

Close Reading Questions over “Flowers for Algernon”

Directions: Answer in complete sentences.

1. In the first journal entry, describe Charlie's writing.
2. How old is Charlie?
3. Why did the doctor tell Charlie to write down his thoughts?
4. Does Charlie want to be used in this experiment?
5. What lucky charm does Charlie carry and have with him during the ink blot test?
6. Did Charlie ever see anything in the inkblots before the experiment?
7. If Charlie is chosen for the experiment to make him smart, how long will it last?
8. Who is Algernon?
9. Who is Miss Kinnian?
10. Dr. Strauss wants to use Charlie even though he only has an I.Q. of 68. Why?
11. What procedure will the doctors use to make Charlie smarter?
12. What happening occurred to Charlie on the way to the hospital and about which he was superstitious, and what did Dr. Strauss say to try to calm Charlie?
13. After surgery, how does Charlie do on tests and racing Algernon?

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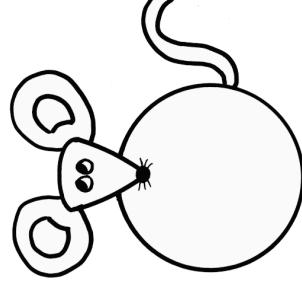
14. Does Charlie return to his normal life/work after surgery?
15. How do the men at Charlie's work tease and bully him?
16. What “gift” did Dr. Strauss give Charlie?
17. What advice does Miss Kinnian give Charlie about his job?
18. Check the dates on Charlie's progress reports. How long did it take him after his surgery to beat Algernon?
19. When Charlie and Miss Kinnian are reading *Robinson Crusoe*, he studies a picture of Crusoe looking at footprints. What does Charlie deduce from that and why is that significant?
20. Miss Kinnian reads some of Charlie's progress reports and about what does she tell him not to worry?
21. Why is Charlie ashamed?
22. A genius I.Q. is around 150-160. What will Charlie's I.Q. be soon?
23. Does Charlie see pictures in the inkblots now when he takes the Rorschach test?
24. How does Charlie help at work?
25. How are Dr. Strauss and Dr. Nemur acting toward each other now?

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26. After his dinner with Miss Kinnian, how does Charlie describe his feeling for her?
27. About what does Charlie not want to think?
28. What happens at the factory?
29. Why hasn't Charlie written in his journal for two weeks?
30. How is Charlie able to judge his doctors now?
31. What has being so intelligent done to Charlie's relationship with everyone?
32. At the diner when the young dishwasher breaks the dishes, how does Charlie react?
33. After Charlie fusses at everyone for laughing at the boy, on what does Charlie reflect?
34. After this incident, what does Charlie decide he will do with his life?
35. What does Algernon do to Charlie the next day?
36. What is happening to Algernon and what might this mean for Charlie?
37. As Charlie studies Algernon's decline, what does he hypothesize?
38. How does Charlie react to Algernon's death?
39. Does Charlie know that he is regressing?

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40. How is Charlie treating Dr. Strauss now?
41. Where does Charlie get a job?
42. What does Charlie decide to do after he goes back to Miss Kinnian's class and remembers a few things?
43. What request does Charlie make of Miss Kinnian at the end of the story?
44. What significance does the title have to Charlie?



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