Flowers for Algernon
Part Two

SHORT STORY
Chapter 1, Grade 8
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Irony

– What is ironic about Dr. Strauss’s reminder?

Subplots

– What is Charlie’s relationship with the two doctors?

– How has Charlie’s heightened intelligence created difficulties in his relationship with Miss Kinnian?
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Plot

- What kind of unexpected complications has the operation produced for Charlie?

Irony

- What is ironic about Charlie’s plan to review Vrostadt’s equations on *Levels of Semantic Progression*?
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Parallel Episodes

– How does the dishwasher’s experience here resemble episodes from Charlie’s own life?
Direct Teaching

Reading Skills

Making Inferences

- Why is Charlie furious at himself as well as the smirking crowd?
Direct Teaching

Reading Skills

Using Context Clues:

– What does *infuriated* mean?

– How can you combine clues in the text with what you already know to figure out the meaning of the word?
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Character

– Why does Charlie decide to work to increase human intelligence?
– In what way is his decision a step forward in his personal development?
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Parallel Episodes

– The change in Algernon’s behavior may have deeper implications for Charlie.

– Speculate about what is happening to Algernon.

– How does this affect Charlie’s life?
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Plot

– What complication has made Charlie so conscious of time?

Character

– What is driving Charlie?
Direct Teaching

Reading Skills

Drawing Conclusions

– Will Charlie remain highly intelligent?
– How do you know?
Direct Teaching
Vocabulary Development

Connotations

– In addition to *denotations*, or dictionary meanings, words have *connotations*.

– *Connotations* are the feelings or ideas associated with words.

– Explain the connotations of the names *Charles* and *Charlie*. 
Making Inferences

- Why do you think Charlie feels that he must not become emotional at this time?
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Resolution

– How is the experiment involving Algernon concluding?

Foreshadowing

– Why is Charlie so upset when Algernon dies?

– What does this event suggest for Charlie?
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Parallel Episodes

– How does Charlie’s behavior mirror that behavior of Algernon at an earlier point in the story?
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Reading Skills

Understanding Allusion

– John Milton (1608-1674) published his epic masterpiece *Paradise Lost* in 1667.

– The poem begins:

  “Of man’s first disobedience, and the fruit
  Of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste
  Brought death into the world, and all our woe, With loss of Eden …”
Direct Teaching

Reading Skills

Understanding Allusion

– Although it is passed off with an air of casualness in “Flowers for Algernon,” this allusion to Milton’s poem is hardly accidental.

– The author suggests an analogy between Adam and Eve’s eating of fruit from the tree of knowledge and Charlie’s gaining intelligence through surgery.
Direct Teaching
Reading Skills

Using Context Clues

– What is the meaning of the word *senility*?
– What words or phrases help you define the word?
Direct Teaching
Reading Skills

Figurative Language

- Visualize the image of something “slipping away like sand through my fingers.”
- This expression is not to be taken literally.
- How does this simile help readers understand what is happening to Charlie’s mental powers?
Direct Teaching

Reading Skills

Finding Details

- What signs do you see of Charlie’s increasing decline?

Speculating

- Why might Charlie think of his parents at this point in the story?
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Parallel Episodes

– How is Charlie’s current situation similar to his situation as a child living with his parents?
Direct Teaching

Extra Support

Using Graphic Aids

– Work in groups of four to create a time line to document Charlie’s deterioration beginning on June 5.

– Include the progress report dates along with the signs of deterioration they record.
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Subplot

– Why does Charlie send Miss Kinnian away?
Direct Teaching

Reading Skills

Interpreting Idioms

– *Having guts* means “having courage.”

– Identify people you admire for “having guts.”
Culture: Quiz Shows

- Starting in the 1930s on American radio and currently viewed TV, quiz show programs, now usually called game shows, have been broadcasted.

- These game shows test people’s memory, intelligence, skill, or luck.

- What are current game shows?
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Irony

– Why is it ironic that Joe Carp and Frank Reilly act as Charlie’s protectors?
Direct Teaching

Literary Focus

Resolution

– Describe and evaluate the story’s ending.

– Have all the subplots and “loose ends” been tied up?

– What more do you want to know?