

# ^# Flowers for Algernon ^#

## DAY 1

### Progress Report 1: (March 5)

- Drs. want to use him ~ wants to be smart
- Charlie Gordon
- 37 years old

### Progress Report 2:

- Failed a test ~ inkblot & “raw shock” (Rorschach – personality test)
- Slow reader
- Miss Kinnian’s (teacher) class for slow adults

### Progress Report 3:

- Adult night school ~ tries really hard and wants to learn
- All his life he wanted to be smart and not dumb
- Thematic Apperception Test (stories -very difficult for him)
- Raced Algernon in maze and lost every time

## DAY 1 REFLECTION:

I think this story will be about...This reminds me of...I like this story, because...I have a few questions about ...I can relate to Charlie, because...I think that this will happen...

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## DAY 2

### Progress Report 4:

- Going to use him ~ doctors argued about it (Dr. Nemur & Strauss)
- Some sort of operation (don’t know if it will be permanent)
- I.Q. of 68
- Algernon had the same operation & his motivation is cheese

- Charlie is chosen because of his good nature, eager to please, and good motivation
- 1<sup>st</sup> human being to have this operation...intelligence TRIPLED!!!

### **Progress Report 5:**

- Preparing for the operation
- If it works, they will make people all over the world smart

### **Progress Report 6:**

- Operation didn't hurt
- Dr. Nemur wants Charlie to write more about his FEELINGS

### **Progress Report 7:**

- Frustrated/negative ~ doesn't feel like anything is happening
- Reacting emotionally ~ everything is stupid, hates Algernon, etc.

### **Progress Report 8:**

(March 23)

- Works at a factory ~ janitor
- Can't tell anyone about the operation-WHY??
- Algernon had the operation too

(March 25)

- “Friends” make fun of him...A LOT...”pull a Charlie Gordon” (do something dumb)

(March 28)

- Getting smarter all the time ~ just doesn't notice it (better spelling, punctuation, etc.)

(March 29)

- Given TV/recorder to teach him subconsciously

### **Progress Report 9:**

(April 3)

- Learns about the subconscious
- Looks up words in the dictionary
- “Friends” got him drunk and then ditched him at the bar
- Lives in a boardinghouse ~ Mrs. Flynn is his landlady

## DAY 2 REFLECTION:

This reminds me of...I have a few questions about...I see these signs of improvement...I can related to Charlie, because...I think that this will happen...

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## DAY 3

### Progress Report 9 (continued):

(April 6)

- Beats Algernon
- Wants to be friends with Algernon
- Wants to keep racing him, but testers don't let him

(April 9, 10, 14)

- Reading Robinson Crusoe
- Ms. Kinnian teaches him to spell
- Finishes book in 5 days
- Starts asking questions – why?

(April 15 - 18)

- Charlie is learning fast
- Ms. Kinnian is worried about Charlie finding out that “his friends” aren't really his friends
- Learns about commas and periods / punctuation
- Reads a grammar book in one night
- Plays with Algernon – doesn't race with him anymore

(April 20)

- Feels sick inside – learned what it meant to “pull a Charlie Gordon”
- Was humiliated and laughed at by Joe and Frank
- Feels ashamed

### Progress Report 10:

(April 27)

- Doesn't go to the factory – calls in sick
- Learns about everyone laughing about him – he's glad he found out
- Knows that he is getting smarter
- Is learning foreign languages
- Understands I.Q. and what it is

(April 22)

- Remembers what the Rorschach test is and can do it
- Thinks the doctor was trying to trick him the first time he took it
- Questions the test and that people could lie (cheat) on it

(April 25)

- Figures out new way to line up the machines at the factory and receives a 25.00 dollar bonus
- Forgives Joe and Frank for being mean to him
- Everybody seems to be frightened of him and people don't talk to him much anymore / makes his job kind of lonely

(April 27)

- Asks Ms. Kinnian out for dinner to celebrate bonus
- Doctors arguing over Charlie's success / Charlie sees doctors clearly

(April 28)

- Starts to notice Ms. Kinnian in a different light / in love with her

-Knows that he is getting smarter than everybody and will leave them behind in with his intelligence

### Progress Report 11:

(April 30)

- Quit his job at Donnegan's Plastic Box Company because of petition that was being circulated around.
- Every one signed it but Fanny Girdan
- Intelligence driving a wedge between Charlie and everyone he knew and loved

### DAY 3 REFLECTION:

I like this story, because...I have a few questions about...I see these signs of improvement...I can relate to Charlie, because...I think that this will happen...

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### DAY 4

### Progress Report 11:

(April 30)

- Quit his job at Donnegan's Plastic Box Company because of petition that was being circulated around.
- Every one signed it but Fanny Girdan
- Intelligence driving a wedge between Charlie and everyone he knew and loved

(May 15, 18)

- Dr. Strauss upset about Charlie not writing progress reports
- Charlie is reminded of the need to speak clearly - ironic
- Shocked to learn that the doctors aren't as smart as he thought they were

(May 20)

- Notices the dishwasher boy / realizes that was once him and he is ashamed
- Learns that seeing who he was in the past is good for him because he had almost forgotten that
- Decided to use his knowledge to work in the field of increasing human intelligence / wants to use this gift to help others.

Progress Report 12: (May 23, 24, 25)

- Algernon bites Charlie / Seems disturbed and vicious
- Algernon is changing / He is less cooperative, refusing to eat and isn't as motivated
- Everyone is upset about what that means / Why?
- Algernon needs to be fed now because he is refusing to use the shifting-lock problem
- Doctors have asked him to not come to the lab anymore / Why?
- Charlie understands the implications for himself

(May 29, 31)

- Has been given a lab of his own to continue his research
- Charlie is trying to find the reason for the sharp regression in Algernon so he knows if it will happen to him

(June 4, 5)

- The Algernon-Gordon Effect - a study of increased intelligence
- Tries to not become emotional of the results of his findings

-Hypothesis: Artificially increased intelligence deteriorates at a rate of time directly proportional to the quantity of the increase  
= the rate at which he become intelligent is the same rate in which he will lose it.

-Already has noticed signs of emotional instability – the first symptom

(June 10)

-Deteriorating / absent minded

-Algernon dies – his brain had decreased in size and weight

-Charlie buries him in his backyard in a cheese box

(Jun 15 - 30)

-Charlie wants to be left alone / doesn't want to see the doctors

-Thoughts of suicide and feels darkness closing in

-Realizing that he can't do the things he once could

-Begs for it all NOT to go away

-Forgets where he lives

-Stays in bed for days / forgets who he is or once was

-Constant reminders of the dishwasher boy and not wanting to be him

-Motor activity impaired / coordination bad

-Stopped using typewriter / having a hard time even writing

-Doesn't blame anyone / knew this might happen / but sad

(July 7 - 22)

-Losing track of days of the week

-Mother and father left him

-Ms. Flynn worried about him and calls a doctor

-Can't read anymore

-Put flowers on Algernon's grave

(July 24, 25)

- Charlie is out of money and Mrs. Flynn needs him to work so he can pay the rent
- Telling Mrs. Flynn to go away because he is angry about what is happening to him / doesn't want people to feel sorry for him
- Praying that he doesn't lose all of it

#### **DAY 4 REFLECTION:**

**I like this story, because...I have a few questions about...I see these signs of regression...I can relate to Charlie, because...I think that this will happen...**

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#### **DAY 5**

Progress Report 12: (continued)

(July 27)

- Mr. Donnagen gives Charlie back his job
- Everybody is nice to him / he forgives them all
- Joe and Frank stick up for him when another co-worker makes fun of him / really his friends now?

(July 28)

- Went back to Mrs. Kinnian's class / forgot he wasn't in there anymore
- Makes fun of himself / tell himself that he "pulled a Charlie Gordon"
- Wants to leave New York so people don't feel sorry for him. Doesn't want people to remember him once as genius that not one



- He is glad he got to be smart and hopes that he won't forget everything
- Asks his friends and doctors to put flowers on Algernon's grave

### **DAY5 REFLECTION:**

I liked this story, because...I have a few questions about...I did/didn't like this part of the story, because...I can relate to Charlie, because...I hope that this will happen...