Aphasia Book Club

Flowers for Algernon

Week 1: pages 1-25

Worksheet A

1. Charlie has to write ‘progris riports’ and says he was told to “rite just like I talk” (page 1). Charlie misspells words and has incorrect grammar. What do you think of the way Charlie writes? Has it been easy or hard to read his writing? Do you see a difference in his writing from page 1 to page 25? If so, in what ways?

2. On page 10, it is mentioned that Charlie would be great for this experiment since he has an overwhelming desire to learn. Do you think his desire to learn will be beneficial to the success of the experiment if he is chosen to be a part of this surgery? Has there ever been anything you’ve had a desire to learn about or achieve? What was it, and how did you work to learn or achieve it?

3. On page 15, Charlie writes, “If your smart you can have lots of frends to talk to and you never get lonely by yourself all the time”. Do you agree with this? Do you think if Charlie becomes smart he will make a lot of friends? Do you think just because you have a lot of friends and family, you can never feel lonely? Have you ever felt lonely even with friends and family around you? If so, why?

4. On page 20, Charlie writes, “When I waked up this morning rite away I thot I was gone to be smart but Im not. Evry morning I think Im gone to be smart but nothing happins”. Charlie seems to think he will instantly become ‘smart’. Has there ever been anything that you wished could happen instantly or overnight? How did you feel when it wasn’t instant, but rather gradual?