

Flowers for Algernon
Progress Reports 1-9

1. What is wrong with Charlie's writing? Do you think this is significant to the story?
2. Why does Charlie want to be smart so badly?
3. Describe Charlie's relationship with his family?
4. Compare and contrast Charlie's motivation and Algernon's motivation.
5. Do you believe that Charlie's operation is a success? Why or why not?
6. Why is Charlie's operation to be kept a secret?
7. Why do you think sharing his progress reports suddenly start to bother Charlie?
8. Why does Charlie start to refer to himself in the third person when discussing himself before the operation?

Flowers for Algernon
Progress Report 10

1. Why does Charlie really want to learn how to make the rolls?
2. What does Charlie believe the purpose of college to be?
3. What makes Charlie's mother's tears unique?
4. How does Charlie's perceptions of those around him change as his IQ increases? Is this a good thing or not? Explain your reasoning.

Flowers for Algernon
Progress Report 11

1. What is Charlie afraid of?
2. How is the way in which others treat Charlie as a very intelligent man similar to the way he was treated before the operation?
3. What does Charlie realize about his college professors? Why is this important?
4. Why is Charlie fired? Is this fair?
5. What do you believe are the moral implications of Charlie's operation?

Flowers for Algernon
Progress Report 12

1. According to Charlie, how can language be a barrier? Do you agree or disagree? Explain your thoughts.
2. Compare your family to Charlie's. What are the similarities and differences?

3. How does Alice really feel about Charlie's operation? How can you tell?
4. "I'll stop studying and I'll be a dummy just like him. I'll forget everything I learned and then I'll be just him." Can a person "study" his way to a higher or lower I.Q.? How does a person's I.Q. define him/her? Should it? If so, to what extent?

Flowers for Algernon
Progress Report 13

1. "At this point my feelings are more important than anything else." Why is this statement ironic?
2. Where did Charlie get his unusual motivation for becoming smart? Is it a good or bad thing? Why?
3. What does Charlie realize about the knowledge of specialists in their own field?
4. Do you think Algernon understands Charlie? Why or why not?
5. If you were in Charlie's position would you want to see your parents? Why or why not?

Flowers for Algernon
Progress Report 14

1. Do you agree that "life is just a box of mazes?" Explain your response.
2. How does Charlie feel about Algernon's slowing intellectual abilities? What do you think this foreshadows for Charlie?
3. What is Charlie guilty of in the diner that hurts him most of all?
4. Compare and contrast Fay and Alice.

Flowers for Algernon
Progress Report 15

1. Why doesn't Charlie want Algernon disposed of according to normal lab procedures?
2. Where will Charlie be "disposed of" if the experiment fails? How does he feel about this? Why?
3. Why does Charlie think it is important to visit the Warren House? Do you think this is a good idea?
4. What is Charlie's opinion of many psychological theories? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Flowers for Algernon
Progress Report 16-17

1. According to Ray, why do the "high-moron types" usually return to Warren House?
2. Why does Winslow become angry at Charlie? Is his anger justified? Why or why not?

3. What does Charlie believe to be the most wonderful things a man can have? Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. Why does Charlie think that he was better off before the operation?
5. Why does Charlie identify with Algernon?
6. Why doesn't Charlie want to do mazes and tests anymore?
7. What is the overall theme of this novel?
8. What does Charlie lose that he had before the operation?
9. Do you think it was a good thing that Charlie had the operation? Why or why not?
10. Did you enjoy this book? Why or why not?

Flowers for Algernon
Progress Report 10