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Flowers For Algernon

There are over 42.5 million people in the U.S who suffer from mental illness. "Flowers for Algernon, by Daniel Keyes is a science fictional short story that was written in 1959. The story is about a thirty seven year old man with a learning disability his name is Charlie Gordon. It's about how his life is affected by his serious disability. Hope is the theme of the story. Three ways it's expressed is he has hope that he will learn ,things he does to have hope, and his own personal goals.

The first reason is that he has hope to reach his academic goals. On page 285 Charlie is nervously taking the inkblot test and is not getting them correct so he said "let me see the card again I bet I'll find it now." He has hope that he will see the pictures in the inkblots. It is challenging for Charlie to see the inkblots because he is not able to imagine stuff. On page 286 Charlie was taking another inkblot test and he said "this test looks easy because I can see the pictures." This statement shows that he has hope that he will do good on his test. He is learning how to use his imagination. These are the ways he shows hope to reach his academic goals.

The second reason is the things Charlie does to keep his hopes up. Charlie always has his rabbit foot with him. He keeps it with him for good luck. He has hope that his rabbit's foot will give him luck. On page 290 Charlie beat Algernon in the race this race used to be very challenging for Charlie. The race is easy for Algernon but Charlie beat him this time. Charlie said "I must be getting smart to beat a smart mouse like Algernon." Those are the ways that Charlie keeps his hopes up.

The final reason is that he has hope in his personal goals. Charlie started to have a crush on Mrs. Kinnian. Charlie got a bonus at work so to celebrate he asked Mrs. Kinnian to have dinner with him this happened on page 295. . This statement shows he has hope because he knew she would say yes. Charlie had to watch T.V when he was going to sleep so he can learn new things. Charlie didn't remember anything that he had watched when he was sleeping, so he watched it again in the morning. This shows that Charlie has hope to learn. These are some thing that he did that showed he has hope in his personal goals.

Hope is the theme of the story three ways it is expressed is he has hope in getting smarter , the things he does to keep hope, and his own personal goals. The theme is important because Charlie had hope that he will accomplish his goals. It's important to know about learning disabilities people suffer from. A learning disability is difficulties in acquiring knowledge and skills to the level expected of those of the same age.