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Changing Matters

You can change overtime but some people turn back to their original selves. In the fictional short story, "Flowers for Algernon," Daniel Keyes shows the situation in how people are ambitious and also how they can change over the years. Charlie is a 37-year old man. He has a mental learning disability. Throughout the story, the author shows how Charlie transforms from not being smart to becoming intelligent. He changes after an operation he has. The operation he had made his IQ triple. Therefore, the theme of changes over time is shown in this story. Also, it explains how he is ambitious in turning smart. Change is shown in the beginning when Charlie is ambitious to become smart, in the middle when he is smart and in the end when he becomes his own self.

In the beginning, Charlie is ambitious in becoming smart. Charlie is willing to do anything to become intelligent. Charlie explains, "I tryed hard but I still couldnt find the picturs I only saw the ink."(285) This shows that he was desperate for knowing what could be as a possible picture for the inkblot. He wants to have an average IQ. Charlie wants to have an operation done on him because he wants to be like the others. "Their going to use me! I'm so excited I can hardly write."(286) This shows how he really wants to be intelligent . He'll do anything just to become smart. Charlie is ambitious because he really wants to have that operation done on him. He plans to have the human average IQ. Charlie is ambitious in becoming smart, he is determined to have anything done on him just to become intelligent.

Further on, Charlie changed because he got the operation done on him and he now has a high IQ. Charlie became intelligent overtime because he is able to read books and knows how to write with correct punctuation. “We are reading a very hard book... Robinson Crusoe.”(291) This shows that Charlie is now smart. He knows how to read way better. He used to race in a maze with Algernon, a white mouse. “I went down and played with Algernon. We don't race anymore.” (292)This means that they are both intelligent. They don't need to be raced against each other anymore . Charlie changed from being ambitious about becoming intelligent. Charlie is not ambitious in becoming smart anymore because he got smart after the operation they had tested on him.

Lastly, overtime Charlie became his own self again. Charlie is forgetting the things he was learning after he had the operation.“Last night I couldn't remember where I lived.” (302) This states that he is forgetting the simple things. He could become his own self anytime soon. He's forgetting things that he learned recently. “I tested myself in other languages.All gone.” (303)This states that he is back to his own self. He is the same person as he was before the operation. Charlie lost all his knowledge. Charlie is not intelligent anymore.

To conclude, Charlie changed overtime. He was not able to accomplish the maze and have good punctuation at first. Then he became smart because of the operation they had done on him. Later on Charlie turned back to his own self. This theme is important because it shows us a lesson. It can show us how much people can be determined. The short story shows us how a person can be ambitious and can have a huge change in their lives. Charlie showed us how he was ambitious towards becoming smart. He was determined to do anything to become intelligent. It did not turn out as what he had planned but at least he had a time period where he

got the chance to experience intelligence.