

“Flowers for Algernon”

Text Dependent Questions

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Using evidence from Progress Report 1, who is Charlie Gordon?	
What do we learn about Charlie Gordon’s character from Progress Report 2?	
Why does the author tell us that Charlie thinks, “maybe white mice are smarter than other mice?”	
Is Charlie a good candidate for the experiment?	
What evidence in the text do you have that Charlie has or hasn’t changed since the beginning of the story?	

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Using evidence from Progress Report 1, who is Charlie Gordon?	He says, "My name is Charlie Gordon. I am 37 years old and 2 weeks ago was my birthday." Based upon his writing and the fact that he says, "They can make me smart" we can infer that he is of below-average intelligence and he wants to be smart.
What do we learn about Charlie Gordon's character from Progress Report 2?	When he says, "I had my rabbits foot in my pocket" we learn that he is superstitious; he says "I spilled ink too", revealing that he has no ability to think abstractly. Make sure students understand Charlie's test phobia and desire to be right or smart by his persistence with the test. Also, "I'm a slow reeder too in Miss Kinnians class for slow adults but I'm trying very hard" shows that Charlie wants to be smart.
Why does the author tell us that Charlie thinks, "maybe white mice are smarter than other mice?"	This line indicates that he is aware that there are differing levels of intelligence. (Students may also reflect upon racial inequality hinted at by the "white" mice terminology – refer to time period of 1965 – historically relevant).
Is Charlie a good candidate for the experiment?	<p>The doctors are looking for a subject that has a low I.Q., but is willing to work. Charlie mentions that he "felt proud when he [Dr. Strauss] said that not everybody with an eye-q of 68 had that thing [motivation]." The doctor's mention of apathy and being uncooperative are directly related to motivation. They need a patient that has motivation because they are going to complete many tests on the subject and they are going to monitor intellectual growth, thus they need someone who is willing to try.</p> <p>(Some readers may also feel that Charlie is too sensitive and should not participate in the study. This is acceptable so long as text evidence is used to support the answer.)</p>
What evidence in the text do you have that Charlie has or hasn't changed since the beginning of the story?	Charlie has changed by the end of the story. He initially finds out that his "friends" were just mean people who made fun of him. He cannot handle the embarrassment. However, at the end, when he says, "Please tell Dr. Nemur not to be such a grouch when people laught at him and he would have more friends.

	<p>Its easy to make frends if you let people laught and you" he is showing the ability to let the embarrassment go. He has recognized that he will be happier if he lets go of his shame.</p>
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