

Writing Example #1

Charlie Gordon is motivated and hardworking, but he isn't very smart. What Charlie lacks in smarts, he makes up for by getting along with others and being kind. Charlie is selected for an experiment to triple his intelligence which works at first. While it could be said that Charlie is better off from the surgery because he did become smart for a little bit, he doesn't stay smart. In the end, Charlie doesn't benefit from the surgery because he realizes his friends make fun of him and then he ends up completely isolated and feeling incredibly lonely.

Charlie doesn't benefit from the surgery because he realizes that others have been making fun of him and taking advantage of him. For example, Charlie's friends, Joe and Frank, aren't very kind to him and they keep Charlie around to make fun of him. Charlie is not aware of how his "friends" invite him to parties to get him drunk, and then laugh at him. Also, Charlie isn't aware at first that at work, when someone makes a mistake, they all say that person "pulled a Charlie Gordon." As Charlie gets smarter, he realizes what Joe, Frank, and his other friends at work are doing. When Charlie realizes this, he says, "Now I know what it means when they say 'to pull a Charlie Gordon.' I'm ashamed" (April 20). Having more intelligence doesn't make Charlie better. It makes him feel embarrassed.

Charlie also doesn't benefit from the surgery because he ends up isolated and lonely. Charlie wants to be smart more than anything, but it doesn't end up being good for him. As he gets smarter, Charlie learns that being smart isolates him from his friends and his loved ones. Charlie says, "This intelligence has driven a wedge between me and all the people I once knew and loved" (April 30). Once Charlie becomes intelligent, people like Ms. Kinnian cannot understand him or follow his logic because it is so advanced. When he loses his intelligence, Charlie admits, "I don't want Miss Kinnian to feel sorry for me. Every body feels sorry at the factory and I don't want that either so I'm going someplace where nobody knows that Charlie Gordon was once a genius and now he can't even read a book or write good" (July 28). Charlie decides to leave New York because he doesn't want people to feel sorry for him. He ends the short story in an even worse situation than he began. Whereas he may not have been that smart at the beginning of the story, at least he had friends and a home. As a result of the surgery, Charlie is isolated from his friends, his teacher, and his home.

Charlie changes throughout the story. He goes from being not very smart to incredibly intelligent to not very smart again. He learns lots of information about people and the world when he is smart, but he doesn't keep any of it. While Charlie does become smart at first like he wants, it doesn't benefit him in the end because he loses his intelligence, his friends, and his home.

Writing Example #2

Charlie Gordon is smart and funny. Charlie has surgery to become smarter. It works at first, but then it goes away. At the end of the story, Charlie is not smart. He changes and then he's the same at the end.

Miss Kinnian is his teacher and Dr. Strauss and Dr. Nemur are his doctors. Charlie takes some tests to see if he can have surgery. He doesn't do well on the tests, but they still do the surgery. Since they want to make him smarter, they give him the tests to see how he does to know what to do surgery on.

Charlie has friends who laugh at him. He goes to work with Joe and Frank and they are really mean to him. They make fun of him and take him out drinking and make him mop the floor. Charlie finally gets that they are making fun of him, and he is embarrassed. He says at the end of the story that you can get more friends if you they can laugh at you, so he is looking forward to having lots of friends. Miss Kinnian is also Charlie's friend, but she is nice to him. He gets so smart that he can't talk to her anymore. Charlie gets really, really smart. I can't understand some of the things he says.

Charlie loses his intelligence at the end of the story. Charlie makes mistakes at the end. He goes into Miss Kinnian's class because he forgets that he doesn't go to night school anymore. He stays inside his apartment and doesn't talk to anyone. Charlie decides to leave his home and go somewhere else to make new friends.

Algernon dies and Charlie buries him the backyard. The end is very sad. That makes me think Charlie isn't very happy.

Writing Example #3

Charlie Gordon is a man, but he has a mind like a little kid. Even though he isn't smart, Charlie is very motivated and kind. He wants to be smart, so, when Charlie is selected for an experiment to triple his intelligence, he willingly participates. The experiment is a success, but it is also temporary. Charlie ends the story like he begins the story with the mind of a child. Despite this, **Charlie's life improves** because **he is more knowledgeable about people** and **thankful for what he has**.

Charlie is very kind and wants to have friends and belong. As Charlie gets smarter, he realizes his friends are not very kind. Charlie ends up quitting his job because his coworkers sign a petition for Charlie to leave his job. Charlie realizes that his new intelligence is not helping him belong or have friends. While this is painful to learn, Charlie does have more knowledge about people around him than he did before.

At the end of the story, Charlie loses his intelligence. Charlie's spelling and grammar gets bad again. It looks like what he was writing at the beginning of the story, but Charlie is different. Charlie doesn't want people feeling sorry for him. He talks about how glad he is that he had the surgery. Charlie decides he is going to continue to try really hard to be smart and he will always remember that he did something for science. So, even though Charlie loses his intelligence, he is thankful for what knowledge he does have and the opportunities he got.

Even though the surgery is temporary and Charlie loses his intelligence, he has a different understanding of who he is. He has more knowledge about people and what a friend is. He also feels good about what he has done and learned, even though he was only able to keep the learning for a little bit. Charlie is better off in the end because of the surgery.