

How a Man Tripled his IQ

This story is about a mentally disabled man with an IQ of 68 and undergoes an operation that will triple it. This story is called "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keys, and its genre is Short Story/Science Fiction. The story "Flowers for Algernon" is about a 37 year old named Charlie Gordon, with an IQ of 68. He is a mentally disabled man who is in a special education class. He was chosen by his teacher, Miss Kinnian, to have an operation done on him that triples a person's or animal's IQ. Charlie now knows that he has been getting smarter because of how much he has improved in his spelling and punctuation. Charlie has also gained emotions the night Joe and Frank made me dance with Ellen. When he got tripped by someone in the crowd, he got embarrassed because everyone started laughing at me. He has been changing over time because Charlie can read a whole page at a glance, remember a whole story, type 75 words a minute, and has a larger vocabulary.

First of all, Charlie knows he has been changing because his grammar has been improving, he can tell by reading his old Progress Reports. Here is one example of change over time that Charlie Gordon accomplished, as according to page 292, "After I figured out how punctuation worked, I read over all my old Progress Reports from the beginning. Boy, did I have crazy spelling and punctuation! I told Miss Kinnian I ought to go over the pages and fix all the mistakes but she said, "No, Charlie, Dr. Nemur wants them just as they are. That's why he let you keep them after they were photostated, to see your own progress. You're coming along fast,

Charlie.” This quote proves that Charlie has been changing because he asked Miss Kinnian if he could correct his old progress reports. That means that Charlie has been changing over time by spelling correctly and he has also been getting smarter. Also, Charlie has been changing over time as according to, “Miss Kinnian teaches me to spell better. She says look at a word and close your eyes and say it over and over until you remember. I have lots of trouble with through that you say threw and enough and tough that you dont say enew and tew. You got to say enuff and tuff. Thats how I use to write it before I started to get smart. Im confused but Miss Kinnian says theres no reason in spelling.” This relates to changing over time because he seems to be writing much better than how he used to be. This evidence relates to my “changes over time” because it shows that Charlie is learning because he is getting smarter and better at spelling. This go's to show that Charlie has been learning and getting smarter every day because his spelling and grammar is better than how it used to be.

Secondly, he can beat Algernon at any maze that they throw at us to solve. Charlie has also been trying to beat Algernon before the operation was performed on him, but then he was able to beat him at any maze. As according to page 288, “ Nothing is happining. I had lots of tests and different kinds of races with Algernon. I hate that mouse. He always beats me.” This go's to show that Charlie isn't getting smarter but that he isn't giving up. It also means that Charlie is determined to get smarter and will end up beating Algernon in the future of the story. Charlie has also been trying to beat Algernon before the operation was performed on him but then he was able to beat him at any maze. As according to page 290, “I beat Algernon! I dint even know I beat him until Burt the tester told me. Then the second time I lost because I got so exited I fell off the chair before I finished. But after that I beat him 8 more times. I must be

getting smart to beat a smart mouse like Algernon.” This means that Charlie is as smart as Algernon. This proves that he is getting smarter because he has won Algernon now eight times. This goes to show that the operation worked and made him more intelligent or smarter because he is now able to beat Algernon.

Thirdly, Charlie has been changing over time because he can read a whole page at a glance, remember a whole story, type 75 words a minute, now he spells correctly and has a larger vocabulary. This meant that Charlie has awful handwriting. According to page 297, “Dr. Strauss is very angry at me for not having written any progress reports in two weeks. He's justified because the lab is now paying me a regular salary. I told him I was too busy thinking and reading. When I pointed out that writing was such a slow process that it made me impatient with my poor handwriting, he suggested that I learn to type. It's much easier to write now because I can type nearly seventy-five words a minute. Dr. Strauss continually reminds me of the need to speak and write simply so that people will be able to understand me.” This shows that Charlie Gordon has very poor handwriting and writes slowly. It also shows how fast he can type. This means that Charlie is a very fast typer considering the fact that not everyone uses a typewriter. As according to page 297, “ It's much easier to write now because I can type nearly seventy-five words a minute.” This proves that Charlie Gordon can type more than the average words per minute than the average people can today. Considering the fact that he can type up to 75 words a minute without any error's. This goes to show how much Charlie's IQ when up or got tripled because he can type about 75 words per minute without error.

Finally, Charlie now knows that he has been getting smarter because of how much he has improved in spelling and punctuation. Charlie also gained emotions the night Joe and Frank

made him dance with Ellen. When Charlie got tripped by someone in the crowd around that time he got embarrassed because everyone started laughing at him. He has been changing over time because Charlie can read a whole page at a glance, remember a whole story, type 75 words a minute, and he has a larger vocabulary. This theme is important because it is one of the main focuses of the story, Changes over time. It is necessary to extract the themes so you can understand and maybe relate to the story more. The Theme "Change over Time" is universal because of how it can relate to almost everything. In all this essay about Charlie Gordon changing over time is about him getting smarter and learning new skills that he didn't know before.