Aphasia Book Club

Flowers for Algernon

Week 13: pages 285-311

Worksheet A

1. On page 289, Charlie decides that he is done with Beekman and does not wish to return to the laboratory or see Strauss, Nemur, or Burt, ever again. Why do you think Charlie decided to leave?

Do you think it was the right decision for Charlie to stop coming to Beekman? Why or why not?

2. Throughout pages 292-301, Alice stays with Charlie. Why do you think Alice stayed with Charlie as he continued to decline? Do you think it was because she loves him, because she feels guilty about the experiment, or another reason?

During this time with Alice, Charlie has moments of amnesia, where he forgets where he is and who he is. Why do you think this is happening to him?

3. What do you think about the rate of Charlie’s decline? Does it seem like he regressed at the same rate that his intelligence increased? (His final research paper predicted that the decline would be at the same rate).

Once Charlie returned to his original intelligence level, what did you think of him? Did he return to being the ‘old Charlie’? Was there anything about him that seemed different?

4. On page 309, Charlie accidentally returns to Alice Kinnian’s class. After realizing his mistake, he decides to go live at the Warren State Home and quit his job at the bakery. How do you feel about Charlie’s decision?

5. What are you final thoughts and feelings about the book?