

## Synopsis

This novel tells about Charlie Gordon, 32 years old, is a cleaning service in Donner's Bakery. He was born as a person with mental disability or low IQ, 68. The entire narrative of *Flowers for Algernon* is composed of the "progress reports" that Charlie writes. Charlie works at Donner's Bakery in New York City as a janitor and delivery boy. The other employees often taunt him and pick on him, but Charlie is unable to understand that he is the subject of mockery. He believes that his coworkers are good friends.

One day, he is asked to be an experiment object by psychology laboratory in increasing the human intellectuality experiment. He and an Algernon become their experiments. He is initially disappointed that there is no immediate change in his intellect, but with work and help from Alice, he gradually improves his spelling and grammar. Charlie begins to read adult books, slowly at first, then voraciously, filling his brain with knowledge from many academic fields. He shocks the workers at the bakery by inventing a process designed to improve productivity. Charlie also begins to recover lost memories of his childhood, most of which involve his mother, Rose, who resented and often brutally punished Charlie for not being normal like other children.

During the journey of Charlie as an object experiment, he is unready to get himself in different condition. Previously, he is a person with mentally-retarded and has many friends. He likes to make his friends laugh. He will do everything that can make them happy, including making himself funny by doing stupid things. But when he becomes a genius as the success experiment, he knows that

his friends only like him as a joke and mock everything that he does. He also realizes that he is deeply attracted to Alice. She insists on keeping their relationship professional, but it is obvious that she shares Charlie's attraction. When Charlie discovers that one of the bakery employees is stealing from Mr. Donner, he is uncertain what to do until Alice tells him to trust his heart. Delighted by the realization that he is capable of solving moral dilemmas on his own, Charlie confronts the worker and forces him to stop cheating Donner. Not long afterward, Charlie is let go from the bakery because the other workers are disturbed by the sudden change in him, and because Donner can see that Charlie no longer needs his charity. Charlie grows closer to Alice, though whenever the mood becomes too intimate, he experiences a sensation of panic and feels as if his old disabled self is watching him. Charlie begins to recover memories of his mother beating him for the slightest sexual impulses, and he realizes that this past trauma is likely responsible for his inability to make love to Alice.

Charlie changes in his personality as a genius man, so his friends think that he is a stranger. They start to keep him away from their lives. Those feelings dominate his soul seems like evil that want to make him scare. He hates his condition at this moment. As the result, he becomes a man who has crisis of personality. Then he alienates himself from people that he knows. He goes to a place where people do not know him to continue his normal life. He tries to find something new in new place where people do not know him.

In his alienation, Charlie meets his neighbor, an attractive, free-spirited artist named Fay Lillman. Charlie does not tell Fay about his past, and he is able

to do a sexual relationship with her. The foundation that has funded the experiment gives Charlie dispensation to do his own research, so he returns to the lab. However, his commitment to his work begins to consume him, and he drifts away from Fay.

Algernon's intelligence begins to slip, and his behavior becomes erratic. Charlie worries that whatever happens to Algernon will soon happen to him as well. Algernon eventually dies. Fearing a regression to his previous level of intelligence, Charlie visits his mother and sister in order to try to come to terms with his past. He finds the experience moving, thrilling, and devastating. Charlie's mother, now a demented old woman, expresses pride in his accomplishments, and his sister is overjoyed to see him. However, Rose suddenly slips into a delusional flashback and attacks Charlie with a butcher knife. He leaves sobbing, but he feels that he has finally overcome his painful background and become a fully developed individual.

Charlie succeeds in finding the error in Nemur's hypothesis, scientifically proving that a flaw in the operation will cause his intelligence to vanish as quickly as it has come. Charlie calls this phenomenon the "Algernon-Gordon Effect." As he passes through a stage of average intelligence on his way back to retardation, Charlie enjoys a brief, passionate relationship with Alice, but he sends her away as he senses the return of his old self. When Charlie's regression is complete, he briefly returns to his old job at the bakery, where his coworkers welcome him back with kindness.

Charlie forgets that he is no longer enrolled in Alice's night-school class for retarded adults, and he upsets her by showing up. In fact, Charlie has forgotten their entire romantic relationship. Having decided to remove himself from the people who have known him and now feel sorry for him, he checks himself into a home for disabled adults. His last request is for the reader of his manuscript to leave fresh flowers on Algernon's grave.

In a short way, this novel tells about three main characters, considering "I", Charlie and Algernon. Actually, "I" and Charlie are representation of two world of Charlie Gordon. Charlie is representation of Charlie's soul in mentally-retarded condition. And "I" is representation of Charlie's soul when the experiment walks in progress. But both of them are different characters just in narrator's mind. The narrator is as the first character because this novel uses first person for viewpoint. "I" as the narrator has big influence in the plot itself. "I" tells the two world of Charlie Gordon. If the readers do not read deeply, they will confuse to differ between "I" and Charlie. Basically, "I", Charlie and Algernon have the similar fate becoming the experiment of the psychological laboratory.