

REVISED Student Response Examples

Explain whether the tests given to Charlie are useful for determining his suitability for the experiment. Use evidence from “What is an Inkblot? Some Say, Not Much” and “Flowers for Algernon” to support your claim and reasons.

Example 1:

The Rorschach and Thematic Apperception Test are useful for determining Charlie’s suitability for the experiment because their validity is comparable to medical tests, they help doctors understand people beyond what they can say about themselves, and they provide a picture of a person’s intelligence. According to the article “What is an Inkblot? Some Say, Not Much,” says the tests have been used for many years and the validity of the tests is comparable to medical tests. Therefore, they would be useful measures for determining whether Charlie is suitable for a medical experiment.

Dr. Carl Hoppe says also argues that Rorschach tests are “a way to look beyond the way people present themselves.” Since Charlie has some trouble spelling words like “march” and “different” and communicating his thoughts, the tests can help the doctors understand his thinking in a way that he cannot describe or share on his own through conversations. Also, since the tests help doctors understand what patients can’t share about themselves, the tests should help see beyond Charlie’s nerves about taking the test. He says, “I was very scared even tho I had my rabbits foot in my pocket because when I was a kid I always failed tests in school and I spilled ink to.”

While some doctors have questioned the validity of projective tests saying, there is “a substantial gap between the clinical use of these tests and what the research suggests about their validity,” the article also says, “the test can yield a complex picture of people’s psychological strengths and weaknesses, the Rorschach’s proponents say, including their intelligence and overall mental functioning.” This means that the tests do serve a medical purpose if used properly. If doctors want to determine Charlie’s intelligence so that they can increase it through some kind of surgery, the Rorschach test seems. In addition, the doctors that question the validity “recommend that practitioners refrain from administering the tests for purposes other than research.” Since Charlie is undergoing research, it seems like everyone agrees the tests are well suited for that purpose. Therefore, the tests will be helpful to the doctors to determine whether or not they should use Charlie for the experiment.

Example 2:

The Rorschach and Thematic Apperception Test are not very useful for determining Charlie’s suitability for the experiment because Charlie doesn’t really take the tests and there is controversy surrounding the usefulness of projective tests. Charlie says he thinks he failed the tests. When he is asked to find “what is in the ink,” Charlie is unable to find anything in the ink and just describes exactly what he sees. For example, Charlie says, “I told him it was a very nice inkblot with little points all around the edges.” Charlie notices that the person giving the test is upset by his response. Charlie then refuses to tell lies when he is asked to make up a story about pictures of people. When the doctor says the tests are for getting personality, Charlie says, “I laughed so hard. I said how can you get that thing from inkblots and photos.”

She got sore and put her pictures away." In the end, Charlie doesn't even take the tests because he isn't able to answer the questions being asked.

The lack of usefulness of the tests is also supported in ~~in~~ "What is an Inkblot? Some Say, Not Much." According to the text, Dr. Lilienfeld, Dr. Garb, and Dr. Wood argue that there is "a substantial gap between the clinical use of these tests and what the research suggests about their validity." Other doctors like Dr. John Exner have created solutions to ensure the tests are administered correctly to ensure they can be used to "yield a complex picture of people's psychological strengths and weaknesses." Some doctors say the tests can be useful for research. Even so, some psychologists argue the tests have little usefulness and "add little information beyond what can be gleaned from far less time-consuming assessments." So, people use the Rorschach and the Thematic Apperception Test without knowing whether the tests actually provide useful information and whether there are other tests that can provide better information. Therefore, projective tests are not helpful for determining whether or not the doctors should use Charlie for the experiment.