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Flowers For Algernon: Overtime

Learning disorders affect young children and even adults in their academic learning skills as they have a hard time doing anything in particular that makes them try to think in any academic way. Learning disabilities have been around for a long time and are not just nationwide but worldwide, as it affects people around the globe. In the story Flowers for Algernon, written by author Daniel Keyes, the author writes a short fictional story of a 37-year-old man that has lived his whole life with learning disorders and overtime that man named Charlie Gordon evolves with a mouse named Algernon. Charlie and Algernon become friends though one is human and one is a mouse, Charlie is determined and persistent character as he wants to achieve his main priority which is to be normal and smart like others around him. The story is explored through one theme which is Overtime and it is explored through three of Charlie's emotions which are anger, happiness, and the pride Charlie gets when he learns something new.

To illustrate, the theme Overtime is explored through Charlie's academic learning skills as he get gradually smarter. Charlie's academic skills began to improve after his operation as his IQ seem to start growing slowly and as he learns grammar. When he writes his reports he writes, "You got to mix them up, she showed? Me" how. To mix! them(up,. And now; I can! mix up all kinds" of punctuation, in! My writing? There, are lots! Of rules? To lern; but Im gettin'g them in my head". He was proclaiming that he had been taught grammar and he soon was going to

perfect it. Overtime Charlie's reports are written extremely well and it occurred after his operation. In the beginning of Charlie writing his reports before the operation he recorded them as "progris riport 2 -martch 6" but after Charlie got his operation his report titles were noted as "PROGRESS REPORT 9 - April 3". Massive amounts of errors were changed and improved after Charlie had his successful operation and his academic skills increased dramatically as he passed certain tests he never thought he would pass. Overtime influences a lot of what Charlie achieved through the act of learning even though he managed to learn the simple learning skills it still was explored in a matter of learning.

Above all, the theme Overtime is also observed through happiness from the main character, Charlie Gordon as he achieves his lifelong goal of becoming smart. After the long and awaited operation Charlie did something he never thought he would ever do, he beat Algernon in a test. When Charlie beat him he thought, "I beat Algernon! I dint even know know I beat him until Burt the teaster told me". Algernon already had the operation on himself so when Charlie beat him, Charlie was more than just happy as it seemed he wrote the rest of his reports with lots of joy and pride. Before the operation charlie learns exactly how smart he will eventually become if everything goes well. He learned that, "...with three times my I.Q. of 68, then maybe I'll be like everyone else and people will like me and be friendly." When he recorded this on his reports he gives himself the idea of how smart he can be and that makes him feel joyful as if nothing can go wrong. The way his mood gradually changes over time as he starts to achieve his goal of being smart the themes known as overtime comes in and can be seen.

Even more, the emotion in Charlie that is what makes him vicious in anger contributes to help the theme overtime to be explored and be developed in time before the story can end.

Towards the middle and end of the story anger is seen more frequently through the story because of how Algernon starts to behave that ends up resulting in his death. Charlie exclaims, “I got mad and chased him out because he was making fun of me the way they all used to”. Charlie's behavior starts to change just like it happened to Algernon and they both were not this way before, it only started to occur as they gained a tremendous amount of intelligence that then they both viewed things in a different way of perspective than other people would often view.

Towards the end of the story Charlie Gordon feels betrayed by his friends and he starts to lose his intelligence which frustrates him. He expresses how he feels and just claims, “I get angry with them because I know that I read and understood them just a few weeks ago”. Charlie's attitude and behavior are totally on a different level as he has lost almost all of what he has learned and it makes him feel useless as if he did not learn any things at all. The theme Overtime is not only applied to Charlie Gordon but it can also be said that it can be applied to the mouse Algernon as he was a very educated mouse but not towards the end of the story.

As a result, the universal theme Overtime is explored through the text as three emotions anger, happiness, and the pride of learning through Charlie. The theme is important as it is not only available to apply to Flowers For Algernon but into the real world where anything is possible. The theme can be applied to any scenario where it is though the theme Overtime is a contribution to a certain part that is explored. In the end, the contributions between the story and the theme are not a lot as Overtime is what makes Flowers For Algernon a short but interesting story.