

Name: _____

Flowers of Algernon

Read the story, (it's a separate file, so no need to print it out if you wish to read it on the computer.) paying close attention to how the first person narrative voice changes.

1) Do you think that it is morally or ethically right to allow neurosurgeons to operate on someone like Charlie in order to increase their intelligence? Is Charlie able to fully understand the seriousness of this operation and the risks involved having an IQ of 68?

2) Do you think a person needs emotional intelligence in order to be successful? Why or why not?

3) Do you think Charlie is better off before or after the surgery and why?

4) Are you for or against artificial intelligence and why?

5) Do you think that Charlie's decision was a good or bad decision and why?

6. How does the title, *Flowers for Algernon*, predict the ending? What is the purpose of the flowers? Discuss the use of flowers at funerals and gravesites as well as the quick decay of flowers once they have been picked.

The major themes in *Flowers for Algernon* are: treatment of the mentally disabled; whether IQ tests provide a valid measurement of intelligence; the contrast between emotions and intellect; how the past affects the present or the qualities of a hero. Which do you think is the most important theme for you and why?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Name: _____

New words: Match the meaning to the words

1. Pompous: _____ a force that creates activity
2. stimulus: _____ for the intervening period; temporary
3. affront: _____ trapped and isolated in an inaccessible place
4. paradoxical: _____ submissive or obedient
5. docile: _____ self-important
6. baroque: _____ intimate/affectionate relationship that's not sexual.
7. marooned: _____ turn away (one's eyes or thoughts)
8. avert: _____ an indirect word/expression substituted for a harsh/blunt word referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing.
9. animated: _____ absurd or self-contradictory.
10. platonic: _____ a style of 17th/18th European architecture, music, art
11. interim: _____ morally corrupt; wicked.
12. depraved: _____ full of life or excitement; lively.
13. euphemism: _____ an action/remark that offends

Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

____ 1. Charlie fails his first inkblot test because he —

- a. sees images that upset him in the inkblots
- b. thinks the test is boring
- c. cannot understand what he is supposed to see besides ink
- d. is afraid of making a mistake in front of Dr. Strauss

____ 2. Why does Charlie agree to have the operation?

- a. He wants to be smart and know things like other people do.
- b. He wants to please Dr. Strauss and Miss Kinnian.
- c. He wants to be able to get a better job.
- d. He wants to beat Algernon in the maze test.

____ 3. What do the factory workers mean by saying someone “pulled a Charlie Gordon”?

- a. Someone did something funny.
- b. Someone had an operation.
- c. Someone did something stupid.
- d. Someone lost something.

____ 4. Charlie hopes that when he becomes smarter, people will be —

- a. happier
- b. more understanding
- c. less worried
- d. more friendly

____ 5. When Dr. Strauss and Dr. Nemur argue about Charlie, Charlie —

- a. thinks Dr. Strauss should take credit for the experiment
- b. thinks that he has done something wrong
- c. feels like he’s seen both men clearly for the first time
- d. feels like he’s just an experiment to the two doctors

____ 6. What makes Charlie sad when he takes Miss Kinnian out for dinner?

- a. Miss Kinnian doesn’t love him.
- b. He knows he will leave her behind intellectually.
- c. Miss Kinnian thinks she was wrong to encourage him to have the operation.
- d. He thinks that Miss Kinnian will refuse to have anything more to do with him.

____ 7. Which of the following events is not caused by the event during which Charlie defends the boy in the restaurant?

- a. Charlie is disgusted with himself for at first laughing at the boy.
- b. Charlie remembers how he also used to play the clown.
- c. Charlie realizes how intelligent he has become.
- d. Charlie decides to work in the field of human intelligence.

____ 8. Which event foreshadows what will happen to Charlie?

- a. The boy at the restaurant drops a plate.
- b. Dr. Nemur and Dr. Strauss’s research is incomplete.
- c. Algernon becomes uncooperative and disturbed.
- d. Charlie is given a laboratory of his own.

____ 9. When Charlie becomes a genius, his most important discovery is —

- a. his theory about how quickly artificially increased intelligence deteriorates
- b. that he has to communicate with Miss Kinnian on a simple level
- c. that Dr. Nemur doesn’t know the work on experimental intelligence in India
- d. that Algernon will soon die

- ____ 10. Charlie leaves New York because ____
- a. his landlady throws him out because he hasn't paid the rent
 - b. he can't get a job now that he isn't a genius
 - c. he doesn't want people to be sorry for him
 - d. he doesn't want the men at the factory to laugh at him again

Literary Focus

- ____ 11. Which of the following episodes is repeated in the story to make parallel episodes?
- a. Charlie has an operation.
 - b. Charlie has dinner with Miss Kinnian.
 - c. The factory workers get Charlie drunk.
 - d. The factory workers force Charlie to leave his work.
- ____ 12. How is the subplot involving Charlie and the scientists resolved?
- a. Charlie overtakes them in intelligence and finds the flaw in their experiment.
 - b. Charlie gives Dr. Strauss an inferiority complex.
 - c. Dr. Nemur publishes his report and leaves Dr. Strauss out of it.
 - d. Dr. Strauss tries to visit Charlie, but Charlie won't let him in.
- ____ 13. What is Charlie's main internal conflict throughout the story?
- a. Trying to understand his own mind and the nature of intelligence
 - b. Trying to figure out what causes people to laugh at others
 - c. Trying to learn to read and spell correctly
 - d. Trying to get along with the factory workers
- ____ 14. In the story's resolution, Charlie ____
- a. is just the same as he was at the beginning of the story
 - b. has gained a valuable experience but has lost his mental ability
 - c. again becomes a student in Miss Kinnian's class
 - d. deeply regrets that he ever had the operation

Correct each comma splice below. If a sentence contains no comma splice, write "no comma splice" after it.

1. Many of the earliest records concern financial transactions, indeed, early history must often be inferred from commercial activity. _____

2. Every known society has had a system of money, though the objects serving as money have varied widely. _____
3. Sometimes the objects had actual value for the society, examples include cattle and fermented beverages. _____
4. Today, in contrast, money may be made of worthless paper, or it may even consist of a bit of data in a computer's memory. _____
5. We think of money as valuable, only our common faith in it makes it valuable. _____
6. Economic crises often shake the belief in money, indeed, such weakened faith helped cause the Great Depression of the 1930s. _____

Fix the run-on sentences using proper punctuation.

1. Our solar system has nine major planets only one is known to have intelligent life.
2. Most asteroids are small and far away therefore they are dim and hard to see.
3. Look through Angelo's telescope you can see Saturn's rings.
4. Please check the position of that star cluster I can't find it.
5. Marie is never interested in stargazing during the winter however on warm summer nights she often goes to the college observatory.
6. The Milky Way looks like a dim cloud stretching across the night sky it is actually a huge galaxy containing millions of stars.
7. Watch the sky closely for several minutes you are likely to see an artificial satellite pass over.
8. Louisa pretended to be interested in her brother's hobby she secretly wished she had stayed at home.
9. Some club members were late for the meeting for example, Tanya and Scott came in at 9:30.
10. We've seen enough for one night pack up the equipment.

Slang/idioms

Fred: George, there is so much information being **hurled** at us in this English class.

Jessica: Yeah, and it's all **going in through one ear and coming out the other**, right?

Fred: Actually, it's all **sinking in**.

Jessica: Gosh Fred, what happened? You **turned over a new leaf** or something? You seem to have acquired this sudden **thirst for knowledge**.

Fred: I know! **Out of the blue**, I got this sudden interest in English.

Jessica: Well, maybe it's the night classes that you are taking to **brush up** on your English. You know what they say: you would like a subject if you were good at it.

Fred: I don't know why, but I'm secretly hoping to be the **apple of our teacher's eye**.

Jessica: Well I know you would **bend over backwards** to excel at something you like. So I wouldn't be surprised if you became the **teacher's pet**.

Circle the correct answer.

1) hurled

- a) sent b) taken c) given d) stolen

2) going in through one ear and coming out the other

- a) the information literally went in through one ear and came out the other
b) very easy to understand c) not really listening to what is being said d) listening attentively

3) sinking in

- a) understanding b) not going in your brain c) forgetting what you have learned
d) moving down your body

4) turned over a new leaf

- a) changed clothes b) stayed the same c) changed one's ways d) grew taller

5) thirst for knowledge

- a) hate knowledge b) eager to learn c) hate learning d) love school

6) out of the blue

- a) out of the sky b) after a long time c) all of sudden d) mysteriously

7) brush up

- a) sweep b) wash up c) work on it in order improve d) learn

8) apple of our teacher's eye

- a) favourite object of a person's love or affection
b) enemy c) sweetest person d) smartest student

9) bend over backwards

- a) lean back and touch the floor b) do flips c) do not try hard
d) go out of your way to do something

10) teacher's pet

- a) dog b) most popular student c) favourite student d) trouble maker

Review vocabulary from Around the world in Eighty Days for an upcoming spelling test.

Next book: Uglies by Scott Westerfeld.

You will need this book for next week's homework.