

# FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON

DANIEL KEYES

## **progris riport 1-martch 5 1965**

Mr. Strauss says I shud rite down what I think and evrey thing that st happins to me from now on. I dont know why but he says its importint Is so they will see if they will use me. I hope they use me. Miss Kinnian says le maybe they can make me smart. I want to be smart. My name is Charlie Id Gordon. I am 37 years old and 2 weeks ago was my brithday. I have nuthing more to rite now so I will close for today.

## **progris riport 2-martch 6**

I had a test today. I think I faled it. and I think that maybe now they wont use me. What happind is a nice young man was in the room and he had some 19 white cards with ink spillled all over them. He sed Charlie what do you see ton this card. I was very skared even tho I had my rabits foot in my pockit ,/I because when I was a kid I always faled tests in school and I spillled ink to. I told him I saw a inkblot. He said yes and it made me feel good. I thot n that was all but when I got up to go he stopped me. He said now sit down d Charlie we are not thru yet. Then I dont remember so good but he wan tid me to say what was in the ink. I dint see nuthing in the ink but he said there was picturs there other pepul saw some picturs. I couldnt see any picturs. I reely tryed to see. I held the card close up and then far away. Then I said if 1 had my glases I coud see better I usally only ware my glases in the movies or TV but 1 said they are in the closh in the hall. I got them. Then I said let me see that card agen I bet III find it now.

tryed hard but I still couldnt find the picturs I only saw the ink. I toldhim maybe I need new glases. He rote somthing down on a paper and I got Ska red of faling the test. I told him it was a very nice inkblot with littel points all around the eges. He looked very sad so that wasnt it. I said please let me try agen. Ill get it in a few minits becaus Im not so fast somtimes. Im a slow reeder too in Miss Kinnians class for slow adults but I'm trying very hard.

He gave me a chance with another card that had 2 kinds of ink spilled on it red and blue. He was very nice and talked slow like Miss Kinnian does and he explained it to me that it was a raw shok. He said pepul see things in the ink.

I said show me where. He said think. I told him I think a inkblot but that wasnt rite eather. He said what does it remind you-pretend something. I closd my eyes for a long time to pretend. I told him I pretend a fowntan pen with ink leaking all over a table cloth. Then he got up and went out. I dont think I passd the raw shok test.

### **progris report 3-martch 7**

Dr Strauss and Dr Nemur say it dont matter about the inkblots. I told them I dint spill the ink on the cards and I couldnt see anything in the ink. They said that maybe they will still use me. I said Miss Kinnian never gave me tests like that one only spelling and reading. They said Miss Kinnian told that I was her bestist pupil in the adult nite scool becaus I tryed the hardist and I reely wantid to lern. They said how come you went to the adult nite scool all by yourself Charlie. How did you find it. I said I askd pepul and sumbody told me where I shud go to lern to read and spell good. They said why did you want to. I told them becaus all my life I wantid to be smart and not dumb. But its very hard to be smart. They said you know it will probly be tempirery. I said yes. Miss Kinnian told me. I dont care if it herts.

Later I had more crazy tests today. The nice lady who gave it me told me the name and I asked her how do you spellit so I can rite it in my progris riport. THEMATIC APPERCEPTION TEST.

I dont know the frist 2 words but I know what test means. You got to pass it or you get bad marks. This test lookd easy becaus I coud see the picturs. Only this time she dint want me to tell her the picturs. That mixd me up. I said the man yesterday said I shoud tell him what I saw in the ink she said that dont make no difrence. She said make up storys about the pepul in the picturs.

I told her how can you tell storys about pepul you never met. I said why shud I make up lies. I never tell lies any more becaus I always get caut. She told me this test and the other one the raw-shok was for getting personalty. I laffed so hard. I said how can you get that thing from inkblots and fotos. She got sore and put her picturs away. I dont care. It was sily. I gess I faled that test too. Later some men in white coats took me to a difernt part of the hospitil and gave me a game to play. It was like a race with a white mouse. They called the mouse Algernon. Algernon was in a box with a lot of twists and turns like all-kinds of walls and they gave me a pencil and a paper with lines and lots of boxes. On one side it said START and on the other end it said FINISH. They said it was amazed and that Algernon and me had the same amazed to do. I dint see how we could have the same amazed if Algernon had a box and I had a paper but I dint say nothing. Anyway there wasnt time because the race started.

One of the men had a watch he was trying to hide so I woudnt see it so I tryed not to look and that made me nervus. Anyway that test made me feel worser than all the others because they did it over 10 times with difernt amazeds and Algernon won every time. I dint know that mice were so smart. Maybe thats because Algernon is a white mouse. Maybe white mice are smarter then other mice.



Using evidence from Progress Report 1 , who is Charlie Gordon?

What do we learn about Charlie Gordon’s character from Progress Report 2?

Keyes uses first person narrative to write this story. Why is this an effective writing style?

**Mood:** The mood of a piece of writing is its general atmosphere or emotional complexion—in short, the array of feelings the work evokes in the reader.

**Identifying mood:** To identify a mood, **stop and think about what you're feeling and why**. Put those feelings into words, like, "Wow, I'm really sad right now" or "I'm feeling really alone."

Generally speaking, any word that can be used to describe emotion can be used to describe the mood of a story, poem, or other piece of writing

What is the mood of the story? What techniques does the author use to create the mood of the story? Give examples.	
How does the beginning of Flowers for Algernon relate to “Prometheus”?	

# Mood:

Every aspect of a piece of writing can influence its mood, from the [setting](#) and the [imagery](#) to the author's [word choice](#) and [tone](#). For instance, a story that begins "It was a dark and stormy night" will probably have an overall dark, ominous, or suspenseful mood.

These are the basic elements that help determine the mood of a piece of writing:

- **Setting:** A story's [setting](#) is *where* and *when* it takes place. Setting is one of the first things to be described in a narrative, and therefore plays a major role in establishing the mood.
  - In the "dark and stormy night" example from above, the story's mood is established almost entirely by the setting (in this case, the weather and the time of day), which makes for a gloomy and potentially even frightening atmosphere.
  - A story that takes place in a cotton candy kingdom, by contrast, is likely to have a whimsical, cheerful, or light-hearted mood.
- **Imagery:** [Imagery](#) is similar to setting in the sense that it helps to establish mood using descriptions of physical things in the world of the story. Not every image in a work will be indicative of the story's mood, but images that are repeated or described in detail usually *do* reflect the mood.
  - A poem that spends a lot of time describing babbling brooks, gentle rolling hills, and herds of sheep might have an idyllic mood.
  - A story that has a lot of roses, candlelight, and boxes of chocolates might be trying to establish a romantic mood.
- **Tone:** [Tone](#) (or the *attitude* of piece of writing) is closely related to mood: often, the tone and mood of a piece are similar or the same.
  - It wouldn't be unusual for a poem with a somber tone to also have a somber mood—i.e., to make the reader feel somber as well.
  - A journalist who makes a jab at a politician might be conveying how they feel about their subject (using a critical *tone*) while also trying to influence their readers to feel similarly—i.e., creating a *mood* of anger or outrage.
- **Diction:** The words that a writer chooses to use (i.e., [diction](#)) play a huge part in determining the mood of a piece, in part because different words that mean the same thing can have different [connotations](#).
  - A writer might choose to use more antiquated diction like "thou art" instead of "you are" if they want to create a whimsical mood.
  - Similarly, the difference between "a dull, uneventful night" and "a peaceful, silent night" might contribute to the difference between a text with a gloomy or melancholic mood and a calm, reflective mood.
- **Genre and Plot:** This one may seem obvious, but the genre and [plot](#) of a work contribute to its mood in many different ways. For instance, a murder mystery with many complicated plot developments and twists probably has a suspenseful or tense mood.