

## Literary Analysis SkillBuilder, page 19

Responses will vary. Possible responses are provided.

### Physical Description

Charlie is 37 years old.

### Charlie's Thoughts, Behavior, and Speech

- "Their going to use me! Im so exited I can hardly rite."
- Charlie says that Frank and Joe are his best friends.
- "Now I know what it means when they say 'to pull a Charlie Gordon.' I'm ashamed."
- Charlie gets angry at people's treatment of the mentally challenged boy in the restaurant.
- Charlie buries Algernon in his backyard and puts flowers on his grave.
- "Oh, God, please don't take it all away."
- "Im going someplace where nobody knows Charlie Gordon was a genius and now he cant even reed a book or rite good."

### Other Characters' Thoughts and Actions

- Miss Kinnian says that Charlie is her best night school student.
- Dr. Strauss and Dr. Nemur say that Charlie has good motivation for a person with an IQ of 68.
- Frank and Joe enjoy making a fool of Charlie by playing tricks on him.
- The workers at the factory sign a petition to get rid of Charlie when he becomes intelligent.
- Miss Kinnian looks as if she is scared to see Charlie after the operation.
- Dr. Nemur is intimidated by Charlie's intelligence.

### Other Characters' Direct Comments

- "Charlie you don't know it yet but your getting smarter all the time."
- Miss Kinnian says to Charlie, "I have confidence in you. . . ."
- "You used to be a good, dependable, ordinary man—not too bright maybe, but honest. Who knows what you done to yourself to get so smart all of a sudden."

### Follow Up: Responses will vary. Possible Response:

The poignancy and tragedy of Charlie's situation are increased by knowing his thoughts before and after the operation. The wonder of his intellectual awakening is revealed more clearly as well as the contrast between what he was and what he becomes. The characterization of Charlie through his own thoughts also helps bring out themes of the story, such as the fact that people who are different are often not accepted by others.