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Period:¾

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Persistence May Work

It takes a genius to come up with such an incredible topic that most authors do not even touch most of the time. “Flowers for Algernon” by Daniel Keyes, is a short fictional story published in 1959 and the genre is classified as a short fictional story. This story includes a man named Charlie Gordon, who has a low IQ, which prevents him to not learn so fast. Even though he has low intelligence levels he tries hard to learn more and will do anything to be smart. Charlie will follow any concept. These can obtain from dangerous to a common way of learning. Although at the end his effort is only for a while. This short story represents that persistence can change people over time and lead to new experiences. The theme can be explored in many ways. The top three are internally, change, and externally. Complete

Evidence of the first claim, internally, is how Charlie begs to let the man try again to pass his inkblot test. Furthermore, even if he has low intelligence levels he puts in the effort to learn while people of his same mentality level usually do not. An example of this claim is how what Ms. Kinnian tells him “... person who god gave so little to you done more then a lot of people with brains they never used.”(291). This shows how Charlie tries and struggles with himself to complete things a great amount of people would never attempt to complete. In Charlie’s view point he wants to be smart, so he can learn and not be stupid anymore. He keeps persisting that he can do it and to give him another chance, even though he will not pass the inkblot test. Later

on in the story, persistence is supported by "... please let me try again." as stated by Charlie(285). Charlie internally has a conflict with himself not accepting the fact of how he failed this test and tries to persuade the person that is testing him to let him try again. This connects to how Charlie keeps moving on and trying to learn. This first claim proves how it pertains to the theme. 10 complete

The next justification is change. Charlie's mood usually indicates if he wants to keep trying or just give up. Charlie went through a process of being smart to not so intelligent. When he started getting smarter he some what turned a bit more negative as he started finding out the truth and meaning of what people said about him. He started to have drastic changes when his mood started changing. "... Charlie Gordon was once a genius and now he cant even reed a book or rite good." (305). Later, around the end of the story Charlie starts feeling mortified. As Charlie states on, "... don't know why Im dumb agen or what I wrong maybe becaus I dint try hard enuff." (305). This is stated close to the end of the story when he starts to forget things. This proves that over time he changed and did not try as hard to so he failed. In other words, he gave up on himself and thought it would be better to give up than persisting. And even if he did keep persisting, he still would not be permanently smart. complete

The final confirmation is external. He encountered opportunities and he accepted them. He found new solutions that could help him out to learn and he would try his best to try those new solutions. According to the text, "... gonna use me! So excited I can hardly write." (page 286), he was accepted for an operation and the scientist don't know if it may even work. He is basically willing to sacrifice himself to learn. He also keeps asking for new methods to keep learning. He is also the best student according to page 286, "... I was her bestist pupil in the

adult nite scool becaus I tryed hardest ...”. Charlie always kept doing things even when he new it may not work. He had his hopes up high and kept persisting externally to keep learning. This proves how he took opportunity of anything that could help him learn. He always tried his best and kept persisting to be smarter. Complete

Hence, the three details of internal conflict, change, and external conflict all display how persistence can get and lead anywhere over time. This theme teaches how if you keep striving for persistence it will help over time. It may not last forever, maybe just a while. As for the story, it shows Charlie Gordon kept trying and he was intelligent at least for partial time. In my opinion, him experiencing intelligence partial time is better than none. Charlie was very lucky to experience something that people of his intelligence never experienced. He did all that by persisting himself to not be “dumb” anymore. Maybe it didn’t go as everyone planned, but at least his one wish came true for a while. This short story, “Flower for Algernon” is a story to show how persistence can help achieve big goals and dreams, even if it was partial time. You or whoever will feel satisfied, even if it is for a short time.