

Flowers For Algernon

Mental Illnesses have a different perspective on everyone in our modern society that we live in today, whether it's a positive or negative view. In the fictional short story, "Flowers For Algernon" by Daniel Keyes, a 37-year-old man named Charlie Gordon has asked for a chance to challenge himself of getting a higher intelligence boost because he believes he's not smart enough. Through the studies of mental/research hospitals, the character throughout the his self improvement shows a change in his intelligence through obstacles given to him along the way.

The first test was a Rorschach test that shows a person's ability to think interpretively and creatively (two elements of intelligence). According to progress report 2- march 6, "I told him i saw a inkblot. I dint see nuthing in the ink but he said there was picturs there other pepul saw some picturs." As shown in the text by the test given to him Charlie still has no idea what to do in this test even after many chances were given to him to try to think really really hard to see pictures or figures in the ink.e shows that he doesn't think outside the box as majority of average other people with a higher IQ would have. Charlie was later transferred to a psychology/ research hospital and put him to compete against a white mouse in a maze activity; charlie all he had to do is an activity maze worksheet where he used a pencil to make a path out of the way while Algernon the white mouse had to go physically through a maze to get out of it. "Anyway that test made me feel worser than the others because they did it over 10 times with difernt amazeds and Algernon won every time" the point that even with a non physically maze Charlie took more time and finished always last showing that he had a hard time thinking.

Towards the middle of the story, an operation was performed on Charlie after all. After the operation Charlie starts reacting negative immediately because the people he knew didn't come come pay him a visit to see how he was and Dr. Nemur had showed him how to write *Progress Report* because his grammar and spelling has been wrong the whole time.After Miss Kinnian gave him a dictionary book to look up words (292) he has been getting smarter everyday. April 6, (290) "I beat Algernon i dint even know I beat him until Burt the tester told me Then the second time I lost because I got so excited I fell off the chair before I finished. But after that I beat him 8 more times. I must

be getting smart to beat a mouse like Algernon.” This shows self improvement and change towards Charlie's operation for a higher intelligence, But when charlie wanted to feed Algernon because he felt of beating him they have told him no because he's a special mouse; much more intelligence and has to solve a puzzle in order to earn his food. “It's a funny thing I never knew Joe and Frank and the others liked to have me around all the time to make fun of me. Now i know what it means whne they say “*to pull a Charlie Gordon.*” I'm ashamed.” Charlie feels embarrassed because people are laughing at him and starts to see that Joe and Frank aren't really his so called “friends”. Charlie starts to learn new things about his mind and feelings.

Over the course of the story a few things change, the operation both performed on Charlie and Algernon; The Algernon-Gordon Effect: A Study of Structure and Function of Increased Intelligence, ALgernon had died from the efect of his brain lost weight and charlie had forgotten things he had done from the beginning of the story to the simplest of things and looked over all the old progress reports he had written of how “stupid” he was back then, family pictures of his mom and dad that he didn't seem much to remember much about, and then all of a sudden he remembered things about the operation on him and algernon. “Thats why Im going away from New York for good. I dont want to do nothing like that agen.” He felt bad about making Miss Kinnian cry and feel sorry about him and decided that maybe its best for all that he leaves New York for good and everyone else and surely he hasn't forgotten of his good friend, Algernon, who he asked to be put flowers on his grave in the backyard.

Over the whole short story “Flowers For Algernon” was a complete change within the character Charlie Gordon and his intelligence. At the beginning of the story he didn't pass none of the tests that were given to him and had very poor spelling and grammar and the way he saw things from his perspective by example before he didn't know his friends Joe and Frank were making fun of him and were laughing at him when he thought that they were laughing with him. Over time of many operations and progress reports, Charlie was able to look back and sa how much self improvement he has done the past months. His grammar and spelling and important thing to him, intelligence, has elevated to a higher standard of what he wanted.

