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Hardwork and Dedication Towards Education

One in five American adults experienced a mental health issue and one in 25 Americans live with mental illnesses, like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or depression. Mental illness is a health conditions that involve changes in behavior, or emotion. Mental illness also happens when you are in distress or if you have problems with work, family, and even social problems. In the fictional book, “Flowers For Algernon” by Keyes, there is a man named Charlie Gordon who is not smart but has wanted to be smart his whole life, so he joined a class at an adult center to help him get smarter. Charlie shows perseverance because he never gave up, and Charlie always does what Mr. Strauss wants him to do. For example, Charlie always writes his progress reports like Mr. Strauss always told him to do and Charlie also has to write about how he is feeling. Changes overtime goes along with the story because Charlie got to not smart, to intelligent, and hardship goes with the story because Charlie always works hard to get himself to be smarter. Charlie also perseveres in his education because he has tried so hard to get a better education and he doesn’t mind being made fun of when he was getting bullied by his “best friends.” Charlie shows hard work because he always followed his procedures and continued to show improvement in his life. Charlie changes over time by writing like a kindergartener to writing like as if he was in a professional.

In the beginning, Charlie shows hardship by continuing to grow in his knowledge and Charlie does everything he is told to do and Charlie does a good job at it. Charlie changes overtime because he

thinks he can get something if he uses glasses but he figures out it does not make a difference. "I held the card close up and then far away. Then I said if I had my glasses I could see better I usually only wore my glasses in the movies or TV but I said they are in the closet in the hall" (285). Charlie gets his glasses to try to see what is on the inkblot but he never saw anything. Charlie sees the card for the first time but he does not see pictures. Charlie only sees ink splattered on a card but he thinks if he wears his glasses he might be able to see something. Once Charlie gets his glasses he does not see anything and he thinks there is something wrong with the glasses but he thinks he fails because he does not see any pictures and Charlie can not tell a story with the ink on the card. This proves Charlie shows hardship because Charlie is trying so hard to see if there are pictures in his inkblots and he even gets his glasses but he ends off finding no pictures in the inkblots. "They said Miss Kinian told that I was her best pupil in the adult night school because I tried the hardest and I really wanted to learn" (286). Charlie always tries his hardest and he always tries to learn which is why Charlie went to the adult night school. Charlie also went to a night school to better his education because he hates being dumb and he desperately wants to be smart. This proves Charlie shows hardship because he is dedicated to learn and get a better education, and Charlie is also a hard worker because he has even impressed Miss Kinian with his hard work. Charlie always shows hardship when he gets tested and he even goes after his glasses so he can "see the pictures." This shows changes over time because he started off not seeing any pictures to seeing pictures once the operation was done.

After, Charlie continues to show hardship by continuing to learn. Charlie asked people where he could go to school and learn how to read and write good. "I said I asked people and somebody told me where I should go to learn to read and spell good. They said why did you want to. I told them because all my life I wanted to be smart and not dumb." (286) The main question people asked Charlie was why he

wanted to go to school but Charlie only said all my life I wanted to smart and not dumb. This is another way Charlie shows hardship because he was asking other people if there was a school he could go to help him get his intelligence to increase.”We are reading a very hard book. I have never read such a hard book before. Miss Kinnian teaches me to spell better. She says look at a word and close your eyes and say it over and over until you remember.”(291) Charlie shows hardship because he is trying his best to increase his knowledge and he keeps on trying and trying and does not give up. Charlie also shows hard work because when he is reading this challenging book he looks up words that are challenging to him and he does not skim over the words, Charlie looks them up and defines them. This shows changes over time because he went from being dumb to getting intelligent a little bit at a time.

Last but not least, Charlie continues to show hardship because he continues to try his best. “Miss Kinnian says Im lerning fast. She read some of the Progress Reports and she looked at me Kind of funny. She says Im a fine person and Ill show them all.”(291) Charlie continues to do his best and is showing progress in his progress reports and even Miss Kinnian was surprised to see Charlie’s progress. Charlie is doing such a good job that even Miss Kinnian was encouraging him to continue the good work and to never give up. Miss Kinnian also tells him that he can be the best and will show everyone that he is truly intelligent. This proves Charlie shows hardship because he showed a lot of improvement in his progress reports. “I only have to look up once and after that I get it right away. Anyways thats how come I got the word *punctuation* right.” (292)Charlie only has to look up a word once and after that Charlie gets it right away and he says that how he spelled the word punctuation correct. This proves Charlie showed hardship because he only needed to lookup a word once and he memorized it really fast. This also shows changes overtime because Charlie would have forgotten if he just looked up a word once but now he memorizes it really fast.

In the end, Charlie shows hardship because he never gives up in anything he believes in. Charlie also shows hardship because he is always giving his best when he goes through his tests and he also shows hardship when he continued to read harder books. Charlie shows changes overtime because he goes from being dumb to really smart to back to being not smart. Charlie also shows changes over time because he went from giving his best to getting a better education and never giving up, to being someone who never wants to go through another operation so you can be smarter. This theme is important because it means you can achieve anything if you believe you can. It is important to extract themes from literary works because it can inspire you to do great things with your life. This theme teaches you a lesson because we need to remember that we are intelligent but that there is also room for improvement. This theme is universal because we need to remember that we can do anything if we put our mind to it. We always need to try our best because we should be thankful that we are intelligent and get to have a good education.