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Achieving Your Goal Can Only Be Accomplished With Persistence

Imagine living in the 1960's, a time period when racism is a massive contribution to society and people with mental illnesses are seen as people who were insane and dangerous. In the fictional short story, "Flowers For Algernon" by Daniel Keyes, a man named Charlie Gordon undergoes surgery in hopes of becoming brighter and tripling his IQ. He is a mentally ill patient and receives this surgery along with a white mouse named Algernon. It is predicted that whatever happens to Algernon, will eventually happen to Charlie. Even if it is bad. We all face great obstacles in our lives. To overcome them is not easy. Although the outcome might not be superb, persistence impacts the it immensely.

To begin with, he is persistent is due to his way of acting during his Rorschach test. A rorschach test is an inkblot test used to measure creativity and someone's intellectual capability. A quote stated in paragraph four states, "I said please let me try agen. III get it in a few minits becaus Im not so fast somtimes." When he can't find pictures in inkblots, he asks for more opportunities because he believes that if he tries again he might be able to get it. He feels dumb because he thinks that if he can't see pictures in the inkblots he's unintelligent. This connects with my theme because Charlie is being persistent and he won't stop until he finds out what is on those inkblots. Another quote is stated in paragraph four, saying, "I'm a slow reeder too in Miss Kinnians class for slow adults but I'm trying very hard." Charlie admits he is very determined

and persistent. He tries to become smart. He knows it will take hard work and dedication, although the outcome might not always be superb.

Why the theme of this story persistence also leads back to when Dr. Nemur and Dr. Strauss were pensive and debating on whether to use Charlie as their test subject. A quote stated in progress report two reads, "They said Miss Kinnian told that I was her bestist pupil in the adult nite scool becaus I tryed the hardist and I reely wantid to lern." Charlie tries his hardest because he really wants to succeed in life and be intelligent. He too believes persistence is key to success. Another quote is stated in the middle of the story in his progress report for April 6. It states, "I beat Algernon! I dint even know I beat him until Burt the tester told me. Then the second time I lost because I got so excited I fell off the chair before I finished. But after that I beat him 8 more times. I must be getting smart to beat a smart mouse like Algernon." Charlie accomplished something he never thought he could! This happened due to him being persistent and hard working on becoming brighter.

The last reason why I believe the theme of this story is persistence is influenced by the ending of the story. Although this is a confusing and sad point in Charlie's life he is still persistent. As stated in his progress report on March 31, "I've got to find the reason for the sharp regression in Algernon. I've got to know if and of when it will happen to me." Charlie wants to find out what occurred to Algernon and how that was going to affect him. He won't let it go, therefore he is being persistent and determined. In the progress report for June 5 it states, "Algernon died two days ago. Dissection shows my predictions were right. His brain had decreased in weight and there was a general smoothing out of cerebral convolutions as well as a deepening and broadening of brain fissures. I guess the same thing is or will soon be happening

to me. Now that it's definite, I don't want it to happen.” Charlie knows that whatever happens to Algernon happens to him. He was persistent in finding out what happened to Algernon, but his answer was not one he wished for.

All things considered, we now see that we all face great obstacles in our lives. To overcome them is not easy. Although the outcome might not be superb, persistence impacts the outcome immensely. Imagine being in the middle of a killing field where there is only one way out. You don't just stand there and wait to die, you run. Sometimes though, you might not know what's on the other side.