

Flowers for Algernon

Choice Project

Background: We met Charlie Gordon before his groundbreaking surgery. We saw a grown man with an IQ of 68, observed the world through his eyes, and got a glimpse of how others treated him. Since then, we have seen him – and the actions of others toward him – transformed. His intelligence, as measured by his IQ, has changed, but that’s not the only difference by far. He is developing physically, academically, emotionally, and socially. Every part of his life is in transition, from his grammar to his ethics and relationships with others.

After taking our multiple intelligences (or abilities) quiz, we now understand the limitations of relying solely on IQ for measuring intelligence. We have explored our own abilities, and will now apply these talents to creating a product that embodies the transformation of Charlie Gordon and the world around him.

Objectives:

- To independently explore a unique ability or intelligence.
- To recognize the validity of multiple intelligences.
- To demonstrate a deep understanding of the changes that take place in the novel, *Flowers for Algernon*.
- To reflect on the treatment of people with disabilities.

Process: Each student will:

1. Discuss Multiple Intelligences and take an online quiz (<http://tinyurl.com/woodlawn7LA2>) to determine his or her particular strengths.
2. Complete a Continuum of Change chart in his or her LA Handbook that analyzes how Charlie and others’ treatment of Charlie change throughout the novel.
3. Choose one of his or her top 3 strongest abilities and plan to create a product using this ability that portrays the changes that take place in the novel. For example, visual-spatial learners may choose to create a notebook of Dr. Strauss’s notes and Professor Nemur’s charts that demonstrate Charlie’s progression throughout the novel. Musical learners may choose to compose a piece of music that embodies the changing moods Charlie experiences. Linguistic learners may choose to write a story, poem, or essay.
4. Write a one-paragraph proposal of his or her plan to be approved by Ms. Ruble.
5. Gather supplies and create/construct/develop/write their product.
6. Write a short, one-page reflection on how his or her piece effectively demonstrates the changes in the novel.

Evaluation: The key purpose of this project is to express a complete picture of Charlie’s transformations and those of the world around him. In keeping with this, the project will be evaluated first and foremost on whether the product effectively and completely portrays these changes. Please see scoring rubric for details.