Aphasia Book Club

Flowers for Algernon

Week 2: pages 25-48

Worksheet A

1. As Charlie is gaining intelligence, he is understanding his interactions with other people in a different way and realizes people have been making fun of him. Do you think it is good or bad that he realizes his “friends” have been mean to him? Is there anything in your own life that you wished you had remained ignorant of? If so, what is it?

2. What do you think of the TV show that Charlie listens to at night (pages 25-26)? What do you think he might be hearing and why it is helping him learn? Do you think there might be any danger to this? Do you wish you could turn on a ‘TV show’ at night that would help you learn something while you were sleeping?

3. On page 47, Dr. Strauss says to Charlie, “The more intelligent you become the more problems you’ll have, Charlie. Your intellectual growth is going to outstrip your emotional growth.” We know that Charlie is realizing his “friends” have been mean to him. What else do you think Charlie will come to understand as he becomes more intelligent that might upset him? Has there ever been something you ‘realized’ was actually different from how you originally viewed it?

4. Do you think Charlie’s intelligence has been increasing quickly or more slowly? Why? How smart do you think he is going to get? (Hint: Charlie had the operation on March 11th and we read up to April 15th on page 47).