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### What happens Overtime, can have Impact on Your Mind

Mental illness has been a problem throughout history. However, there have been many positive scientific breakthroughs overtime. In Daniel Keyes' short story, "Flowers for Algernon," a willing 37-year-old man, with a really low mental ability, named Charlie Gordon undergoes a risky surgery. This will hopefully improve his brain functions and his intelligence. A mouse named Algernon has this same surgery done on him. Throughout the story, we see a lot of mental improvement with Charlie, eventually passing the intelligence of his teacher and the scientist who ran experiments on him. However, as a sad twist, Charlie slowly loses all memory of his intellectual achievements, and Algernon passes away. That is why the story is called, "Flowers for Algernon." The theme expressed in this story is that changes in one's intelligence may, overtime lead to positive or negative changes. This theme is explored through Charlie's intelligence levels in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

To commence, Charlie starts as a man with a poor intellectual ability. We know this because of his low IQ. As brought up by Charlie on page 287, "I felt proud when he said that not every body with an eye- q of 68 had that thing." Because of his extremely low IQ, there must be room for improvement. In this case, he can change positively overtime. After Charlie undergoes the speculative surgery, he will slowly start to notice positive changes in his mental capability. Charlie's teacher, Miss Kinnian, teaches him punctuation, as he writes on page 292, "You got to mix them up, she showed? me " how. to mix ! them ( up... and now; I can! mix up all

kinds “ of punctuation, in! my writing? “ This shows Charlie’s increasing ability to learn. Charlie begins to gain more knowledge overtime. Although the changes are gradual, they are still going in the right direction.

In addition, Charlie shows even more intellectual improvement in the middle of the story. Before, people at his work used to say that they, “ pulled a Charlie Gordon”. Charlie obviously did not know what this meant and just went along with it. However, as Charlie says on page 293, “Now I know what it means when they say ‘ to pull a Charlie Gordon.’ “. Charlie is gaining knowledge over time, and now understands that he is being bullied. This change was yet again a positive one, because he is aware of the bullying, and can not be manipulated as much. Now, because of this knowledge he has acquired and gained over time, the people who once took advantage of him now will not talk to him at all. “ Everybody seems to be frightened of me.” , as Charlie explains on page 295. His changing mindset is making people treat him as an outcast. No one wants to communicate with him because of how much his intelligence has changed. They think he is a freak. This could be somewhat of negative change. At this rate, Charlie may now start seeing some negative changes throughout the rest of the story.

To finish the support of my theme, Charlie’s intellectual ability seems to be getting worse as he slowly starts losing memory by the end of the story. Since he found out that the rate in which he gained his knowledge overtime is the rate in which he will lose it, events from now on will have a negative effect on Charlie. Charlie is forgetting simple information, like where he lives, as he said on 302,“ Last night I couldn’t remember where I lived. A policeman took me home.” This signifies a negative intellectual change. He gained all this knowledge over the course of the book. Now he is losing any recollection of this knowledge. It also got to the point

that everyone he felt sorry for him, even those who made fun of him at the factory. On page 305, Charlie addressed, “ Evry body feels sorry at the factery...”. This was a very negative change for Charlie. Before, people made fun of him and took advantage of him, but now everyone feels sorry for him. Charlie’s massive increase and decrease of cognitive skills shows both positive and negative change overtime.

In summary of all my thoughts, Changes can happen in one’s intelligence, whether it be positive or negative. This idea is explored through Charlie’s intelligence on the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Extracting themes from literary works is important because it can really help you understand what you are reading. Being able to find a universal theme shows that you got something out of reading it. It shows that you care about the topic you are reading about. This theme can apply to many people all around the globe. Many humans experience significant mental changes, whether it be a positive or negative change. The theme may or may not apply to you, and you may be thinking, “Hey, what’s the point of reading this if I can not relate to it?” Well, if it does not, then that’s alright, because at least you know that everyone’s intelligence can change overtime, including yours. Whether the change be positive or negative.