“Flowers for Algernon” (2)

By: Daniel Keyes

1. The experiment was to help bring Charlie closer to people, but an unexpected complication has prohibited this from happening. What was the unexpected complication and how did it affect Charlie?

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1. In Charlie’s May 20th entry he speaks of a dishwasher at a local diner. How does the dishwasher’s experience resemble episodes from Charlie’s own life?

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1. In Progress Report 12, we learn that Algernon is changing, he is becoming less cooperative, his motivation has decreased, and he has stopped eating. What do you think has happened to Algernon? What do you think this may mean for Charlie and his future?

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1. Read the following excerpt and re-state it in your own words: “Artificially increased intelligence deteriorate at a rate of time directly proportional to the quantity of the increase.”

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1. Beginning with Charlie’s entry on July 7th, make a list of the signs you see that tell you Charlie is increasingly declining.

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1. Why is it ironic that Joe Carp and Frank Reilly act as Charlie’s protectors toward the end of the story?

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1. By the end of the story, have all of the “loose ends” been tied up? What do you have questions about or want to know more about?

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