**Impair**

**Synonym:**

If an operation would impair Algernon’s movement, would he move better, move worse, or move faster after the operation? Why?

**Introspective**

**Synonym:**

Is an introspective person outgoing, reflective, or comical? Why?

**Opportunist**

**Synonym:**

If Dr. Strauss is an opportunist, is he willing to take advantage of others, a hard worker, or honest? Why?

**Vacuous**

**Synonym:**

If a person calls you vacuous, is the person complimenting you, insulting you, or seeking information from you? Why?
Inferring/Character Types

Describe Joe and Frank’s attitude toward Charlie. (making inferences)

Before Charlie has the operation:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

After the operation:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

At the end of the short story:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What do these attitudes reveal about Joe and Frank’s character? ________________

________________________________________________________________________

Joe and Frank where both _____________ (dynamic or static) characters.
Support your answer with an example from the story. _________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Comprehension/Literary Terms

1. What inferences can be made about Miss. Kinnian’s character?

2. Who is Algernon? How does he compete with Charlie?

3. Why does Charlie feel so excited on page 223?
4. Why do Dr. Strauss and Dr. Nemur accept Charlie for the study?

5. What does Charlie try to do while the bandages are on his eyes?

6. What is the surgery suppose to change about Charlie?

7. What does Charlie hope will happen once he is smart?

8. Why does Charlie not want to race Algernon anymore?

9. What do Charlie’s coworkers say when he returns to work?

10. What does “pulled a Charlie Gordon” mean?

11. What important event occurs on April 6th?

12. What is in Miss Kinnian’s eye?

13. Why is Charlie’s use of punctuation humorous?

14. Do you think having the IQ of a genius will help Charlie fit in with other people?

15. What happens when Charlie goes to the party with his coworkers?

16. What does Charlie realize about his coworkers?

17. What worries Miss. Kinnian at the bottom of page 233?

18. How do Charlie’s coworkers treat him now that he is more intelligent?

19. Why does Charlie leave the job at the factory?

20. What does the petition reveal about how his coworkers view the effects of the operation?

21. How does Charlie spend most of his time now that he is out of the factory (page 236)?
22. What do the changes in Algernon suggest might happen later in the story to Charlie?

23. Why does this worry Charlie?

24. How can you tell that Charlie’s condition has worsened since his last progress report?

25. How does Charlie’s reaction to the doctor show how he has changed as a result of his experiences (page 243)?

26. Explain why Charlie decides to move away…