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Changes

Being able to change in a hurtful way or an unnoticeable way is a gift everyone wants. Aspiring to conduct an operation which can triple the amount of your original IQ number is an unreliable guarantee. In spite of this news, Charlie Gordon is chosen to undergo the operation. In the short fictional story, "Flowers For Algernon," written by Daniel Keyes, the protagonist of the story is Charlie Gordon. He is a 37-year-old male with a surprisingly low IQ of 68. Because becoming intelligent occupies a motivation, Charlie was chosen by Dr. Strauss and Dr. Nemur to be the subject of a knowledgeable and experimental operation. Writing daily logs, he is able to explain the improvements and the unsatisfactory effect of the operation. The operation had only been done on animals like Algernon the white mouse. Charlie being chosen makes him the first human to undergo the operation. The lesson expressed in this story is, self improvement causes copious changes over time. In Flowers For Algernon it was shown in tests, self discovery/ emotions, and commitment.

For one thing, tests are difficult for people above, below or at an average level to complete. Taking tests as simple as the Rorschach test or finishing a pencil and paper maze is challenging to Charlie. Commented in the story, "Anyway that test made me feel worse than all the others because they did it over 10 times with different *amazeds* and Algernon won every time"(286). In other words, before the operation, a rat could beat him in a simplistic maze. He

felt disappointed afterwards after all those tests and not being able to beat Algernon. However after the operation he beamed, “I beat Algernon! I didnt even know I beat him until Burt the tester told me”(290). To explain, Charlie was able to beat Algernon in a maze. Happy he was able to overcome the difficulty of the maze, the operation was proving successful. His motivation to become intelligent was helping him advance. Improving from the past inner self he changed during some time after the operation and progressed educationally.

To continue, feelings are matters that seem unimportant to the natural human eye, living life as it is given. On the other hand Charlie’s ignorance is his bliss. To further continue, “Sometimes somebody will say hey look at Joe or Frank or George he really pulled a Charlie Gordon. I dont know why they say that but they always laff”(289). Put differently, his “friends” use his name as an example to show a naive action. Charlie did not know he was being used and thought they were his friends but shortly after the surgery his perspective changed. Later confirmed, “I felt sick as I looked at his dull, vacuous smile, the wide, bright eyes of a child, uncertain but eager to please. They were laughing at him because he was mentally retarded”(299). To explain, he feels terrible as citizens laughed at the mentally retarded boy while the boy didn’t know they were laughing at him not with him. Charlie was more compassionate to the boy because he understood what it felt like to be ignorant and unable to understand. Charlie enhanced his feelings by flourishing from his surgery and although he was mentally retarded and would have smiled like the boy, he felt corrupted as if he was oppressed in the perspective of the crowd. He grew overtime from past emotions to relate to the unjust criticism of society.

Furthermore, to stick with a struggle shows commitment. Charlie was not the brightest student in Miss Kinnians night class but was determined to become brilliant. Addressed afterwards, “ They said Miss Kinnian told that I was her bestist pupil in the adult nite scool becaus I tryed the hardist and I reely wantid to lern”(286). Stated another way, Charlie was trying the hardest because learning felt important to him. Charlie is driven by his motivation very critically. He strived to learn more than anyone in his class. Overtime he learned many subjects efficiently that he made his old logs look like they weren’t written by him. Exclaimed, “You are accomplishing in days and weeks what it takes normal people to do in half a lifetime” (296). In other words he is learning new information faster than an average human is able to. By learning quickly his low IQ of 68 would have improved by now. His motivation drove him to become an intelligent, fast learner over the time of after the operation. He is committed to become smart as fast as he can.

In the end, thriving for improvement is one of the various things that changes in a timely manner. The important part is Charlie’s daily logs, which show the changes that happened, can always be referred back to. Every living thing wants better for the future than what they are living in their present. Time may stop but being able to improve carries on. Charlie wanted to improve his intelligence over a surgery that would help him over time. People like him all want to improve in one way or another, willing to risk anything to get a better future. Everything changes over time whether or not you were trying to improve, but with all those improvements, make them so your future is considerably convenient to fit your dream and motivation. Charlie never stopped no matter what, he is committed. His changes emotionally helped him to be better

in society and to understand metaphoric things. Changing, whether it hurts or not, changes over time.