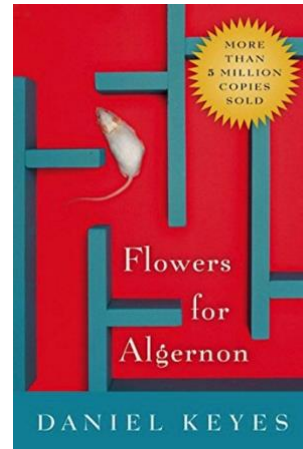


Flowers for Algernon



ISBN-13	978-0-15-603030-4
Author	Daniel Keyes
Publisher	Mariner Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
First Published	1959
Print Year	2004
Lexile	910L
Genre	Science fiction
Synopsis	Charlie Gordon agrees to have an experimental brain surgery that may increase his intelligence. Before Charlie, this surgery was successfully performed only once on a lab mouse named Algernon.
Themes	Appreciation of Diversity and Justice; Special Needs; Physical and Mental Health; Happiness and Contentment

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Flowers for Algernon, Day 1



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 32

"I don't think its right to make you pass a test to eat. How would Burt like to have to pass a test every tie he want to eat."

Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

At the end of this unit, you will write an essay titled *Human Dignity*. The essay will be about the importance of treating all people with respect and consideration. Today, you have read about the way Joe and Frank treat Charlie. Charlie is not aware that they are not treating him with respect. Is Charlie's lack of awareness of the meaning of their actions makes their behavior more or less justifiable? Should Charlie's level of understanding be considered at all when judging the morality of Joe and Frank's actions? Present your arguments with supporting details in one or two paragraphs.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Flowers for Algernon, Day 2



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 68

“Nemur: “I’m not afraid of regression anymore. I’ve checked and rechecked everything. An interim report will do not harm. I feel sure nothing can go wrong now.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

At the end of this unit, you will write an essay titled *Human Dignity*. The essay will be about the importance of treating all people with respect and consideration. Today, you have read about Charlie’s growing awareness of his need for privacy. He made his case – and the two scientists agreed – to let Charlie keep his progress reports that detail his private emotions, thoughts, and dreams away from the people in the lab, at least for a while. Does Charlie have an obligation to share his private thoughts with the research team? Or, does he have the right to disclose only some of his thoughts, feelings, and experiences? Summarize your arguments with supporting details in one or two paragraphs.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Flowers for Algernon, Day 3



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 106

“What did he do? Hear that, Joe? I’ll tell you what you did, *Mister* Gordon. You come pushing in here with your ideas and suggestions and make the rest of us all look like a bunch of dopes. But I’ll tell you something. To me, you’re still a moron. Maybe I don’t understand some of them big words or the names of the books, but I’m as good as you are—better even.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

At the end of this unit, you will write an essay titled *Human Dignity*. The essay will be about the importance of treating all people with respect and consideration. Today, you have read about Charlie’s conflicts with the workers at the bakery. They made fun of him when he was less smart than them and were hostile towards him when he became smarter than everyone at the bakery. As the owner of the bakery, what was Mr. Donner’s responsibility in both situations? Did he make good decisions? Are there other actions he could have taken? Summarize your arguments and supporting details in one or two paragraphs.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Flowers for Algernon, Day 4



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 200

“There is so much that can be done with this technique, if it is perfected. If I could be made into a genius, what about the more than five million mentally retarded in the United States? What about the countless millions all over the world, and those yet unborn destined to be retarded? What fantastic levels might be achieved by using this technique on normal people. On geniuses?”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

At the end of this unit, you will write an essay titled *Human Dignity*. The essay will be about the importance of treating all people with respect and consideration. Today, you have read about Charlie’s growing discomfort at the International Psychological Convention. What issues bothered Charlie? Could the professors have prevented Charlie’s discomfort and resentment? Write one or two paragraphs summarizing your arguments and the supporting details.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Flowers for Algernon, Day 5



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 225

"I'm very fond of my boys. It's not easy work, but it's rewarding when you think how much they need you." The smile left her for a moment. "Normal kids grow up too soon, stop needing you...go off on their own...forget who loved them and took care of them. But these children need all you can give—all of their lives."

Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

At the end of this unit, you will write an essay titled *Human Dignity*. The essay will be about the importance of treating all people with respect and consideration. Today, you have read about Charlie's visit to the Warren State Home and Training School and got a glimpse of the dedication of the staff. What character virtues do the staff members show at this school and home? Write one or two paragraphs.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Flowers for Algernon, Day 6



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 249

“But I’ve learned that intelligence alone doesn’t mean a damned thing. Here in your university, intelligence, education, knowledge, have all become great idols. But I know now there’s one thing you’ve all overlooked: intelligence and education that hasn’t been tempered by human affection isn’t worth a damn.”

Write a short product based on today’s prompt to connect to the unit theme.

At the end of this unit, you will write an essay titled *Human Dignity*. The essay will be about the importance of treating all people with respect and consideration. Today, you have read about Charlie’s argument with professor Nemur at the cocktail party. Charlie accused professor Nemur of treating him as something he has created rather than as a person he has helped. Why is it important to Charlie to be recognized as a whole person – both before and after the surgery? Write one or two paragraphs. Support your evidence from the text.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Flowers for Algernon, Day 7



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 268

"I knew it would happen. I always said it would happen someday. I tried everything I could. You were too young to remember, but I tried. I told them all that you'd go to college and become a professional man and make you mark in the world. They laughed, but I told them."

Write a short product based on today's prompt to connect to the unit theme.

At the end of this unit, you will write an essay titled *Human Dignity*. The essay will be about the importance of treating all people with respect and consideration. Today, you have read about Charlie's visit at the house where his mother and sister live. Charlie remembers his fear and shame as a child but is also compelled to show the kindness and compassion that his mother and sister need. How is Charlie responding to his family? Is Charlie showing forgiveness? Summarize your arguments in one or two paragraphs. Use evidence from the text.

Character-Based Literacy Program Writing Prompts

Flowers for Algernon, Day 8



Analyze the key paragraph.

Key Paragraph, p. 310

"I dont know why Im dumb agen or what I did rong. Maybe its because I dint try hard enuf or just some body put the evel eye on me. But if I try and practis very hard maybe Ill get a little smarter and no what all the words are."

Final Writing Product

Your final product is an essay titled *Human Dignity*. The essay will be about the importance of treating all people with respect and consideration. Focus your essay on accepting people with different skills, capacities, and knowledge. Describe the ethical responsibilities of children, parents, as well as professionals, including teachers, school principals, doctors, and researchers.

Begin your essay with a well-defined thesis statement or the key idea you will discuss and support with examples.

Use the paragraphs you have written over the last weeks to provide examples and supportive arguments.

The essay should be concise – avoid repetition and redundancy in statements. Use the following checklist to evaluate your work:

- The essay begins with a clear argument.
- The essay provides examples to clarify on the reasoning.
- The essay includes good transition sentences and phrases.
- The essay thoughtfully presents counterarguments.
- There is a topic sentence in each paragraph.
- There is a logical progression from one paragraph to the next.
- The essay ends with a strong conclusion.

Presenting Pros and Cons in an Argumentative Essay

In an argumentative essay, it is your responsibility to convince the reader that your position is the preferred one. You should introduce other point of views and discuss their merits. You should be transparent about the positive and negative of the actions you recommend. Use facts, example from the novel, and additional real or hypothetical examples to support your arguments.

Manage Your Time

Create a timeline to organize your writing schedule. Add dates in the right-side column. Add lines to the schedule, as needed.

What	When
Create a thesis statement.	
Create a thesis statement.	
Collect and organize ideas and facts.	
Complete an introduction paragraph.	
Complete the body paragraphs.	
Complete the conclusion paragraph.	
Read through and refine.	
Submit first draft.	
Revise based on feedback.	
Submit final draft.	