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INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PACKET/TEACHING UNIT

Flowers for Algernon

DANIEL KEYES



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Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Flowers for Algernon

by Daniel Keyes

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Flowers for Algernon

Terms and Definitions

Science Fiction - a genre of literature that deals with the combination of scientific knowledge and imagination. Examples: *War of the Worlds*; *Star Wars*

Narrator - the one who tells the story. If the narrator is a character in the book, the term is first-person narration. (Example: *Moby Dick* is narrated by Ishmael, a crew member). If the narrator is not a character, the term is third-person narration. (Example: *Sense and Sensibility*).

Flashback - a scene that interrupts the ongoing action in a story to show an event that happened earlier.

Allusion - a reference to a person, place, poem, book, event, or movie outside of the story that the author expects the reader will recognize. Example: In *The Glass Menagerie*, Tom speaks of "Chamberlain's umbrella," a reference to the British Prime Minister.

Metaphor - a comparison of two things that are basically dissimilar but are brought together in order to create a sharp image. Example: The moon, a haunting lantern, shone through the clouds.

Symbol - an object, person, or place that has a meaning in itself and that also stands for something larger than itself, usually an idea or concept; some concrete thing which represents an abstraction. Example: The sea could be symbolic for "the unknown;" since the sea is something which is physical and can be seen by the reader, but has elements which cannot be understood, it can be used *symbolically* to stand for the abstraction of "mystery," "obscurity," or "the unknown."

Foreshadowing - the use of hints or clues in a story to suggest what action is to come. Foreshadowing is frequently used to create interest and build suspense.

Style - the way an author chooses and uses words, phrases, and sentences to tell the story. For example, in an action/adventure story, the author may use simple words and short, choppy sentences, because this style moves the story along quickly. But in a story about a college professor, the same author may choose to use polysyllabic, unfamiliar words and long, convoluted sentences

Theme - the central or dominant idea behind the story; the most important aspect that emerges from how the book treats its subject. Sometimes theme is easy to see, but, at other times, it may be more difficult. Theme is usually expressed indirectly, as an element the reader must figure out. It is a universal statement about humanity, rather than a simple statement dealing with plot or characters in the story. Themes are generally hinted at through different devices: a phrase or quotation that introduces the novel, a recurring element in the book, or an observation made that is reinforced through plot, dialogue, or characters. It must be emphasized that not all works of literature have themes in them.

In a story about a man who is diagnosed with cancer and, through medicine and will-power, returns to his former occupation, the theme might be: "real courage is demonstrated through internal bravery and perseverance." In a poem about a flower that grows, blooms, and dies, the theme might be: "youth fades and death comes to all."

Loss of Innocence - a story in which the child or young adult is living a blissfully happy life, innocent of any real evil or hardship. This innocence is shattered, however, by what the character observes or experiences; this experience changes the character.

Example: Robert in *A Day No Pigs Would Die*.

Euphemism - substituting a milder word or phrase for one that might be offensive or too harsh. Examples: "passed away" for "died"; "previously owned" for "used"

Flowers for Algernon

Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. distinguish between first-person narrative and third-person narrative and comment on the advantages of each.
2. support that *Flowers for Algernon* is a loss of innocence novel by referring to incidents in the text.
3. trace how the author's style of writing changes from simple to complex as the main character's intelligence grows or decreases.
4. recognize the following literary devices and point out examples of each in the story:
 - allusion
 - foreshadowing
 - flashback
 - euphemism
5. find examples of the projected scientific advances in the novel that leads readers to conclude that this is a science fiction novel.
6. define "symbol" and discuss how light and a knife are used as symbols in the story.
7. comment on the significance of the title and how the title applies to the theme that making a lasting contribution to the betterment of mankind may validate one's life.
8. discuss the issue of human experimentation as it applies to the main character .
9. list the qualities that Charlie believes make a human life valuable:
 - in the beginning of the story before the operation.
 - at the height of his intelligence.
 - when he accepts his ultimate fate.
10. point out examples of metaphors found in this novel.

11. discuss the following generalizations about intelligence:
 - It is better to have friends than to be intelligent.
 - The more intelligent people become, the more problems they will have.
12. explain why we may infer that success is its own reward and needs no other compensation or motivation for both Algernon and Charlie.
13. Associate the names of characters in the story with concepts that give additional connotations to the names:
 - Rose • Matt • Norma
 - Donner • Frank • Ernie
 - Strauss • Nemur

Flowers for Algernon

Notes

This novel is a collection of progress reports, almost a diary, written by the main character, who is the subject of an experiment designed to increase human intelligence. The novel, an enlargement of a popular science fiction short story, takes place in modern times and critically evaluates the hypothesis that intelligent humans are better, happier people and lead better lives than their less-intelligent counterparts.

All references come from the Bantam Books edition of *Flowers for Algernon*, published 1975.

Note to teacher: There are various references to sex and sexual behavior in *Flowers for Algernon*; they are dealt with sensitively and are an essential part of the story.

Flowers for Algernon

Questions for Discussion and Essay

1. Support the idea that this novel is a coming-of-age book even though the main character is thirty-two years old.
2. This story was originally published as a short story. What do you think may have been added to make it a novel?
3. Why does Charlie's doctor think it is important for him to remember childhood?
4. Why do you think this story is told in first-person narrative, revealing to the reader the inner thoughts and motivations of only one character?
5. Do you think it is ethical for the doctors to experiment on Charlie? How do they justify their decision to operate? What does the mentally-advanced Charlie think about his role as a laboratory animal?
6. What emotions do you as the reader feel when Charlie's spelling begins to deteriorate and his diary entries get shorter? At what point in the story does the reader understand that he will not retain his increased intelligence?
7. Support the following statement: A knife represents the power that someone close to Charlie has to hurt him.
8. What does the light in the cave represent to Charlie? Support the following statement: Charlie is more afraid of wasting his life than he is of dying.
9. Support or refute the idea that *Flowers for Algernon* suggests that the quality of a person's life is not determined by intellectual level but by personal connection to other humans.
10. What is the "scientific method"? Are the proposed scientific advancements in the novel believable and interesting?
11. Why does Charlie insist on burying Algernon and wanting flowers on the mouse's grave? Relate the novel's title to a major theme in the book.

12. Discuss the following ideas of themes raised in the novel:

- The more intelligent people become, the more problems they will have.
- Humans must understand their past to be emotionally healthy in the present and future.
- To grow intellectually, a person must question everything because, often, things are not what they first appear to be.
- A human who is successful needs no other reward or motivation.
- The unconscious mind works with the conscious mind to solve problems unless stopped by panic and worry.
- It is better to have friends than to be intelligent.

13. Define the following terms and point out examples of them from the novel:

- allusion
- foreshadowing
- flashback
- symbol
- metaphor

Flowers for Algernon

Test

Answer Key

1.	D	6.	A	11.	B	16.	B
2.	E	7.	D	12.	B	17.	D
3.	B	8.	A	13.	C	18.	D
4.	A	9.	D	14.	C	19.	B
5.	C	10.	E	15.	D	20.	D

Flowers for Algernon

Test

1. Charlie wants to do well on the inkblot test because
 - A. Charlie wants Burt to like him and be his friend.
 - B. he does not want to disappoint Miss Kinnian.
 - C. his mother has told him to be smart and he wants to please her.
 - D. he wants the doctors to make him smart.
2. “Strange about learning; the farther I go the more I see that I never knew even existed.” This passage is an example of
 - A. first-person narrative.
 - B. paradox.
 - C. metaphor.
 - D. allusion.
 - E. Both A and B
3. The doctors believe it is ethical to operate on Charlie
 - A. because they get his sister’s permission.
 - B. to advance science in the field of increasing human intelligence.
 - C. because he is trying so hard to learn and better himself.
 - D. to improve his miserable life in the bakery.
4. Frank, Joe, and Gimpy first start to dislike Charlie when he
 - A. spoils their joke and correctly operates the dough machine.
 - B. catches Gimpy stealing from Mr. Donner.
 - C. will not let them poke fun at him anymore.
 - D. decides to learn to read and goes to the school for retarded adults.
5. Professor Nemur will not let Charlie tell his friends about the operation because
 - A. he thinks they will treat Charlie differently, thus altering the results of the experiment.
 - B. they are Charlie’s friends and will object to his being used as a laboratory animal.
 - C. he is worried about his reputation if the experiment fails.
 - D. Both A and B.
6. Charlie is eager to have the operation because he thinks it will
 - A. make him smart enough to talk politics with Joe, Frank, and Gimpy.
 - B. help him to learn about God.
 - C. get him a date with Ms. Kinnian.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.

7. Which of the following incidents are told as flashbacks?
 - A. Charlie's encounter with Harriet
 - B. the time Gimpy first tries to teach Charlie how to make rolls
 - C. his sister not getting to have a dog
 - D. A, B, and C
 - E. Both A and B
8. Charlie is unable to have a sexual relationship with Alice because
 - A. he associates her with his mother and sister.
 - B. she is his teacher and it makes him uncomfortable.
 - C. he realizes he does not love her as much as he loves Fay.
 - D. she pulls away from him when she finds out about his affair with Fay.
9. 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. A, B, and C.
10. Charlie feels betrayed by Dr. Strauss and Prof. Nemur when
 - A. he discovers that Algernon's performance is becoming variable.
 - B. he discovers they have taped his early interviews.
 - C. they refuse to stop making Algernon work for his food.
 - D. Nemur refuses to see the old Charlie as a real person.
 - E. Both A and B.
11. Charlie's disillusionment with Dr. Nemur, his separation from Fay, and his difficulty relating to his sister all illustrate the following theme:
 - A. It is better to have friends than to be intelligent.
 - B. The more intelligent people become, the more problems they will have.
 - C. Human experimentation is unethical and should be banned.
 - D. Even intelligent people must mature slowly.
12. Which of the following is not a negative side effect of the experiment?
 - A. Charlie may have erratic behavior because of the surgery itself and the subsequent hormones.
 - B. Charlie has learned about his family and his childhood.
 - C. It is possible Charlie will have emotional problems as well as mental retardation.
 - D. His I.Q. may be at a lower level than before the operation.

13. Charlie does not commit suicide when he realizes his increase in intelligence is reversing itself because he
- A. needs to visit his mother and find a way to forgive her.
 - B. quickly loses the ability to understand the idea of suicide.
 - C. believes his life really belongs to the old Charlie and he does not have a right to take it away.
 - D. sees Algernon's dead body and it scares him.
14. The knives in the story are symbols representing
- A. Charlie's cut or loss in intelligence.
 - B. Charlie's family's dysfunction.
 - C. the power people close to him have to hurt him.
 - D. the pain Charlie feels over Algernon's death.
15. Ultimately, Charlie decides to move to Warren
- A. to be with others like himself.
 - B. because everyone at the bakery feels sorry for him.
 - C. because Fay is frightened of him and he does not want to be the cause of anyone's pain.
 - D. Both A and B.
16. The opening and closing of the flower is used to symbolize
- A. the life and death of Algernon.
 - B. the growing and diminishing of Charlie's intelligence.
 - C. the love that blooms and dies between Charlie and Alice.
 - D. the hopes and fears of Charlie's mother.
17. The title, *Flowers for Algernon*, represents
- A. Charlie's feelings of sorrow at the death of the mouse.
 - B. Charlie's feelings of sorrow at the ultimate diminishing of his own intelligence.
 - C. the cycle of life with its joy and sorrow.
 - D. Both A and B.
 - E. A, B, and C.
18. This novel is considered science fiction because
- A. we do not really experiment on human subjects, and even animal experimentation is limited.
 - B. increasing human intelligence through surgery is silly.
 - C. the plot line is totally unbelievable.
 - D. it presents plausible scientific advancements as real events.

19. At the end of the novel, Charlie
 - A. retains the ability to read but lacks comprehension skills.
 - B. knows he is a real person.
 - C. develops a strong dislike for Professor Nemur.
 - D. forgets what it means to pull a “Charlie Gordon.”
20. 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. A, B, and C.

Essays

(Answer any two)

1. Use events from the novel to prove or disprove Rose’s belief that her prayers have been answered.

“My prayers – all these years I thought He didn’t hear me, but He was listening all the time, just waiting His own good time to do His will.”
2. Charlie begins the story mentally retarded and ends the story mentally retarded. This book, though, is considered to be an example of a loss-of-innocence story. Support the idea by relating events in the story that change the character forever.
3. Use events from the novel to prove or disprove the following statement:

Success is its own reward and needs no other compensation or motivation.
4. Many people today question the morality of human experimentation. Do you think Charlie is better off before or after the surgery? Support your answer by comparing Charlie’s life before the operation with his life as an intelligent adult.

Flowers for Algernon

Study Guide Teacher's Copy

progris riport 1 martch 3

1. In this first report, several characters in the story are identified. Briefly describe Charlie Gordon, Miss Kinnian, and Mr. Donner.

Charlie Gordon - He is thirty two years old, works at a bakery, and goes to a college center for slow adults.

Miss Kinnian - She is Charlie's teacher at the college center.

Mr. Donner - He is Charlie's boss at the bakery.

2. Why is Charlie writing the progress reports?

He wants to be selected as a subject in an experiment to make him smarter.

progris riport 2-martch 4

1. What information about Professor Nemur, Burt, and Dr. Strauss can be inferred by this report?

Professor Nemur - He is a psychologist and senior member of the project team to increase human intelligence.

Burt - He works for Nemur in the psychology department.

Strauss - He is a psychiatrist and neurosurgeon working with the others on the project

2. Why can Charlie not relax during the inkblot test?

He is afraid Burt will hurt him, and he is worried about failing the test.

3. How does Charlie react when he does not see anything in the inkblots, and it is clear he is going to fail the test?

Charlie continues to try to please Burt. He says he needs glasses, tries to get Burt to tell him what is on the cards, and closes his eyes to try to imagine something in the ink blot.

4. What evidence is there that Charlie frustrates Burt?

Burt breaks the point of his pencil.

3rd progress report

1. Briefly identify Uncle Herman, Gimpy, and Norma.

Uncle Herman - He is deceased and the only relative Charlie remembers.

Gimpy - He works at the bakery with Charlie and walks with a limp.

Norma - She is Charlie's younger sister.

2. Why does Charlie want to be smart?

His mother has always told him to try to learn, so all of his life he has tried to learn.

3. Who recommends Charlie for the experiment? Why is he recommended?

Miss Kinnian recommends Charlie because he is the best student at the "beekmin collidge center for retarded adults." (Pg. 1)

4. Why do they want to know where Charlie's family lives?

They need the family's permission for the experiment. Charlie is not considered competent to make that decision.

progress report 4

1. Why will Charlie not make up stories about the people in the pictures?

He thinks making up stories is lying, and he will not lie.

2. How does he try to continue the test?

He says he will make up stories about a picture he keeps in his wallet of his uncle and little sister. Since he knows them, he will not be lying.

3. Why do you suppose it is important that Charlie learns to do the mazes?

They are probably going to use them to measure his progress if he is accepted for the experiment.

4. How does Charlie feel about Algernon? Why is he not upset about losing to the mouse?

He thinks Algernon is a smart mouse. Charlie is not upset about losing because he feels Algernon is smarter than he is.

5. What form of narrative is used in this novel?

This novel is told in first-person narrative.

progris riport 5 mar 6

1. List the reasons Charlie is considered a good candidate for the surgery.

He is motivated to learn, has a good nature, is not dull or apathetic, and is not hostile.

2. List the objections to selecting Charlie.

Dr. Nemur is worried Charlie will get sick because of the large increase in I.Q.

3. What are the dangers to Charlie from the surgery?

While there are no physical dangers, it might not work at all. Or if it does work, it may be only temporary and leave him worse off than he is.

4. How do the doctors justify experimenting on Charlie?

They believe he will be making a great contribution to science.

progris riport 6th Mar 8

1. What is Charlie's definition of science?

He thinks it is something that will bring him good luck like his rabbit's foot and lucky penny.

2. Why is Miss Kinnian nervous?

She likes Charlie and feels responsible because she recommended him for the experiment.

3. Do you think it is fair to Charlie that he must keep this operation a secret from his co-workers? Why?

While answers will vary, it might be pointed out that it does not seem fair, because these are his friends. He needs their support, and it is not right to lie to friends.

4. What new reason does Charlie reveal about his desire to be smart?

He wants lots of friends who like him.

PROGRESS REPORT 7 MARCH 11

1. What surprises Charlie about the operation?

They do it while he is asleep.

2. What is the scientific method?

The scientific method involves keeping careful records of all aspects of the experiment so the results are reproducible.

3. Does Charlie demonstrate any evidence of increased intelligence soon after the operation?

He remembers how to spell “progress report” properly.

4. What kind of information do the doctors want in Charlie’s reports?

They want him to include how he feels and anything he remembers from the past.

5. Why does Hilda want Charlie to “pray to God to ask him to forgive what they done to me”?

She thinks it is sinful to try to change God’s will. If God wants Charlie to be retarded, science should not try to make him smart.

6. List two new reasons Charlie wants to be smart.

He wants to learn where babies come from, and he wants to talk about politics with Joe, Frank, and Gimp.

PROGRESS REPORT 8

1. Describe the change in Charlie's attitude.

He is becoming impatient with his progress, the tests, and his inability to beat Algernon.

2. Why is Professor Nemur worried about publicity?

He wants to protect his reputation if the experiment fails.

3. What secret is revealed about Algernon?

He is three times smarter than before because he also had the operation.

4. Why does Mr. Donner employ Charlie?

He had promised Uncle Herman to watch out for Charlie.

5. Define a "Charlie Gordon."

A "Charlie Gordon" is a stupid mistake.

6. What evidence is there that Charlie is getting smarter?

He is talking more with Mr. Donner and has asked to become a baker's assistant. He is also beginning to question authority by asking the purpose of the night time learning machine, and he is beginning to remember his family. Finally, he beats Algernon.

7. A flashback is a scene that interrupts the ongoing action in a story to show an event that happens earlier. Find an example of flashback.

Answers may vary. Example: Charlie remembers why he first went to Beekman College.

8. Why does he fall asleep in therapy?

He is tired because of the learning TV, which keeps him up at night.

9. Why does Charlie want to visit Norma?

He is sorry she got punished for being mean to him.

10. Find an example of an allusion. Explain how it is an allusion.

Charlie and Ms. Kinnian read Robinson Crusoe. Both Charlie and Crusoe spend their lives apart and isolated from the rest of humanity. Both are rescued, but it is only a temporary one for Charlie.

PROGRESS REPORT 9

1. Why are Frank and Joe mad at Charlie?

They are angry because Charlie makes them look foolish when he correctly works the dough machine. They are trying to make him look ridiculous, but instead he makes them feel foolish. In addition, they do not get the day off work.

2. Why does Charlie's memory about his sister make him feel bad?

His mother thinks he is too dumb to touch the baby.

3. How does Charlie reach a "plateau"?

Charlie reaches a plateau when the grammar comes together in his mind, and he understands how to use punctuation.

4. Why does Charlie feel sick?

He realizes that Frank and Gimpie are making fun of him and understand the meaning of "pulling a Charlie Gordon." He is also unable to handle the sexual awareness stimulated by dancing with Ellen.

5. Draw a generalization from this story based on Dr. Strauss' advice to Charlie.

The more intelligent people become, the more problems they will have. Humans must understand their past to be emotionally healthy in the present and future.

6. How does Charlie feel when Dr. Strauss explains his wet dream?

He gets cold and sweaty, has a buzzing in his head, and feels sick.

7. What are Dr. Strauss' and Professor Nemur's definitions of I.Q?

Nemur says it is a measure of how intelligent someone is. Strauss, however, says it is a measure of how intelligent one can become.

8. Define free-association.

It is a method of breaking down the barriers between the conscious and subconscious mind. Charlie is to think about his dream while allowing his mind to wander. This is supposed to help him understand his dreams.

9. Why does Charlie dream about Miss Kinnian and then, through free-association, remember the incident with Harriet?

Charlie has a crush on Miss Kinnian.

10. Why do you suppose Charlie finds that "...anger and suspicion were my first reactions to the world around me"? (Pg. 41)

Charlie is extremely frustrated because the test Burt administers seems completely different from what he remembers Burt giving previously. Charlie also remembers being tricked and laughed at by other children and his coworkers. He is now aware of these behaviors, angry that he has been subjected to them, and on guard for any further attempts to humiliate him.

PROGRESS REPORT 10

1. What type of narrative is used on page 43? Why?

Third-person narrative is used. Charlie becomes the narrator relating a flashback about the slower Charlie. The more-intelligent Charlie can see the old Charlie as separate from the new one. This unwillingness to accept his former life will haunt Charlie until he recognizes that, in personality, the two are one.

2. Why do you think Gimpy wants Charlie to learn to make rolls and gives him the shiny disc even though he fails?

Gimpy limps, thus the name Gimpy. Since he has a disability, he is sympathetic to Charlie's limitations and understands being ridiculed for something that is out of his control.

3. Why is Charlie frightened by the argument between Nemur and Strauss, regarding attending the convention?

He realizes they do not know everything after all, as he had previously thought.

4. State a theme for this novel based on Charlie's conversations with the college students.

To grow intellectually, a person must question everything because often things are not what they first appear.

5. What does his mother take away from him in the following passage?

"It is soft and warm and he feels the confusion of relief and fear. It is his, but she will take it away from him as she always does."

He soils his pants out of fear and a lack of ability to use the toilet on his own. Young children frequently desire to keep their waste, rather than lose it in the toilet. Charlie, therefore, is hurt by losing what he wants, by the shame of soiling his pants, and by his mother's spanking him.

6. How does the author reflect the personality of the following characters by their names:

Charlie's Family:

- Rose – *had been nice to Charlie before his sister was born, but hurts him afterwards (a rose with thorns)*
- Matt – *treated like a doormat by Rose*
- Norma – *normal*

Charlie's Co-workers:

- Donner – *donated a job for Charlie*
- Frank – *is not frank at all; lies to Charlie*
- Ernie – *earns money as an apprentice*

Charlie's doctors:

- Strauss – *has lots of stress in his life*
- Nemur – *always needs more out of Charlie and his own accomplishments*

PROGRESS REPORT 11

1. Why does Alice believe their relationship might “have a negative effect”?

Charlie has no experience with male-female relationships, and she is concerned about rushing his emotional growth. She is his teacher, and she thinks he needs to see other women. In addition, he will soon be above her intellectual level.

2. Define Charlie’s problem at the bakery. What solutions are offered by Professor Nemur and Dr. Strauss?

Charlie knows Gimpy is cheating Mr. Donner. He does not want to tell Mr. Donner and get Gimpy fired, but he also cannot stand by and let Mr. Donner be robbed. Dr. Strauss tells Charlie he is morally obligated to tell Mr. Donner. Professor Nemur, though, advises Charlie to stay out of it and be an innocent bystander.

3. Why is Gimpy angry at Charlie after he solves the problem at the bakery without getting Gimpy fired?

Gimpy feels betrayed by Charlie because he had stood up for Charlie when the others teased him.

4. Why will the professors at the college not discuss their areas of study with Charlie?

Charlie knows more about the subjects, and the professors are afraid to appear ignorant.

5. Who do you think Charlie sees in his hallucination at the park?

While answers may vary, some may say Charlie sees himself before the operation.

6. Find an example of an allusion when Charlie tries to convince his co-workers to let him keep his job.

There is a reference to the Bible, specifically the story of Adam and Eve and the Tree of Knowledge.

7. Why does Charlie want so desperately to stay at the bakery?

It is the only place he has ever worked and, without it, he is alone.

8. Find an example of a metaphor and a simile on the May 25 progress report.

“You’re a new swimmer forced off a diving raft and terrified of losing the solid wood under your feet.” I’m like an animal who’s been locked out of his nice, safe cage.” (Pg. 77)

9. Which flashback of sexual experiences do you think is the root of Charlie's problem? Why?

Charlie's problem began with the beatings from his mother for having an erection. She made him feel dirty and bad for a perfectly normal occurrence.

PROGRESS REPORT 12

1. How has "language [become] a barrier instead of a pathway"? (Pg. 79)

His vocabulary is above the heads of most people, who do not understand what he is saying.

2. Describe how Charlie's power of recall is growing beyond the limits of most people.

He has times of intense clarity when he knows he will be able to recall a past event clearly. He is able to reach the memory with the power of his mind. Soon, he thinks he will be able to use all of the resources of his brain at will.

3. Why does Norma not want to share the dog with Charlie?

She thinks the dog will like him better than her.

4. How do you think Charlie feels about his sister?

He loves his sister. He wishes that she could have had the dog and that he had not interfered with it in any way.

5. Why is Alice uncomfortable around Charlie?

She cannot keep up with his conversation because his I.Q. is now much higher. He is as much above her now as she was above him before the operation.

6. Why does she not want to go to the conference in Chicago?

She thinks she will be in the way.

7. Find an example of a simile and a metaphor in the same sentence of the June 8 report.

"...and I sat quietly as one sits before a bird that feeds from your palm." (Pg. 89)

8. Why does Charlie decide to take the woman from the park back to his room?

He wants to see if he can overcome his anxiety symptoms and have sex like a normal man.

9. What is the “double image” Charlie sees when the woman opens her coat?

The woman is pregnant. First, Charlie sees the woman who exposed herself to him during a delivery. The second image is the one he sees in his mind of his mother expecting his baby sister.

10. Why do you think Charlie almost wants the mob to catch him?

He still feels sex is wrong, and he needs to be punished for thinking about having sex with the woman.

PROGRESS REPORT 13

1. How do Charlie and his parents feel about God?

Charlie thinks of God as a distant uncle, an unreal figure. His mother is afraid of God, and his father never talks about Him.

2. Why does Rose insist on taking Charlie to doctors? Why does Matt resist?

Rose refuses to accept Charlie's disability and the fact that she gave birth to an abnormal child. Matt wants to stop wasting money on doctors, money he wants to use to open his own barber shop.

3. Despite the terror of being strapped to a table, why does Charlie like Dr. Guarino?

He praises Charlie and treats him like a human being.

4. Why does Charlie resent Professor Nemur?

The professor insists on treating Charlie like an experiment instead of as a human being.

5. How does Charlie's kind gesture toward the professor backfire?

Charlie knows the professor is jealous of all the attention the other scientists are paying to him, so, he directs a question to the professor. The nice gesture backfires when Charlie asks the professor the question, and it is apparent Charlie knows more than the professor.

6. Why does Burt defend Professor Nemur?

He respects Nemur's dedication and drive to do great work.

7. What euphemism is used to describe Charlie's mental state, both before and after the operation.

The term is "exceptional," which is a euphemism for "gifted" and also for "retarded." Charlie has been mentally challenged and is now gifted, so he has always been exceptional.

8. What two pieces of information are withheld from Charlie?

At the peak of his intelligence, Algernon's performance becomes "variable," and sometimes he refuses to work. (Pg. 110) Additionally, the staff never told Charlie his early interviews were being filmed.

9. Why does Charlie want to stop Nemur and "get up and show everyone what a fool he was, to shout at him"? (Pg. 112)

Professor Nemur tells the audience that Charlie virtually did not exist before the experiment. Charlie wants to shout that he is a person, with parents and a life before the operation.

10. Explain the mistake Charlie finds in the statistical analysis of the waiting period.

The scientists base their results on waiting periods for dull or normally intelligent animals. They neglect to compensate for the difference Charlie's extreme intelligence will make in the waiting period. It will take much longer before they know if the results are permanent, so the announcement of success at the conference is premature.

11. Why must Charlie see his parents as soon as possible?

His increased intelligence may be temporary; if he wants to see them, it needs to be soon.

12. Support or refute the following statement:

Charlie lets Algernon out of his cage only as a distraction, so he can avoid speaking at the conference.

Answers will vary. Examples:

Charlie takes Algernon so he can watch Algernon to see if the mouse begins to lose intelligence. Another possibility is that he takes Algernon so the mouse will not have to solve problems for his dinner. Charlie does not want Algernon to have to perform either.

PROGRESS REPORT 14

1. Why did Rose change toward Charlie and begin to reject him?

She changed once she knew Norma was of normal intelligence.

2. Why is Charlie isolating himself from Alice and the doctors?

He needs time to think and to rediscover his past. He wants to learn about himself.

3. Describe Fay Lillman.

She is a divorced painter who keeps a very messy apartment; she is a blonde with blue eyes but is “not exactly beautiful.” (Pg. 123)

4. Foreshadowing is the use of hints or clue in a story to suggest what action is to come. Find an example that may be foreshadowing in this section.

Answers may vary. Example: “Her voice, her eyes—everything about her was an invitation. And she lived out the window and just a fire escape away.” (Pg. 126)

5. Why is Charlie excited to see Matt?

He has warm memories of his father’s always defending him and of his willingness to accept Charlie as he is.

6. Do you think Rose really intends to harm Charlie with the knife?

Answers may vary.

Example: Matt knows her very well, and he thinks she is capable of harming the boy. He demonstrates that by taking Charlie away immediately, even though it is late at night.

7. Why does Charlie not reveal his identity to his father?

Matt does not recognize Charlie, and he is worried his heightened intelligence will make Matt feel diminished.

8. Algernon does mazes for Charlie without the motivation of a tangible reward, such as food or water. Using this idea, state a theme for this novel.

Someone who is successful needs no other reward or motivation.

9. What does Charlie learn about his unconscious mind by getting drunk with Fay?

Charlie learns that the old Charlie is still in his mind. The drinking brings the past to the surface again.

10. Why does Charlie go to the movies and "...brush against someone and sense the connection between the branch and trunk and the deep root"? (Pg. 137)

He is looking for human contact. When he brushes up against someone, he feels he belongs and is part of the human race.

11. How does the following quotation from this section apply to Charlie before the operation? "A child may not know how to feed itself, or what to eat, yet it knows hunger." (Pg. 139)

Charlie laughs when others make fun of him because he wants to be like them. He does not know how to be like them, or what to do to change himself, but he does know he wants to be accepted.

12. Why can Charlie not make love to Alice? How does he plan to solve the problem? Is he successful?

Charlie cannot make love to Alice because the old Charlie, who is afraid of sex, will not let him. He thinks he can fool the old Charlie by pretending Alice is Fay. Unfortunately, his conscience will not let him implement his plan.

13. Why is Charlie returning to the Foundation?

Since he has lived as a retarded adult and as a normal adult, he is the best equipped person to do research in the field of increasing human intelligence.

14. Where is the old Charlie when Charlie first makes love with Fay?

He is on the fire escape, watching.

15. Why does Charlie take Algernon back to the lab?

He is behaving strangely. Minnie is afraid of him, and he bites Fay.

16. Support or refute the following statement:

The old Charlie stops watching Charlie and Fay because their relationship is of no importance.

Answers will vary. Examples:

The statement is untrue. Their relationship is important because Fay gives Charlie the human contact he craves. She is open, trusting, and generous. It is also possible that the statement is true because Charlie is not in love with Fay.

PROGRESS REPORT 15

1. If the experiment fails, list the negative effects which may make returning Charlie to the bakery unlikely.

First, there may be problems from the surgery and the subsequent hormones. Next, Charlie may experience emotional difficulties to complicate the retardation. Finally, he may regress to a lower I.Q. level than before and be unable to function at the bakery.

2. State a theme for this novel suggested in the following quotation:

“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.” (Pg. 154)

A person’s past experiences and future plans determine what the person becomes today.

3. Describe Algernon’s mental deterioration in the time he is away from the laboratory.

He is unable to figure out simple patterns, such as going through every third door.

4. How does Charlie feel about the plans to send him to Warren Home if the experiment fails? How does Professor Nemur feel? Justify your answer with references to the book.

Answers will vary.

Charlie feels going to Warren is like dying. He thinks “Warren was the logical place—the deep freeze where I could be put away for the rest of my days.” (Pg. 153) The deep freeze in the laboratory is where the dead animals are stored.

Professor Nemur is nervous about telling Charlie about Warren and upset with the idea of his visiting the hospital. “I could see he was upset about the idea of my visiting Warren. As if I were ordering my coffin to sit in before I died.” (Pg. 153)

PROGRESS REPORT 16

1. Why do the patients at Warren, who have escaped to the outside, usually return to the hospital on their own?

“The world doesn’t want them, and they soon know it.” (Pg. 156)

2. Briefly identify the personnel at the Warren State Home and Training School.

Winslow - He is the head psychologist. He is a young man with a strong character.

Thelma - She is a nurse who works there because she is needed.

The principal - She is a motherly type of person, neat and efficient.

The shop teacher - He teaches woodworking and stutters.

3. Why does Charlie think all of these people come to work at Warren?

“Each had found a fulfillment in giving away a part of himself to those who had less.” (Pg. 161)

4. What does Alice have against Fay?

Fay drinks with Charlie and keeps him from his work.

5. How does Alice know that Charlie is not emotionally involved with Fay?

He has not told her the truth about himself, and he does not experience panic when they make love.

6. What is the comparison in the following metaphor?

“A monkey sitting in the center of his cage, staring at me out of sleepy eyes, rubbing his cheeks with little old-man shriveled hands...and bouncing off the cage wire, up to the swing overhead where the other monkey sits...he swings and tries to grab the other monkey’s tail, but the one on the bar keeps swishing it away.” (Pgs. 165-166)

Charlie feels he is no different from the monkey. Charlie’s climb out of mental retardation to the level of normal humans and beyond can be compared to the monkey’s trying to reach the monkey on the swing. Charlie is trying unsuccessfully to figure out if the experiment will fail just as the monkey is trying unsuccessfully to catch the swinging tail.

7. Do you think Charlie expects to discover how to retain his increased intelligence?

Answers may vary. Example: Either answer, yes or no, fits, but he does want to make a significant contribution to the field of increasing human intelligence.

8. State a theme for this novel using the following quotation:

“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?” (Pg. 168)

The unconscious mind works with the conscious mind to solve problems unless stopped by panic and worry.

9. In what way does the new Charlie believe he is better off before the operation than he is now?

Before the operation he has friends.

10. State a theme for this novel using the following quotation:

“the mind absorbed in and involved in itself as a self-centered end, to the exclusion of human relationships, can only lead to violence and pain.” (Pgs. 173-174)

Relationships are essential to human existence, so the search for knowledge must not interfere with these relationships.

11. What does the old Charlie want from the new Charlie? Why is the new Charlie unable to give it to him?

The slow Charlie wants his life back the way it was before the operation. The new Charlie refuses to give up his intelligence without a struggle. He is determined to make a significant contribution to the world.

12. What is the Algernon-Gordon Effect?

The Algernon-Gordon Effect is the name Charlie gives to the process of mental deterioration which will inevitably follow after an animal or human’s intelligence is artificially increased. The greater the increase in intelligence, the more rapid the decline.

13. Do you think Charlie will decline below his original intelligence level? Support your answer with ideas from the novel.

Answers will vary. Example: Algernon's autopsy shows a mouse brain well below normal. Since Charlie and Algernon have had the same operation, Charlie's brain will deteriorate below its original level, too. The opposite answer would include the opinion that since Charlie is not a mouse, there is no real evidence his retardation will be more severe than before the operation.

14. What does Charlie want from his mother when he finally goes to see her?

He wants to see her smile because she is pleased with him.

15. How much of Charlie's story does Rose understand?

She realizes that he is her son and that he is no longer retarded. However, it is clear that she is not fully able intellectually. She seems to have the beginning stages of Alzheimer's disease.

16. Why does Charlie not tell Norma the truth about his condition?

Answers may vary. Example: Although she is no longer a spoiled brat, he does not think she will treat him nicely if she knows the truth.

17. In the following quotation, what does the knife symbolize to Charlie?

"She had a knife, and Alice had a knife, and my father had a knife, and Dr. Strauss had a knife." (Pg. 192)

The knife symbolizes the power someone has to hurt Charlie. People Charlie loves like his mother, father, and Alice have the power to hurt him. His mother chases him away with a knife, his father does not recognize him, and Alice will not want him when he becomes retarded again.

PROGRESS REPORT 17

1. How many months pass from the date of the operation to the beginning of this report?

Eight months.

2. Why does Charlie not commit suicide?

He believes his life belongs to the old Charlie and is not his to take.

3. Find a metaphor in the hallucination Charlie experiences in Dr. Strauss' office.

Answers may vary. Example: The flower opening and closing is a metaphor for his intelligence growing and diminishing.

4. What does the light in the cave symbolize?

Answers will vary. Example: It is the light of knowledge. Possibly, it is the light of God and the ultimate knowledge of life after death.

5. Why is Charlie afraid to go to the light?

He is not afraid of the light, or dying, but is afraid of wasting his life.

6. How does the following quotation link Charlie to Algernon?

"I know how important it is, and I've got to do it. I've told myself I won't have dinner until I sit down and write something—anything." (Pg. 199)

Charlie will not eat until he writes a report just as Algernon solves mazes to get food.

7. Find a metaphor on page 201.

Answers may vary. Example: Charlie compares his rise and drop in intelligence to an elevator.

8. Knowing he cannot stop the deterioration, what does Charlie pray for?

He prays to hold onto at least some of the things he has learned.

9. How is Alice's presence both good and bad for Charlie?

Answers will vary. Example: She helps him finally know love, and that is good for Charlie, but her presence makes it difficult to accept the inevitable deterioration of his mind. She makes him want to fight.

10. Why does Charlie watch hours of television?

Television keeps him from remembering the past. It keeps him from thinking.

11. In what way does Alice begin acting like Charlie's mother?

She pushes him to be normal by pretending he understands things beyond his mental level.

12. How does Charlie feel about Mrs. Mooney's help?

He knows she is coming because Dr. Strauss or Alice has asked her to keep an eye on him and bring him meals, but he thinks she is kind.

13. Find an example of allusion in the entry for November 1.

He writes about Don Quixote and his slaying of windmills.

14. How is Charlie trying to slow the deterioration?

He thinks he may retain something if he learns something new each day.

15. Why does Charlie tell himself not to be sore if the men at the bakery make fun of him?

He knows that they are not as smart as he once thought. He also knows that if they make fun of him they also like him.

16. How does Charlie react to Klaus' threat to break his arm? How do Charlie's coworkers react?

Charlie wets his pants. Joe, Frank, and Gimpsey defend Charlie because they are his friends.

17. Why does Charlie ultimately decide to go to the Warren Home?

He does not want anyone to feel sorry for him. He believes the men at the bakery and Alice all feel sorry for him, so he wants to live where there are people like him.

18. What does Charlie retain about his life after the operation?

He remembers his family and realizes he is a real person. He knows he has done something important for science and he knows more about the world. He also remembers the meaning of making a “Charlie Gordon.”

19. State a theme for this novel based on the P.S. at the end of the last progress report.

It is better to have friends than to be intelligent.

20. Why do you think Charlie wants flowers on Algernon’s grave?

Answers will vary. Example: He wants others to remember both Charlie and Algernon. He wants to celebrate their lives and the significant contributions to science each has made. It is also symbolic of Charlie’s intellectual and possible physical death.

Flowers for Algernon

Study Guide Student Copy

progris riport 1 martch 3

1. In this first report, several characters in the story are identified. Briefly describe Charlie Gordon, Miss Kinnian, and Mr. Donner.
2. Why is Charlie writing the progress reports?

progris riport 2–martch 4

1. What information about Professor Nemur, Burt, and Dr. Strauss can be inferred by this report?
2. Why can Charlie not relax during the inkblot test?
3. How does Charlie react when he does not see anything in the inkblots, and it is clear he is going to fail the test?
4. What evidence is there that Charlie frustrates Burt?

3rd progris riport

1. Briefly identify Uncle Herman, Gimpy, and Norma.
2. Why does Charlie want to be smart?
3. Who recommends Charlie for the experiment? Why is he recommended?
4. Why do they want to know where Charlie's family lives?

progris riport 4

1. Why will Charlie not make up stories about the people in the pictures?
2. How does he try to continue the test?
3. Why do you suppose it is important that Charlie learns to do the mazes?
4. How does Charlie feel about Algernon? Why is he not upset about losing to the mouse?
5. What form of narrative is used in this novel?

progris riport 5 mar 6

1. List the reasons Charlie is considered a good candidate for the surgery.
2. List the objections to selecting Charlie.
3. What are the dangers to Charlie from the surgery?
4. How do the doctors justify experimenting on Charlie?

progris riport 6th Mar 8

1. What is Charlie's definition of science?
2. Why is Miss Kinnian nervous?
3. Do you think it is fair to Charlie that he must keep this operation a secret from his co-workers? Why?
4. What new reason does Charlie reveal about his desire to be smart?

PROGRESS REPORT 7 MARCH 11

1. What surprises Charlie about the operation?
2. What is the scientific method?
3. Does Charlie demonstrate any evidence of increased intelligence soon after the operation?
4. What kind of information do the doctors want in Charlie's reports?
5. Why does Hilda want Charlie to "pray to God to ask him to forgive what they done to me"?
6. List two new reasons Charlie wants to be smart.

PROGRESS REPORT 8

1. Describe the change in Charlie's attitude.
2. Why is Professor Nemur worried about publicity?
3. What secret is revealed about Algernon?
4. Why does Mr. Donner employ Charlie?
5. Define a "Charlie Gordon."
6. What evidence is there that Charlie is getting smarter?
7. A flashback is a scene that interrupts the ongoing action in a story to show an event that happens earlier. Find an example of flashback.

8. Why does he fall asleep in therapy?
9. Why does Charlie want to visit Norma?
10. Find an example of an allusion. Explain how it is an allusion.

PROGRESS REPORT 9

1. Why are Frank and Joe mad at Charlie?
2. Why does Charlie's memory about his sister make him feel bad?
3. How does Charlie reach a "plateau"?
4. Why does Charlie feel sick?
5. Draw a generalization from this story based on Dr. Strauss' advice to Charlie.
6. How does Charlie feel when Dr. Strauss explains his wet dream?
7. What are Dr. Strauss' and Professor Nemur's definitions of I.Q?

8. Define free-association.
9. Why does Charlie dream about Miss Kinnian and then, through free-association, remember the incident with Harriet?
10. Why do you suppose Charlie finds that "...anger and suspicion were my first reactions to the world around me"? (Pg. 41)

PROGRESS REPORT 10

1. What type of narrative is used on page 43? Why?
2. Why do you think Gimpy wants Charlie to learn to make rolls and gives him the shiny disc even though he fails?
3. Why is Charlie frightened by the argument between Nemur and Strauss, regarding attending the convention?
4. State a theme for this novel based on Charlie's conversations with the college students.
5. What does his mother take away from him in the following passage?

“It is soft and warm and he feels the confusion of relief and fear. It is his, but she will take it away from him as she always does.”

6. How does the author reflect the personality of the following characters by their names:

Charlie's Family:

- Rose –
- Matt –
- Norma –

Charlie's Co-workers:

- Donner –
- Frank –
- Ernie –

Charlie's doctors:

- Strauss –
- Nemur –

PROGRESS REPORT 11

1. Why does Alice believe their relationship might “have a negative effect”?
2. Define Charlie’s problem at the bakery. What solutions are offered by Professor Nemur and Dr. Strauss?
3. Why is Gimpy angry at Charlie after he solves the problem at the bakery without getting Gimpy fired?
4. Why will the professors at the college not discuss their areas of study with Charlie?
5. Who do you think Charlie sees in his hallucination at the park?
6. Find an example of an allusion when Charlie tries to convince his co-workers to let him keep his job.
7. Why does Charlie want so desperately to stay at the bakery?

8. Find an example of a metaphor and a simile on the May 25 progress report.
9. Which flashback of sexual experiences do you think is the root of Charlie's problem? Why?

PROGRESS REPORT 12

1. How has “language [become] a barrier instead of a pathway”? (Pg. 79)
2. Describe how Charlie’s power of recall is growing beyond the limits of most people.
3. Why does Norma not want to share the dog with Charlie?
4. How do you think Charlie feels about his sister?
5. Why is Alice uncomfortable around Charlie?
6. Why does she not want to go to the conference in Chicago?
7. Find an example of a simile and a metaphor in the same sentence of the June 8 report.

8. Why does Charlie decide to take the woman from the park back to his room?

9. What is the “double image” Charlie sees when the woman opens her coat?

10. Why do you think Charlie almost wants the mob to catch him?

PROGRESS REPORT 13

1. How do Charlie and his parents feel about God?
2. Why does Rose insist on taking Charlie to doctors? Why does Matt resist?
3. Despite the terror of being strapped to a table, why does Charlie like Dr. Guarino?
4. Why does Charlie resent Professor Nemur?
5. How does Charlie's kind gesture toward the professor backfire?
6. Why does Burt defend Professor Nemur?
7. What euphemism is used to describe Charlie's mental state, both before and after the operation.
8. What two pieces of information are withheld from Charlie?

9. Why does Charlie want to stop Nemur and “get up and show everyone what a fool he was, to shout at him”? (Pg. 112)
10. Explain the mistake Charlie finds in the statistical analysis of the waiting period.
11. Why must Charlie see his parents as soon as possible?
12. Support or refute the following statement:
Charlie lets Algernon out of his cage only as a distraction, so he can avoid speaking at the conference.

PROGRESS REPORT 14

1. Why did Rose change toward Charlie and begin to reject him?
2. Why is Charlie isolating himself from Alice and the doctors?
3. Describe Fay Lillman.
4. Foreshadowing is the use of hints or clue in a story to suggest what action is to come. Find an example that may be foreshadowing in this section.
5. Why is Charlie excited to see Matt?
6. Do you think Rose really intends to harm Charlie with the knife?
7. Why does Charlie, not reveal his identity to his father?
8. Algernon does mazes for Charlie without the motivation of a tangible reward, such as food or water. Using this idea, state a theme for this novel.

9. What does Charlie learn about his unconscious mind by getting drunk with Fay?
10. Why does Charlie go to the movies and "...brush against someone and sense the connection between the branch and trunk and the deep root"? (Pg. 137)
11. How does the following quotation from this section apply to Charlie before the operation? "A child may not know how to feed itself, or what to eat, yet it knows hunger." (Pg. 139)
12. Why can Charlie not make love to Alice? How does he plan to solve the problem? Is he successful?
13. Why is Charlie returning to the Foundation?
14. Where is the old Charlie when Charlie first makes love with Fay?
15. Why does Charlie take Algernon back to the lab?
16. Support or refute the following statement:

The old Charlie stops watching Charlie and Fay because their relationship is of no importance.

PROGRESS REPORT 15

1. If the experiment fails, list the negative effects which may make returning Charlie to the bakery unlikely.
2. State a theme for this novel suggested in the following quotation:

“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.” (Pg. 154)
3. Describe Algernon’s mental deterioration in the time he is away from the laboratory.
4. How does Charlie feel about the plans to send him to Warren Home if the experiment fails? How does Professor Nemur feel? Justify your answer with references to the book.

PROGRESS REPORT 16

1. Why do the patients at Warren, who have escaped to the outside, usually return to the hospital on their own?
2. Briefly identify the personnel at the Warren State Home and Training School.
3. Why does Charlie think all of these people come to work at Warren?
4. What does Alice have against Fay?
5. How does Alice know that Charlie is not emotionally involved with Fay?
6. What in the comparison in the following metaphor?

“A monkey sitting in the center of his cage, staring at me out of sleepy eyes, rubbing his cheeks with little old-man shriveled hands...and bouncing off the cage wire, up to the swing overhead where the other monkey sits...he swings and tries to grab the other monkey’s tail, but the one on the bar keeps swishing it away.” (Pgs. 165-166)
7. Do you think Charlie expects to discover how to retain his increased intelligence?

8. State a theme for this novel using the following quotation:

“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?” (Pg. 168)

9. In what way does the new Charlie believe he is better off before the operation than he is now?

10. State a theme for this novel using the following quotation:

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12. What is the Algernon-Gordon Effect?

13. Do you think Charlie will decline below his original intelligence level? Support your answer with ideas from the novel.

14. What does Charlie want from his mother when he finally goes to see her?

15. How much of Charlie's story does Rose understand?

16. Why does Charlie not tell Norma the truth about his condition?

17. In the following quotation, what does the knife symbolize to Charlie?

“She had a knife, and Alice had a knife, and my father had a knife, and Dr. Strauss had a knife.” (Pg. 192)

PROGRESS REPORT 17

1. How many months pass from the date of the operation to the beginning of this report?
2. Why does Charlie not commit suicide?
3. Find a metaphor in the hallucination Charlie experiences in Dr. Strauss' office.
4. What does the light in the cave symbolize?
5. Why is Charlie afraid to go to the light?
6. How does the following quotation link Charlie to Algernon?

“I know how important it is, and I've got to do it. I've told myself I won't have dinner until I sit down and write something—anything.” (Pg. 199)
7. Find a metaphor on page 201.
8. Knowing he cannot stop the deterioration, what does Charlie pray for?

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11. In what way does Alice begin acting like Charlie's mother?
12. How does Charlie feel about Mrs. Mooney's help?
13. Find an example of allusion in the entry for November 1.
14. How is Charlie trying to slow the deterioration?
15. Why does Charlie tell himself not to be sore if the men at the bakery make fun of him?
16. How does Charlie react to Klaus' threat to break his arm? How do Charlie's coworkers react?
17. Why does Charlie ultimately decide to go to the Warren Home?

18. What does Charlie retain about his life after the operation?
19. State a theme for this novel based on the P.S. at the end of the last progress report.
20. Why do you think Charlie wants flowers on Algernon's grave?

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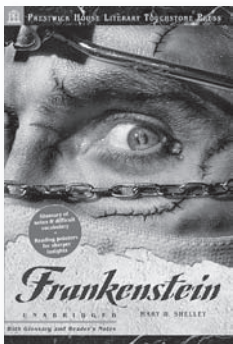
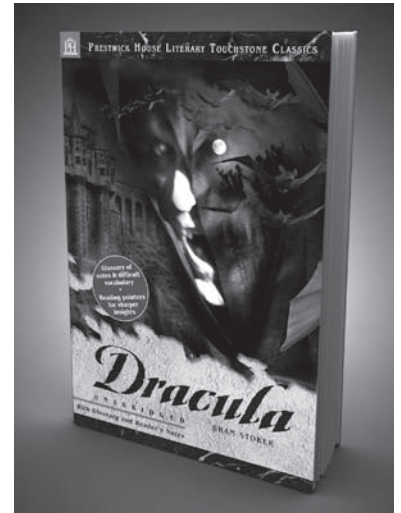
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