Aphasia Book Club

Flowers for Algernon

Week 9 (pg. 221-241)

Worksheet A

1. Starting on page 222, Charlie describes his visit to the Warren State Home and Training School. Why do you think it was important for Charlie to visit the Warren State Home?

On page 231, Charlie says, “there was no talk of rehabilitation, of cure, of someday sending these people out into the world again. No one had spoken of hope.” How do you think Charlie feels about the Warren State Home?

If you were Charlie, how would you feel knowing you would be sent to the Warren State Home if your intelligence were to decline?

2. On page 232, Charlie describes the night that Alice met Fay. Afterwards, Alice says that while she likes Fay, she thinks that Fay is bad influence for Charlie. Do you agree or disagree with Alice? Why or why not?

Why do you think that Alice is hesitant to pursue a relationship with Charlie? Would you be hesitant as well?

3. On page 239, Charlie says that Algernon “will run a shifting maze, but when he fails and finds himself in a dead-end, he reacts violently.”

Charlie can’t help but compare himself to Algernon. Do you think Charlie will follow in the same path as Algernon? Why or why not?

4. On page 240, Charlie describes his research by saying “I’m on the edge of it. I sense it. They all think I’m killing myself at this pace, but what they don’t understand is that I'm living at a peak of clarity and beauty I never knew existed.”

Do you think Charlie’s research is going to be helpful to science? Why or why not?

Do you think Charlie will finish his research before he ‘runs out of time’? Why or why not?

Charlie is working hard, but he is enjoying what he is doing. Is there something that you like to do so much that you don’t care how hard you have to work for it? If so, what is it?