Aphasia Book Club

Flowers for Algernon

Week 3: Pages 48-71

Worksheet A

1. On page 53, Charlie has a flashback to when he was in elementary school when he did not know how to write and trusted a fellow classmate to write a message for him. However, when Harriet reads the message she is very upset and her brothers want to fight Charlie because his classmate purposely wrote the wrong message. Have you ever trusted someone to do something for you and they broke your trust? What was it? How did it make you feel?

2. On page 65, Frank and Gimpy are trying to teach Charlie how to make the Bakery’s rolls. When Charlie tried baking them on his own, they rushed him and he wished he was given more time. Do you think rushing him made it harder to remember how to make the rolls? Have you ever felt rushed when trying to learn something new and just wish you were given more time? If so, what was it?

3. On page 67, Charlie received a raise at the Donner’s Bakery and is now joining the Baker’s Union. This is an exciting time for Charlie and a big accomplishment for how far he has come; however, Charlie shares how the pleasure of this news is gone because “the others resent me.” Why do you think the other employees at the bakery resent him? How do you think Charlie feels? Have you ever had something happen where you were happy, but others did not share your happiness?

4. On page 68, Charlie overhears Dr. Strauss and Professor Nemur fighting over whether it is too soon to present the results of Charlie’s operation at an upcoming convention. Do you think it is too soon to present the findings? What would be the downside in sharing this study too prematurely? Do you think Charlie will continue to make progress?