object, like the seat belt, or by a smell, taste, sound, or image.

For example, whenever I see an electric train set, I remember playing with the elaborate train layouts my father constructed in our garage. I remember the sound of the train, the smoke from the engine, and the cute little conductor holding a lantern, who came out of the house whenever the train went by.

Write about a memory of yours that is sometimes triggered by everyday events.

---

## Response Journal

31. Matt and Rose often argue about Charlie. He does not understand the nature of the arguments, but he can feel the hostility, and he feels that somehow he is to blame for the conflicts. Write a letter to Matt and Rose from a child psychologist explaining to them why they should refrain from arguing in front of Charlie.
32. Even though Dr. Guarino took advantage of Matt and Rose, Charlie does not resent him because Dr. Guarino always treated Charlie like a human being, instead of like a guinea pig. Are you surprised by Charlie's feelings concerning Dr. Guarino? How might you feel under similar circumstances?
33. In this progress report, Charlie describes how he feels when he realizes Dr. Strauss and Professor Nemur are not supermen. He is frightened and he feels betrayed because they do not measure up to Charlie's expectations. It is not unusual for children to believe that their parents can do no wrong or that teachers know everything. Describe an experience in your life when someone you look up to disappoints you in this way.
34. Charlie defines the word "exceptional" as:  
a democratic term used to avoid the damning labels of *gifted* and *deprived* (which used to mean *bright* and *retarded*) and as soon as *exceptional* begins to mean anything to anyone they'll change it. The idea seems to be: Use an expression only as long as it doesn't mean anything to anybody.

Newscasters today use "politically correct" language in an attempt to avoid offending anyone. Instead of saying, "The mentally retarded child fell off the swing," today's newscaster would say, "The child, who attends a class for exceptional children, fell off the swing." Write a newscast covering the International Psychological Association. In this newscast discuss Charlie's experimental operation using politically correct language. If you wish, you can write the newscast as a parody, exaggerating the newscaster's use of "politically correct" terms.

---

*Flowers for Algernon*

35. Write a dialogue between two students discussing the appropriateness of the following metaphor describing Professor Nemur.

“Nemur’s fear of being revealed as a man walking on stilts among giants is understandable.”

**Student One:** Charlie is wrong. Nemur is no genius.

**Student Two:** That’s exactly what Charlie says. It means that...

36. During Nemur’s presentation to the International Psychological Association, Charlie has a flash of insight concerning Professor Nemur’s work. He writes,

Nemur’s conclusions had been premature. For both Algernon and myself, it would take more time to see if this change would stick. The professors had made a mistake, and no one else had caught it. I wanted to jump up and tell them, but I couldn’t move. Like Algernon, I found myself behind the mesh of the cage they had built around me.

Then, when Nemur introduces Charlie to the audience, Charlie opens Algernon’s cage and releases the white mouse. In the confusion, Charlie secretly catches Algernon, and he sneaks away from the convention.

Write the script for a talk show discussing Algernon’s escape. The guests on the talk show are Dr. Strauss, Professor Nemur, and Charlie. The following is a partial list of questions the host may ask. Be sure to answer each question as you believe the guest might answer.

- Charlie, you describe yourself in your writings as being like Algernon because you found yourself “behind the mesh of the cage they had built around me.” What is the nature of the cage you are describing? Who put you in that cage?
- Professor Nemur, toward the end of the experiments Algernon demonstrates what Burt described as “variable” behavior. Do you think Charlie is also demonstrating “variable” behavior by letting the mouse out of the cage?

---

## *Response Journal*

- Dr. Strauss, you are Charlie's analyst. How do you explain his recent behavior?
  - Charlie, how did you feel when you saw the video of yourself before the operation?
37. At the end of this progress report, Charlie understands that his increased intelligence may be temporary. Knowing this, the first action Charlie wants to take is to visit his parents as soon as possible. Why do you suppose that, in times of stress or danger, we want to have security of parents?

## **PROGRESS REPORT 14**

38. As Charlie's intelligence grows, his writing ability and his ability to express his feelings also increases. Read the following passage from the story. Rewrite it as Charlie might have described the scene before the operation. Be sure to delete the figurative language (metaphors, similes, etc.,) and try to misspell the words in the same way Charlie did in his first "progris riport."

I see back through the dissolving photograph, myself and father leaning over a bassinet. He's holding me by the hand and saying, "There she is. You mustn't touch her because she's very little, but when she gets bigger you'll have a sister to play with."

I see my mother in the huge bed nearby, bleached and pasty, arms limp on the orchid-figured comforter, raising her head anxiously. "Watch him, Matt –."

That was before she had changed towards me, and now I realize it was because she had no way of knowing yet if Norma would be like me or not. It was later on, when she was sure her prayers had been answered, and Norma showed all signs of normal intelligence, that my mother's voice began to sound different. Not only her voice, but her touch her look, her very presence—all changed. It is as if her magnetic poles had



---

## *Flowers for Algernon*

reversed and where they had once attracted now repelled. I see now that when Norma flowered in our garden I became a weed, allowed to exist only where I would not be seen, in corners and dark places.

39. Charlie remembers an incident when his parents are arguing about whether or not to send him away to live in the Warren Home. His father wants to keep him, but his mother wants to send him away to protect Norma. Write a short imaginary conversation between Matt and Rose discussing their hopes for Charlie before he is born and another one when they realize what his mental problems are.
40. Charlie is a grown man, yet he still seems to need his father's approval. He goes to his father's barber shop intending to reveal his true identity to his father, hoping that his father will be proud of Charlie's accomplishments. After spending time with his father, Charlie decides not to tell him the truth. Write the conversation Charlie and his father might have had if Matt had recognized Charlie. Before you write the dialogue, consider whether or not you believe Matt will give Charlie the approval he seeks.
41. One night Charlie and Fay get drunk. Under the influence of the alcohol, Charlie reverts to behaving as he did before the operation. He writes,
- Somehow, getting drunk had momentarily broken down the conscious barriers that kept the old Charlie Gordon hidden deep in my mind. As I suspected all along, he was not really gone. Nothing in our minds is ever really gone. The operation had covered him over with a veneer of education and culture, but emotionally he was there—watching and waiting.

Some critics believe this passage refers to the inner child all of us have buried within ourselves. The critics believe that under the right conditions, all of a man's childhood fears and emotional traumas surface. Do you agree or disagree with the critics? Cite an incident from your own life or a book to support your answer.

---

*Response Journal*

42. Charlie goes to the movies because he wants to be with other people. Have you ever experienced a similar feeling of connection with people you do not know? Write a poem about a time when you felt the same connection to strangers that Charlie has at the movies.
43. Charlie gains some insight into himself and into the world after he leaves the restaurant where the customers are laughing at a man who breaks a cup. The retarded man reminds Charlie of himself before the operation. He writes,
- Even in my dullness I knew I was inferior. Other people  
had something I lacked—something denied me. In my mental  
blindness, I had believed it was somehow connected with the  
ability to read and write, and I was sure that if I could get those  
skills I would have intelligence too.
- Even a feeble-minded man wants to be like other men.  
A child may not know how to feed itself, or what to eat, yet  
it knows hunger.

Write about an experience from your life, a scene from a movie you have watched, or an incident from a novel you have read which helped you to gain insight into yourself. Be sure to state what you learned about yourself in the same way Charlie does at the end of the above excerpt.

44. Charlie writes the following about his relationship with Fay, “I have never met anyone as open and trusting as Fay is. She’s what I need most of all right now. I’ve been starved for simple human contact.”
- Have you ever known anyone who reminds you of Fay? What qualities does that person have in common with Fay?
45. At the end of the progress report, Charlie decides he must take Algernon back to the lab because of Algernon’s erratic behavior. Charlie does not describe how he feels about the changes he observes in Algernon. His writings about this subject are objective and scientific. Write about how you think Charlie is feeling when he observes Algernon’s behavior. What might Algernon’s behavior foreshadow about Charlie’s future?

## **PROGRESS REPORT 15**

46. A metaphor is defined as a comparison of two things that are basically dissimilar but are brought together in order to create a sharp image. Write a conversation between yourself and a classmate discussing the metaphor in the following passage. What two dissimilar things are brought together? What does the metaphor reveal to the reader about Charlie's future?

Although we know the end of the maze holds death (and it is something I have not always known—long ago the adolescent in me thought death could happen only to other people), I see now that the path I choose through that maze makes me what I am, I am not only a thing, but also a way of being—one of many ways—and knowing the paths I have followed and the ones left to take will help me understand what I am becoming.

47. Charlie believes that his time as an intelligent man is limited. His feelings can be compared to a man who knows he is soon going to die. Suppose you knew you were going to die soon. What would you do with the time remaining to you?
48. Charlie asks to visit the Warren State Home and Training School. Why do you think he does this? If you were in his place, would you want to know more about your future? Why or why not?

## **PROGRESS REPORT 16**

49. On the surface, Alice seems to be very understanding concerning Charlie's relationship with Fay. Do you find her attitude believable? Write a diary entry Alice might have made after first meeting Fay in Charlie's apartment.

---

## *Response Journal*

50. Charlie is disturbed by Algernon's erratic behavior. He is determined to discover why the experiment is failing. He writes,

If I can find that out, and if it adds even one jot of information to whatever else has been discovered about mental retardation and the possibility of helping others like myself, I will be satisfied. Whatever happens to me, I will have lived a thousand normal lives by what I might add to others not yet born.

What is your definition of courage? Of a hero? Write an editorial for a newspaper proposing that Charlie be nominated for some sort of award like Man of the Year.

51. Charlie is totally absorbed in his work. He writes that for him, "Life and work are the most wonderful things a man can have." In a short paragraph write about what you find to be the "most wonderful" thing you can have in your life.

52. Charlie decides to take some time away from his work to go to a cocktail party. He writes,

I've got to take my mind off the problem for a while and let it stew. I've gone as far as I can on a conscious level, and now it's up to those mysterious operations below the level of awareness. It's one of those inexplicable things, how everything I've learned and experienced is brought to bear on the problem. Pushing too hard will only make things freeze up. How many great problems have gone unsolved because men didn't know enough, or have enough faith in the creative process and in themselves, to let go for the whole mind to work at it?

Most of us have experienced what Charlie is referring to in this excerpt. Sometimes I find that taking a short walk in the sunshine helps me to gain insight into my work. Write about a time in your life when you needed to remove yourself from a problem or a situation in order to come up with a solution.

---

*Flowers for Algernon*

53. Charlie goes into the bathroom at Professor Nemur's home because he is too drunk to control himself. He splashes cool water on his face and sees the old Charlie in the bathroom mirror. The old Charlie cannot speak to the new Charlie. He can only smile and nod his head. On the way out of the bathroom, new Charlie believes he saw the old Charlie reach out his hand.

Write a short dialogue between the two Charlies. What do you think old Charlie would say to new Charlie if he could speak? What lessons does old Charlie have to teach new Charlie?

54. After Algernon dies, Charlie takes his body home, buries him in the back yard, and places flowers on his grave. Why do you suppose he does this?
55. Charlie decides to visit his mother. As he approaches his home he notices Rose outside washing windows. He observes that she is, "always working to show the neighbors what a good wife and mother she was. The most important thing had always been what other people thought—appearances before herself or her family."

Have you even know someone like Rose, who is overly concerned about what people think? Briefly describe this person and how you felt about him/her.

56. Charlie is happy that he finally went to see his mother. He writes, I wanted to see her smiling and know I had been the one to make her happy. For the first time in my life, I had brought a smile to her lips.

Write about a time you did something to bring a smile to your mother's or father's face.

57. Rose is old and confused, but she does understand that Charlie is no longer slow. Her first reaction is that she wants to tell "everyone"—the teachers at his old school, Uncle Herman, and her husband. Have you ever felt like Rose when you heard some good news? Write about a time you very much wanted to share your good news with someone else. How did that person react to your news? Was telling the news to someone as much fun as you anticipated? Why or why not?
-

---

*Response Journal*

58. Write a letter from Charlie explaining to Norma why her behavior described in the following excerpt is ironic:

I'm glad. She doesn't remember much these days. It's old age—senility. Dr. Portman wants me to put her into a nursing home, but I can't do it. I can't stand to think of her in one of those institutions....I just can't do that to my own mother.

59. Charlie asks Norma about some of his childhood memories. He wants to verify the accuracy of his memories. Write about a time you discussed a childhood experience with your brother, sister, or parent. Did you both recall the incident in the same way?

60. Rose misinterprets when she sees Norma in Charlie's arms. She accuses Charlie of touching his sister inappropriately and of having a dirty mind. Charlie writes about how he and Norma felt:

We both jumped back, and for some insane reason, I felt guilty, as if I had been caught doing something wrong, and I knew Norma felt the same way. It was as if my mother's accusation had made it true, that we were doing something obscene.

Norma and Charlie feel guilty about something they did not do. Describe a time in your life when you may have felt the same kind of "innocent" guilt.

61. Charlie wonders if he ever did anything to Norma to justify Rose's fears. He concludes that, "Whatever the truth is, I must not hate Rose for protecting Norma. I must understand the way she saw it. Unless I forgive her, I will have nothing."

Charlie believes that forgiveness is very important. Do you agree? Write a short letter to Charlie discussing your views on forgiveness.

62. Charlie is crying as he leaves his mother's house to return to his car. Why do you suppose he reacts this way to seeing his mother and sister?

## PROGRESS REPORT 17

63. Charlie has thoughts of suicide, but decides against ending his own life because he sees the image of the old Charlie waiting at the window. He does not think that he has the right to throw the old Charlie's life away. The new Charlie recognizes and values the old Charlie as a person.

What is your opinion of legalizing assisted suicide for terminally ill patients who are living in emotional or physical pain? What might Charlie say on the subject?

64. In Dr. Strauss' office Charlie has a strange dream or hallucination. He describes it as follows:

Charlie is drawing me down into myself. I stare inward in the center of my unseeing eye at the red spot that transforms itself into a multipetaled flower—the shimmering, swirling, luminescent flower that lies deep in the core of my unconscious.

I am shrinking. Not in the sense of the atoms of my body becoming closer and more dense, but a fusion—as the atoms of my-self merge into microcosm. There will be great heat and unbearable light—the hell within hell—but I don't look at the light, only at the flower, unmultiplying, undividing itself back from the many toward one. And for an instant the shimmering flower turns into the golden disk twirling on a string, and then to the bubble of swirling rainbows, and finally I am back in the cave where everything is quiet and a dark and I swim the wet labyrinth searching for one to receive me...embrace me...absorb me...into itself.

Some critics believe that Charlie is describing his death. Others believe he is describing the merging of the new Charlie with the old Charlie. What is your opinion on the meaning of Charlie's hallucination?

65. Charlie spends hours watching the television. He understands that he is wasting his time, but he continues to watch because it is important for him not to think about his past. Television is an escape for Charlie. Most of us have some form of escape that helps us to cope with the problems in our lives. Do you think it is acceptable to escape like that?

---

*Response Journal*

66. Charlie writes, “Why am I always looking at life through a window?”

Almost everyone at some time or another feels like an outsider. Write a letter to Charlie describing a time when you also felt like you were looking at life through a window.

67. Gimp, Joe and Frank all defend Charlie when Klaus picks on him. Write a letter from one of the men at the bakery to Klaus explaining to him why he must not laugh at or tease Charlie.

68. Charlie mistakenly goes to Miss Kinnian’s class at the adult center and sits in his old seat. He describes, from his point of view, how he feels when Miss Kinnian starts to cry and leaves the class. Write a short paragraph describing the same scene from her point of view.

69. At the end of the story, Charlie does retain some of his memories. He remembers his family and he realizes that he is a real person. He knows that he did something important for science and the world. He also remembers the meaning of making a “Charlie Gordon.” Considering all Charlie endures in this story and the few memories he retains, do you think Dr. Strauss and Professor Nemur were correct when they decided to try the operation on a human? Defend your opinion. What guidelines do you think scientists should adhere to before trying out new scientific theories on humans?

70. In your opinion, was Charlie happier before or after the operation increased his intelligence? Write a letter from Charlie to Dr. Strauss and Professor Nemur answering this question.



## **Test**

1. Dr. Strauss and Professor Nemur argue over whether or not to select Charlie for the experiment. Dr. Strauss believes Charlie is the best candidate because
  - A. Charlie has the highest IQ of all of the other candidates.
  - B. of all the candidates for the experiment, Charlie is the most highly motivated to learn.
  - C. Charlie is clever enough to beat Algernon in the maze race.
  - D. Charlie wants friends.
  - E. A, B, and C
  
2. Charlie does not fully understand what is going to happen to him during the operation. What evidence is there that Charlie is afraid?
  - A. Charlie refuses to eat anything before the surgery.
  - B. Charlie insists on saying a prayer with Alice before he is wheeled into surgery.
  - C. Charlie has his lucky rabbit's foot and his lucky penny clutched in his hands.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
  
3. Which of the following incidents illustrates that the experimental operation to increase Charlie's IQ is successful?
  - A. Charlie begins to understand how to use grammar.
  - B. Charlie comes to understand what it means to "pull a Charlie Gordon."
  - C. Charlie correctly operates the dough machine at the bakery.
  - D. He gets a date with Alice.
  - E. A, B, and C

---

*Response Journal*

4. Dr. Strauss says to Charlie, "The more intelligent you become the more problems you'll have." Which of the following incidents from Charlie's life helps to prove the truth of this statement?
    - A. Charlie's friends at the bakery get Charlie fired from his job.
    - B. Charlie must decide whether or not to tell Mr. Donner that Gimpy is stealing from the bakery.
    - C. Burt refuses to permit Charlie to see Algernon.
    - D. Both A and B
    - E. A, B, and C
  
  5. Rose refuses to accept Charlie's disability because
    - A. she feels guilty for giving birth to an abnormal child.
    - B. she worries constantly about what the neighbors and teachers will think.
    - C. there are doctors like Dr. Guarino who tell her a cure is possible.
    - D. Both A and B
    - E. A, B, and C
  
  6. Charlie feels betrayed by Dr. Strauss and by Professor Nemurs when
    - A. he discovers that Algernon's performance is becoming variable.
    - B. he discovers they taped his early interviews.
    - C. he realizes that Alice reports every detail of their personal relationship.
    - D. Both A and B
    - E. None of the above
  
  7. At the International Psychological Association meeting Charlie is surprised to learn that
    - A. at the peak of his intelligence, Algernon's behavior and ability to complete the mazes became variable.
    - B. his early performance tests in the laboratory, when he raced Algernon, were filmed.
    - C. Charlie both Dr. Strauss and Professor Nemur are not "supermen." They are ignorant of the latest papers and whole areas of study in their own fields.
    - D. Both A and B
    - E. A, B, and C
-

---

*Flowers for Algernon*

8. The author's style of writing advances the story by
  - A. using simpler language to demonstrate Charlie's decline in intelligence.
  - B. using misspelled words to show Charlie's level of retardation.
  - C. increasing the length of the reports as Charlie's intelligence increases.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
9. Charlie recognizes that his increased intelligence is beginning to erode. What actions or changes does he take in his life?
  - A. Charlie moves into a new apartment away from Dr. Stauss, Professor Nemur, and Alice.
  - B. Charlie decides it is time for him to visit his mother.
  - C. Charlie steals Algernon.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
10. Charlie puts flowers on Algernon's grave because
  - A. he wants the world to remember the sacrifice Algernon made in the name of science.
  - B. he wants to acknowledge that Algernon is more than a scientific experiment; he is a living creature who deserves respect.
  - C. he knows that doing so annoys Professor Nemur.
  - D. he is afraid he will forget where Algernon is buried. If there are flowers, then Charlie will always be able to find the grave.
  - E. Burt tells him that is the right thing to do.
11. Charlie is fascinated by Fay because
  - A. she is much older and more experienced than Charlie.
  - B. she reminds him of Alice.
  - C. she is different from anyone else he has ever known.
  - D. she reminds him of Norma.
  - E. A, B, and C

---

*Response Journal*

12. Charlie goes to the movies because
- A. he needs to be around other people.
  - B. he is hiding from Dr. Strauss.
  - C. he has fond memories of movie theaters because his father use to take him to the movies.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
13. Charlie visits the Warren State Home and Training School because
- A. he learns that should the experiment fail, Dr. Strauss and Dr. Nemur have made arrangements for Charlie to live at the Home for the remainder of his life. He wants to survey the Home before his intelligence level drops and it is too late for him to make other arrangements.
  - B. he needs to be with others like himself.
  - C. Alice encourages him to see that other retarded adults live happy lives.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
14. When Alice learns about Charlie's sexual relationship with Fay, she
- A. is extremely jealous.
  - B. makes an appointment to meet with Fay to tell her about Charlie's unique history.
  - C. is very understanding.
  - D. calls Fay names.
  - E. A, B, and C
15. Charlie returns to the laboratory with Algernon because
- A. Charlie is disturbed by Algernon's erratic behavior.
  - B. he wants to discover why the experiment is failing.
  - C. Algernon misses Burt.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C

---

*Flowers for Algernon*

16. Charlie decides to take some time away from his work at the laboratory to go to a cocktail party because
- A. he wants to let his unconscious mind work on the problem for a while.
  - B. he knows that Alice will be there.
  - C. he wants to meet Mrs. Nemur.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
17. How would you describe Charlie's behavior during his visit with Rose and Norma?
- A. loving.
  - B. forgiving.
  - C. anguished.
  - D. impatient.
  - E. rude.
18. As his intelligence deteriorates, Charlie
- A. spends hours watching television.
  - B. goes to the library hoping that if he continues to read books, then he will not forget how to read.
  - C. resumes his affair with Fay.
  - D. admires Nemur and Strauss anyway.
  - E. Both A and B
19. Charlie decides to move to the Warren Home because
- A. he wants to live with other people who are like him.
  - B. he does not want anyone to feel sorry for him.
  - C. Joe is picking on him at work.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C
20. At the end of the story, Charlie
- A. remembers his family.
  - B. realizes that he is a real person.
  - C. knows that he did something important for science and the world.
  - D. Both A and B
  - E. A, B, and C

**Test**  
**Student Answer Sheet**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

11. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

13. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

14. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

16. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

17. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

18. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

19. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

20. \_\_\_\_\_

---

## *Response Journal*

### **An Annotated Bibliography on Response Journals**

#### **Response Journals: Inviting Students to Think and Write Literature**

By Julie Wollman-Bonilla

This slim volume covers the how and why of having students keep response journals. From defending your choice to use response journals as a part of your writing and literature class, to techniques for assessing the impact of response journals.

ISBN: 0590491377 \$12.95

Publisher: Scholastic

#### **Old Faithful: 18 Writers Present Their Favorite Writing Assignments**

Edited by Christopher Edgar and Ron Padgett

Creative writers and teachers describe their single best writing assignment—the one that never fails to inspire students.

ISBN: 0915924455 \$14.95

Publisher: Teachers and Writers Collaborative

#### **Journal Jumpstarts: Quick Topics and Tips for Journal Writing**

By Patricia Woodward and Patricia Howard

Contains over 400 writing topics that appeal to young people.

ISBN: 0939791366 \$7.95

Publisher: Cottonwood Press

#### **Journal Keeping with Young People**

By Barbara A. Steiner and Kathleen C. Phillips

A great deal of useful information pertaining to Response Journals is contained in this book's 80 pages.

ISBN: 0872878724 \$12.95

Publisher: Teacher Ideas Press

#### **Idea Catcher for Kids: An Inspiring Journal for Young Writers**

By Bill Zimmerman

Hundreds of creative writing prompts, including prompts written by students responding to Mr. Zimmerman's previous book, *A Book of Questions*.

ISBN: 0316120200 \$9.99

Publisher: Little, Brown & Company

**Test  
Answer Key**

1.   B  

2.   C  

3.   E  

4.   D  

5.   E  

6.   D  

7.   E  

8.   E  

9.   E  

10.  B  

11.   C  

12.   A  

13.   A  

14.   C  

15.   D  

16.   A  

17.   B  

18.   E  

19.   D  

20.   E



# The Perfect Balance Between Cost and Quality for Classic Paperbacks

WITH ALL OF THE DIFFERENT EDITIONS of classics available, what makes *Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Classics™* better?

Our editions were designed by former teachers with the needs of teachers and students in mind. Because we've struggled to stretch tight budgets and had to deal with the deficiencies of cheaply made paperbacks, we've produced high-quality trade editions at remarkably low prices. As a result, our editions have it all.

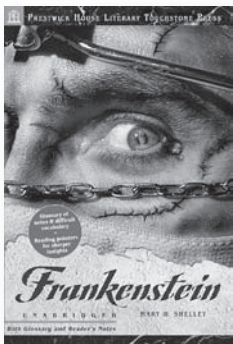
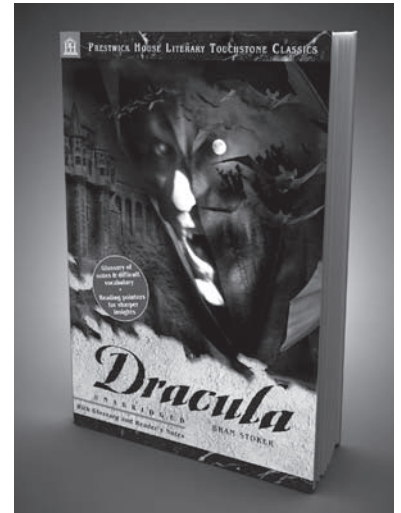
**Value Pricing** – With our extraordinary Educators' Discount, you get these books at **50% or more off the list price.**

**Reading Pointers for Sharper Insights** – Concise notes that encourage students to question and consider points of plot, theme, characterization, and style, etc.

**Glossary and Vocabulary** – An A-to-Z glossary makes sure that your students won't get lost in difficult allusions or archaic vocabulary and concepts.

**Sturdy Bindings and High-Quality Paper** – High-quality construction ensures these editions hold up to heavy, repeated use.

**Strategies for Understanding Shakespeare** – Each *Shakespeare Literary Touchstone Classic™* contains line numbers, margin notes, and a guide to understanding Shakespeare's language, as well as key strategies for getting the most from the plays.



## Special Introductory Discount for Educators only – At Least 50% Off!

New titles are constantly being added; call or visit our website for current listing.

	Retail Price	Intro.	Discount
200053..... <i>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> - Twain TU RJ AT AP	\$4.99	\$2.49	
200473..... <i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The</i> - Twain TU RJ AT	\$4.99	\$2.49	
202116..... <i>Alice's Adventure in Wonderland</i> - Carroll TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99	
202118..... <i>Antigone</i> - Sophocles TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99	
200141..... <i>Awakening, The</i> - Chopin TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99	
202111..... <i>Beowulf</i> - Roberts (ed.) TU	\$3.99	\$1.99	
204866..... <i>Best of Poe, The: The Tell-Tale Heart, The Raven, The Cask of Amontillado, and 30 Others</i> - Poe	\$4.99	\$2.49	
200150..... <i>Call of the Wild, The</i> - London TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99	
200348..... <i>Canterbury Tales</i> - Chaucer TU	\$3.99	\$1.99	
200179..... <i>Christmas Carol, A</i> - Dickens TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99	
201198..... <i>Crime and Punishment</i> - Dostoyevsky TU	\$6.99	\$3.49	
200694..... <i>Doll's House, A</i> - Ibsen TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99	
200190..... <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> - Stevenson TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99	

202113..... <i>Dracula</i> - Stoker TU RJ	\$5.99	\$2.99
200166..... <i>Ethan Frome</i> - Wharton TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200054..... <i>Frankenstein</i> - Shelley TU RJ AT AP	\$4.99	\$1.99
202112..... <i>Great Expectations</i> - Dickens TU RJ AT AP	\$5.99	\$2.99
202108..... <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> - Swift TU	\$4.99	\$2.49
200091..... <i>Hamlet</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99
200074..... <i>Heart of Darkness</i> - Conrad TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
202117..... <i>Hound of the Baskervilles, The</i> - Doyle TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200147..... <i>Importance of Being Earnest, The</i> - Wilde TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
301414..... <i>Invisible Man, The</i> - Wells TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
202115..... <i>Jane Eyre</i> - Brontë TU RJ	\$6.99	\$3.49
200146..... <i>Julius Caesar</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
201817..... <i>Jungle, The</i> - Sinclair TU RJ AT	\$5.99	\$2.99
200125..... <i>Macbeth</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99
204864..... <i>Medea</i> - Euripides TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200133..... <i>Metamorphosis, The</i> - Kafka TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
200081..... <i>Midsummer Night's Dream, A</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
202123..... <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
301391..... <i>My Antonia</i> - Cather TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
200079..... <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> - Douglass TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
301269..... <i>Odyssey, The</i> - Butler (trans.) TU RJ AT	\$4.99	\$2.49
200564..... <i>Oedipus Rex</i> - Sophocles TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200095..... <i>Othello</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT AP	\$3.99	\$1.99
202121..... <i>Picture of Dorian Gray, The</i> - Wilde TU RJ	\$4.99	\$2.49
200368..... <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> - Austen TU RJ AT	\$4.99	\$2.49
202114..... <i>Prince, The</i> - Machavelli TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200791..... <i>Pygmalion</i> - Shaw TU	\$3.99	\$1.99
200102..... <i>Red Badge of Courage, The</i> - Crane TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200193..... <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$0.99
200132..... <i>Scarlet Letter, The</i> - Hawthorne TU AT AP	\$4.99	\$2.49
202119..... <i>Siddhartha</i> - Hesse TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
204863..... <i>Silas Marner</i> - Eliot TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
200251..... <i>Tale of Two Cities, A</i> - Dickens AT AP	\$5.99	\$2.99
200231..... <i>Taming of the Shrew, The</i> - Shakespeare TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
204865..... <i>Time Machine, The</i> - Wells TU RJ AT	\$3.99	\$1.99
202120..... <i>Treasure Island</i> - Stevenson TU RJ	\$4.99	\$2.49
301420..... <i>War of the Worlds</i> - Wells TU RJ	\$3.99	\$1.99
202122..... <i>Wuthering Heights</i> - Brontë TU AT	\$5.99	\$2.99

TU Teaching Units RJ Response Journals AT Activity Pack AP AP Teaching Units



PRESTWICK HOUSE, INC.

"Everything for the English Classroom!"

P.O. Box 658 • Clayton, DE 19938 • (800) 932-4593 • (888) 718-9333 • [www.prestwickhouse.com](http://www.prestwickhouse.com)



## Order Form

*Prestwick House, Inc.*  
P.O. Box 658  
Clayton, DE 19938

School:	
Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Phone:	Email:

[illegible]

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Check or Money Order Enclosed</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Purchase Order Enclosed</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Card <input type="checkbox"/> American Express		We accept purchase orders and authorized orders charged to institutions. Personal orders not on a credit card must be accompanied by a check.	
Signature _____			
Telephone # _____		Exp. Date _____	
Credit Card # _____			

- Overnight Air
- 2nd day air
- 3 Day Select

Because charges for air delivery are based on weight and distance, heavy packages can be expensive to ship air freight. Typographic and photographic errors are subject to revision. Prestwick House is the sole source of all proprietary materials listed in this catalogue. Please be sure to include a street address. FedEx ground/UPS will not deliver to a P.O. Box.