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Flowers For Algernon

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Flowers For Algernon's Viewpoints

Imagine someone who seems to have no intelligence at all or be able to comprehend daily activities, jokes, and knowledge to a person who can comprehend college level books and discuss them on an average basis. Imagine a person who has gone through a procedure and gradually gets smarter as time progresses. This is the exact situation that Charlie Gordon has gone through. In the story, *Flowers for Algernon*, the author Daniel Keyes creates a scenario which shows change over time and it tells of a 37 year old man -- Charlie Gordon who has a goal, to become smarter through an operation that is provided by two doctors. These two doctors go by the name of: Dr. Nemur and Dr. Strauss. As the story goes on, there are many viewpoints it is told through a smart point of view in which the character, Charlie, uses a large vocabulary and discusses things a normal typical person with an average I.Q would not discuss. My thesis statement is that the theme is explored through 3 different standards - A superior I.Q point of view, A low I.Q point of view, and an average - mid class I.Q point of view.

To begin with, The story is viewed through a person with a low I.Q. In the beginning of the story when Charlie rights his progress report he has a very low vocabulary. Such as Charlie writes during , “progris riport”, and he also goes on and states his progress report 1, “Mr. Strauss says I shud rite down what I think and evrey thing that happens to me from now on.” Here it explains and shows that Charlie is telling his point of view towards a low intelligence point of

view since he is using a small vocabulary and not spelling the words right at all. Another part in which Charlie explains it in a low point of view is in page one, 2nd paragraph, “Then I don’t remember so good but he wantid me to say what was in the ink. I dint see nuthing in the ink but he said there was picturs other pepul saw some picturs.” This quote here explains that he can’t see other pictures in the pictures and that most people can see because even though he tries hard he cannot show them. All together this is some information that concludes why Charlie or this story is told from a Low I.Q point of view.

Moreover, Charlie explains the story through a average point I.Q point of view. In the story he can spell words like normal towards the middle and knows most of the vocabulary a average joe knows. Such as in page 293, progress report 11, Charlie states, “He asked me to promise that when I start learning college subject next week I wouldn’t read any books on psycholgy..” This explains that Charlie is moving up and learning college level stuff through a average point of view since he is getting smarter because of the operation done to him. Later in the story as Charlie understands more he explains that he knows what the Inkblot test is which they conducted on him before the operation. In page 294, april 22, he states, “I was thinking to myself, if only there was some way of knowing what kind of pictures were hidden in there. Maybe there weren’t any pictures at all.” Here you can see that Charlie is starting to get the point of the test with his intelligence. Charlie is starting to catch up on become smarter and is changing over time.

Towards the end of the story, Charlie is really intelligent. He starts conducting experiments himself on the mouse and him to see if there intelligence would deteriorate, and his vocabulary grows larger and larger. In a letter to Dr. Nemur and Dr. Strauss Charlie points out an

article that he wrote, “Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of report entitled, The Algernon - Gordon effect: A study of Structure and Function of increased Intelligence”. Here you can see that Charlie has written a report with his new gained knowledge. This is one of the things that Charlie is getting smart at and will find that his new knowledge will help other people get smarter since he is stating a idea provided with evidence.

In conclusion, The story is that it is written in there points of view that change over time. Low I.Q, High I.Q, and average I.Q. This theme is important because the story and Charlie changes over time a lot because of the operation making him smarter and since it is told from his point of view. Something you can gain from this story that it is possible for someone like Charlie to reach this so therefore there are many points of view that a story can be told any many ways it can change over time.