Aphasia Book Club

Flowers for Algernon

Week 5: Pages 96-119

Worksheet A

**1.** On pages 103 and 104, Mr. Donner lets Charlie go from his job at the bakery because he is making the other employees uncomfortable and he believes that Charlie is now smart enough to work at other places.

Do you agree with Mr. Donner’s decision to fire Charlie? Why or why not?

Mr. Donner had promised Charlie’s uncle that he would make sure Charlie had a job as long as he needs it. Do you think that Charlie has changed enough that Mr. Donner’s promise no longer matters? Why or why not?

Have you ever had to make a decision like Mr. Donner, where it would benefit many people, but hurt one? If so, was it difficult to make that decision?

**2.** Charlie describes how his new intelligence is driving people away from him. (page 108).

Why do you think people dislike, or are afraid of, Charlie, now that he is smarter?

Has there ever been a time in your life where you were unfairly judged or disliked because of something that was out of your control? How did you handle that?

**3.** Alice Kinnian says that she thinks they (Mr. Donner, Professor Nemur, etc.) are pushing Charlie too fast. (page 111)

Do you think that they are pushing Charlie too fast? Why or why not?

Have you ever felt like people in your life were pushing or pressuring you too hard? How did you handle that situation?

**4.** Rose promised Norma a dog, but Matt said she could not have one after the way she spoke to Charlie. (pages 117-118)

Do you agree with Matt’s decision to not let Norma have a dog? Why or why not?

Norma shuts Charlie out of her life by saying he is not her actual brother and no longer playing with him after she doesn’t get a dog. (page 119). Do you think she made the right decision to shut Charlie out? How would you have reacted if you were in Norma’s shoes?