

Flowers for Algernon

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Charlie Gordon is a 32-year-old man with one of the lowest IQ scores, unable to learn quickly, if at all, and does not pick up when he is being picked on or teased. When an experiment is done on him to raise his IQ tremendously, he is suddenly met with a new world of hardships, relationships, and people who treat him as either a stranger or an experiment. This book is about all that Charlie learns in his time during this experiment, both mentally and emotionally, philosophy on what it means to be human, and about seeing Plato's allegory of the cave.

"And now, I responded, consider this: If this person who had gotten out of the cave were to go back down again and sit in the same place as before, would he not find in that case, coming suddenly out of the sunlight, that his eyes are filled with darkness?"- Allegory of the Cave, Plato

Upon rereading this book from a year ago, I found myself enjoying this book, and especially digging into the character of Charlie and the interactions he has with others. Comparing him from how he was in the beginning of the book to the middle where he reaches an intellectual peak is fascinating, especially seeing as how he does not know how to act socially, and seeing him at the end of the book is heartbreaking. I would recommend this book to teenagers and older due to language and some sexual content, as well as comprehension.

Recommended Titles:

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee