

Charlie Gordon

Complete this Characterization graphic organizer as you read *Flowers for Algernon*.

Character <u>Charlie Gordon</u>				
Title of Selection <u>"Flowers for Algernon"</u>				
Looks (Physical)	Says (Things the character says)	Do (Actions)	Feel (Emotions)	Motivation (Why)

Guided Questions
“Flowers for Algernon”

p. 182: What impression of Charlie Gordon do you get from this scene from the movie?

p. 183: What elements in this paragraph (3rd) indicate that this story is told from the first-person point of view?

p. 183: Who is Charlie?

p. 185: How does Charlie’s reaction to being chosen for the operation show his motivation?

p. 185: What context clues help you know what the partial words intelek, ment-, host-, uncoop-, and apath- mean?

p. 185: What will happen to Charlie’s intellect after the operation?

p. 186: What context clues help you know what Charlie means by the word bandijis?

p. 187: Why does Charlie hate Algernon?

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Partner Discussion

Guided Questions p. 188-193

Fold a piece of paper in half hot-dog style (vertically).

Your answers will be recorded on the left hand side of the paper. Your partner will respond to the accuracy of your answer on the right hand side. Your partner may also add information to your answer in his/her response.

My Answer	Partner's Response

Partner Discussion

Example

1. p. 188: What is the *amazed* Charlie talks about? How do you know?

My Answer	Partner Response
<p>1. p. 188: The "amazed" Charlie is talking about is the maze that Charlie is using while racing Algernon.</p>	<p>1. p. 188: You're right about the maze; however, you didn't answer the second part of the question. I know that "amazed" refers to a maze because they sound alike and I can substitute "a maze" for "amazed" in the sentence.</p>

- p. 188: What is the amazed Charlie talks about? How do you know?
- p. 189: What changes can you see in Charlie so far?
- p. 189: Based on what Charlie says, what do the words subconscious and conscious mean?
- p. 189: What do Charlie's friends mean when they say someone "pulled a Charlie Gordon"?
- p. 190: What do you learn about Charlie on April 6 that you would not know if it were in third person?
- p. 191: What is happening to Charlie?
- p. 192: How does the first-person point of view in the journal make this description funnier?
- p. 192: What comparison does Charlie use to show the meaning of plateau? What plateau has Charlie reached?
- p. 193: How does the first-person point of view help you keep track of Charlie's development?
- p. 193: What does Charlie discover about why people laugh at him?

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- p. 195: Compare the entry for April 22 with Charlie's first Rorschach test. What has changed?
- p. 195: What does Charlie learn about Dr. Nemur and Dr. Strauss?
- p. 197: What restatement in this sentence helps you understand the meaning of the word opportunist?
- p. 197: What is Charlie's opinion of Dr. Nemur and Dr. Strauss?
- p. 198: How does Fanny evaluate the changes that have occurred in Charlie?
- p. 199: How does the first-person point of view allow the reader to measure the changes occurring in Charlie?
- p. 199: Why does Charlie lose his job?
- p. 200: How does the first-person point of view make Charlie's attempts at communication sad?
- p. 201: Is Charlie able to communicate well with Miss Kinnian? Explain.
- p. 202: How does Charlie now see himself?
- p. 203 (top) What is a possible theme for *Flowers for Algernon* based on Charlie's experience with the dishwasher?

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Retelling:

Flowers for Algernon

Progress Reports 1-13 (p. 182-203)

Summarize the reading so far. Describe key events and characters that you read about during silent reading. Use complete descriptions in your summary. Discuss how the characters were affected by these events. Discuss any changes in the characters (dynamic). What problems, or conflicts, have the characters been confronted with? How have the characters been addressing their problems?

End your summary with a prediction. What do you think will happen to Charlie?

Be thorough and to the point.

Elaborate your paragraphs by including Level 1 (Topic Sentence), Level 2 (2-3 Nitty-Gritty sentences to illustrate your Topic Sentence), and Level 3 (1-2 Down and Dirty Nitty Gritty sentences to show relevancy).

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Paragraph 1: Charlie (Characterization Chart) (Static or Dynamic—How do you know?)

Paragraph 2: Describe Charlie's Main Conflict. How does this conflict affect his life?

Paragraph 3: What is Charlie doing to solve this conflict? Is it working? How do you know?

Paragraph 4: Describe Charlie's relationships with others? Are they improving as a result of the operation?

Paragraph 5: Prediction—What do you think will happen to Charlie? Why do you think this?

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- p. 203: How has Charlie changed up to this point in the story?
- p. 203: How has Algernon changed?
- p. 204: What recent events in the story help you to make an educated guess about the meaning of the word regression?
- p. 205: Why does Charlie cry when he buries Algernon?
- p. 205: Why does Charlie get angry at the doctor?
- p. 206: What context clues help you verify the meaning of the word coordination?
- p. 206: Charlie's boss says, "Charlie Gordon, you got guts." How does this scene illustrate his boss's comment?
- p. 207: In the July 10 entry, how does the first-person point of view allow the reader to understand what Charlie is going through?

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p. 208: What changes do you see happening in Charlie's writing?

p. 208: How do you know if Charlie is being honest with himself about Miss Kinnian in the July 25 entry?

p. 209: How have Charlie's co-workers changed?

p. 209: Why does Charlie decide to leave New York?

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Review and Assess
Thinking About the Selection

1. **Respond:** Was being part of the experiment good for Charlie? Why or Why not?

2. (a) **Recall:** Who is Algernon? (b) **Compare:** Explain how Charlie's development parallels Algernon's. (c) **Interpret:** What is the meaning of the title of the story?

3. (a) **Recall:** Why does Charlie keep a journal? (b) **Evaluate:** How does Charlie's use of a journal contribute to the story's effectiveness?

4. (a) **Recall:** What does Charlie do when diners make fun of the dishwasher? (b) **Infer:** Why does he have such a strong reaction?

5. (a) **Compare and Contrast:** Name positive and negative results of Charlie's increased intelligence. (b) **Analyze:** How does Charlie feel about becoming more intelligent?

6. (a) **Recall:** How do Charlie's coworkers react to his increased intelligence? (b) **Draw Conclusions:** What are the reasons for their reactions? (c) **Make a Judgment:** Explain why you do or do not sympathize with their reactions.

7. (a) **Analyze:** When do you realize that Charlie's intelligence is not permanent? (b) **Apply:** What two details from the story reveal the progress of the reversal?

8. (a) **Contrast:** What is the difference between Charlie at the beginning of the story and Charlie at the end of the story? (b) **Apply:** Why does Charlie decide to leave New York? (c) **Predict:** What will happen to Charlie?

9. **Take a Position:** Do you think Charlie should have had the operation? Why or why not?

