Lesson Samples: Exploring the Reader's Circles in the Guidebooks
ELA Content Module 3, Session 2
Grades 6-8

Flowers for Algernon: Excerpt from Lesson 4
"Character Analysis in *Flowers for Algernon*"

Let's Prepare!

Today we will:

- Read Progress Reports 1-3 of "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes.
- Analyze Charlie's character based on the content and structure of the text.

Lesson 4, continued

Let's Read!

- Listen as I read aloud Progress Reports 1-3 of "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes.
- Follow along with your copy of the text.
- As I read, take notes about what you've learned about Charlie in each progress report, using the split-page notes handout.

Let's Express Our Understanding!

- Complete the summary portion of the split-page notes handout. Be sure to include:
  - Who is Charlie Gordon?
  - Identify 2-3 quotations which reveal aspects of Charlie's character and explain what they reveal.

Flowers for Algernon: Excerpt from Lesson 10
"How has Charlie changed?"

Let's Prepare!

Today we will:

- Read Progress Reports 4-8 of "Flowers for Algernon."
- Record details about Charlie's character before and after the surgery.

Let's Discuss!

How has Charlie changed?

How do the author's choices contribute to your understanding of these changes and their impact on Charlie?

Lesson 10, continued

Let's Read!

- Listen as I read aloud Progress Report 4 from "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes.
- Follow along with your copy.
- As you listen, mark the different opinions each character presents about Charlie with a sticky note.
- On each sticky note, write the character's name and their claim about Charlie.

Let's Close!

In this lesson, you learned more about Charlie Gordon before and after the surgery.

You also analyzed how claims made by several characters in "Flowers for Algernon" reveal aspects of Charlie's character.

Flowers for Algernon: Excerpt from Lesson 11
"What is Intelligence?"

Let's Prepare!

Today we will:

- Investigate different theories of intelligence.
- Further develop a written response based on the exit ticket in the previous lesson.

Let's Read!

- Listen as I read aloud different theories of intelligence.
- As I read, take notes in your reading log.
  - Is *being smart* the same as *being intelligent*?
  - Does being "smart" make you a better person?

Lesson 11, continued

Let's Express Our Understanding!

- Revise your original response from your reading log using evidence from the texts and class discussions.
  - Select a quotation or describe an event from this section of "Flowers for Algernon" and argue how it shows what Charlie thinks, learns, or questions about intelligence.
- Write at least a paragraph on notebook paper to turn in.

Let's Close!

In this lesson, you learned more about intelligence and Charlie's thoughts on "being smart."

You also practiced using information from multiple texts to support your claims in writing.

Flowers for Algernon: Excerpt from Lesson 12
"How structure impacts character and plot development"

Let's Prepare!

"I told him thank you doc you wont be sorry for giving me a second chance. And I mean it like I told him. After the operashun Im gonna try to be smart. Im gonna try awful hard."

Today we will:

- Read Progress Report 9 from "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes.
- Evaluate how the structure of the text impacts our understanding of Charlie.

Let's Discuss!

progris riport 1--martch 5 1965
"He says its importint so they will see if they can use me. I hope they use me. Miss Kinnian says maybe they can make me smart. I want to be smart. My name is Charlie Gordon. I am 37 years old and 2 weeks ago was my birthday. I have nuthing more to rite now so I will close for today."

PROGRESS REPORT 9 -- April 20
"I feel sick inside. Not sick like for a doctor, but inside my chest it feels empty like getting punched and a heartburn at the same time. I wasn't going to write about it, but I guess I got to, because it's important. Today was the first time I ever stayed home from work."

Lesson 12, continued

Let's Express Our Understanding!

How has Charlie changed?

How do the author's choices contribute to your understanding of these changes and their impact on Charlie?

Let's Close!

In this lesson, you learned more about Charlie and how his growing intelligence is affecting him.

You also learned how the language and structure of a text is important for developing characters.

Flowers for Algernon: Excerpt from Lesson 13
"Impact of Irony on Character Development"

Let's Prepare!

Today we will:

- Reread Progress Report 9 from "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes.
- Evaluate how irony impacts our understanding of Charlie Gordon and the events of the story.

Let's Express Our Understanding!

- Reread Progress Report 9 independently.
- As you read, locate examples of irony to include on the irony tracker.
- Complete a row on the irony tracker for each example located.

Let's Close!

In this lesson, you learned more about Charlie and how his growing intelligence is affecting him.

You also learned how differences in point of view create irony and impact how the reader understands characters and events in a text.

Flowers for Algernon: Excerpt from Lesson 15
"Analyze character development and irony in Flowers for Algernon"

Let's Prepare!

Today we will:

- Read April 21-28 (Progress Report 10) and April 30-May 18 (Progress Report 11) from "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes.
- Continue completing the before/after surgery chart and the irony tracker.

Let's Read!

- Read April 21-May 18 of Progress Reports 10 and 11 from "Flowers for Algernon."
- As you read, continue completing the before/after surgery chart and irony tracker.

Lesson 15, continued

Let's Express Our Understanding!

- In your reading log, write an answer to the question.
  - Charlie wants nothing more than to be "normal" and accepted by others. Given his desire, what is ironic about his statements in these entries? Include evidence from the text to support your answer.

Let's Close!

In this lesson, you learned more about the results of Charlie's surgery.

You also analyzed how irony impacts the reader and contributes to the development of events and characters in a text.

Flowers for Algernon: Excerpt from Lesson 23
"Finish Reading Flowers for Algernon"

Let's Prepare!

Today we will:

- Finish reading "Flowers for Algernon."
- Complete our before/after surgery chart.

Let's Express Our Understanding!

- In your reading log, answer both of the following questions. Use textual evidence to support your response.
  - How does Charlie change in the progress reports from May 23-July 28?
  - Is Charlie better off as a result of the surgery?

Let's Close!

In this lesson, you learned what happens to Charlie in "Flowers for Algernon."

You also learned how changes in characters impacts the reader and develops meaning in a text.

Flowers for Algernon: Excerpt from Lesson 24
"Understand a theme in Flowers for Algernon"

Let's Prepare!

Today we will:

- Determine a theme of "Flowers for Algernon."
- Analyze how the theme is developed through the characters, structure, and plot.

Let's Read!

- With a partner, review the text and your notes taken throughout the unit.
- Write a summary of the events of "Flowers for Algernon" in your reading log.
- Underneath the summary, create a list of the ideas/topics discussed in the text.

Lesson 24, continued

Let's Discuss!

- Review the list you created of ideas/topics discussed in "Flowers for Algernon."

- Select a topic/idea and write it on the theme handout.
- What does "Flowers for Algernon" teach you about that topic/idea? Write a theme statement.

Let's Express Our Understanding!

- Locate relevant evidence from "Flowers for Algernon" which develops your identified theme.
- On the theme handout, write the evidence and then explain how it develops your identified theme.