

Answer Key

Transparency 4 Characterization

The chart below has been used to explore methods of characterization in Daniel Keyes's "Flowers for Algernon," which begins on PE page 221.

Title: "Flowers for Algernon"

Author: Daniel Keyes

Character: Charlie

What the Story Says	Method of Characterization	What It Tells Me About the Character
Charlie says he didn't spill the ink on the cards.	character's speech	Charlie is afraid of being "bad."
Test lady gets "sore" at Charlie.	other character's actions	Charlie can be strong-minded.
Dr. Strauss and Dr. Nemur discuss whether or not to use Charlie in the experiment.	other character's speech	Charlie is good-natured and easy to please.
Charlie brings rabbit's foot, lucky penny, and horseshoe to hospital.	character's actions	Charlie is superstitious.
Charlie beats Algernon.	character's actions	Charlie is getting smarter.
Charlie realizes Joe and Frank are making fun of him.	character's thoughts	Charlie is becoming more aware.
At the end of the story, Charlie won't let Miss Kinnian in when she comes to visit him in his room.	character's actions	Charlie is ashamed of having lost his intelligence.