



Flowers for Algernon

The Performance

Charlie Gordon, a mentally handicapped, good-natured and trusting individual, finds his simple life changing unexpectedly.

After an operation on a little white mouse named Algernon, Charlie is selected to be the first human to undergo experimental surgery to increase his intelligence. As Charlie's intelligence develops his emotions are thrown into turmoil – with greater awareness he suffers extremes of insecurity and paranoia. The experiment ultimately turns out to be flawed and, as Algernon regresses and dies, Charlie witnesses his own potential fate.

The story is told in Charlie's words – from his diary – enabling the audience to feel Charlie's warmth, compassion, humour and turmoil. The story explores the nature of intelligence, the consequences of attempting to surgically alter humanity and our own respect, or lack of it, for difference.

Flowers for Algernon is a poignant, sensitive and unforgettable story.

The Author

Daniel Keyes' novel, *Flowers for Algernon*, is one of the best science-fiction stories of our time. Published in 1959, it was hailed as a classic of the genre. It won the Science Fiction Writers' of America Hugo Award in 1960, & the SWFA Nebula Award in 1966. In 1968 Cliff Robertson won an academy award for his portrayal in the adaptation titled – *Charlie*.

Dept. of Education Publication

This moving drama is based on a short story by Daniel Keyes. Charlie Gordon undergoes an operation to triple his intelligence. The play deals with his progression and eventual regression. It raises the moral issues of scientific advancements and the acceptance of mentally and physically handicapped people in our society.

Comments

"Thoroughly impressed with the performance and the adaptation of the story". - **Meriden**.

"Students were enthralled, entertained & informed. It was a thought provoking experience. We would like to praise the professionalism of the actors. An outstanding experience of theatre & an accurate portrayal of the story on which it was based". - **Bridgewater HS**

Students enjoyed it immensely". - **Underdale HS**

SUITABILITY:	Years 7 - 12
DURATION:	55 minutes + 15 minute Q&A
COST PER STUDENT:	\$7.70 (\$7 + .70c GST)
MINIMUM PER SESSION:	\$770 (\$700+ \$70 GST) if less than 100 students
NOTE:	Teacher Notes provided