

Name _____

Period _____

Was it worth it for Charlie Gordon to have the experimental surgery?

Positives:

- He gets smarter.
- He learns multiple languages.
- He uses his intelligence to help other people.
- He gets a bonus at work; he is able to feel successful.
- His spelling, reading, and writing improve.
- He understands how people are really acting.
- He has a positive influence on Frank and Joe. He changes them for the better.
- He learns who his actual friends are/aren't.
- He gets to stand up for someone else in his situation (the dishwasher in the diner).
- He gets to experience a different world (of intelligence)
- He is able to finally get what he wanted (to be smarter) and learn.
- He is able to research and contribute to science.
- He experiences new emotions and the feeling of being in love.
- He gets to experience being smart and the feeling of it.
- He gets to feel important.
- He can understand things that he wasn't able to before the surgery.
- He gets to see the world from both perspectives.
- He gets to enjoy reading and writing and music.

Negatives:

- He loses the "friends" he thought he had.
- He can't communicate with others.
- He has no real human interaction.
- He is lonelier than ever and feels isolated.
- The effects/results are not permanent.
- He loses his job.
- He starts to think negatively about people around him.
- He feels paranoid about people making fun of him. He's very on edge.
- He got used to being smart and then he loses it so quickly. It is heartbreaking for him.
- He can't communicate with people because no one is at his level.
- People are still not kind.
- He could end up like Algernon.
- Now he knows he has no friends in seeing the truth about how people really are.
- He realizes how limited he was.
- He becomes extremely depressed.

Was it worth it for Leonard Lowe and the other patients to take L-Dopa?

Positives:

- The patients got to experience things that they couldn't have without the medicine.
- They got to talk, walk, and do activities.
- They got to do things they enjoyed again.
- They got to see and interact with their families.
- They could experience a new world.
- Leonard was able to teach others about being grateful for what you have and enjoying the little things in life.
- Leonard positively influenced Dr. Sayer to appreciate life (interact with others...) and think about what's important in life and not taking things for granted.
- They had a positive impact on the hospital employees.
- They are able to think.
- Family members got to have their loved ones back.
- They contributed to the understanding of the disease and science.
- The patients are able to do everyday things like talk, eat on their own...things we take for granted.
- They got to leave the hospital and go out.
- Families got time with the patients after all this time without them.
- They got to live again.
- They had some more independence.
- They got to communicate for the first time in a long time.
- They got experience emotions; Leonard enjoyed getting to know Paula and feeling the emotion of falling in love.
- Family members got to see their loved ones "alive" again.
- Leonard teaches Dr. Sayer about what's important in life and not taking things for granted.
- They get a second chance at life.
- They get to express their emotions and feelings again.
- Dr. Sayer develops a friendship with Leonard.

Negatives:

- There are negative side effects to the medication.
- It is difficult to face the reality of how much time they have missed.
- It was not permanent. They had to face going back to their catatonic states again.
- They suffered when the medicine wasn't working anymore.
- Family members had to face losing them again.
- Dr. Sayer feels guilty and upset for losing his friend. He felt like he failed them.
- Medication is expensive.
- It is difficult for everyone to face the truth that the medication isn't going to work permanently.
- They want more independence than they can have.
- Some of the patients didn't have relatives to come back to.