Aphasia Book Club

Flowers for Algernon

Week 6: pages 119-145

Worksheet A

**1.** On pages 123-126, Alice yells at Charlie. She says his intelligence has changed him and she has begun to feel ‘stupid’ in comparison to him.

Charlie really depends on Alice, emotionally. How do you think this will affect Charlie going forward?

Do you agree with Alice, that Charlie has changed since becoming more intelligent? Why or why not?

**2.** Charlie has a flashback to getting encephalo-reconditioning as a child (pages 134-143).

Although realizing this doctor took advantage of his parents, and their money, Charlie doesn’t resent him (page 145). Why did Charlie say he couldn’t resent him? Do you think that is a good enough reason?

Have you ever been, or felt, taken advantage of? If so, how did it make you feel?

**3.** On page 144, Charlie mentions that he never stopped wanting “to be the smart boy” his mother wanted he to be, in hopes she would love him.

What do you think about this? Do you think this sense of ‘motivation to learn’ his mother left with him had negative or positive effects on Charlie? Why or why not?

Have you ever worked for something just to impress someone else? If so, why?

**4.** On page 145, when talking about Professor Nemur, Charlie says, “How can I make him understand that he did not create me?”. Charlie is upset that Nemur doesn’t consider him a real human being with feelings.

Do you agree that Nemur hasn’t considered Charlie’s feelings throughout this process? Why or why not?

Have you ever been treated as inferior, or as less than you’re worth? If so, how did you feel? How did you handle that situation?