

# Flowers for Algernon

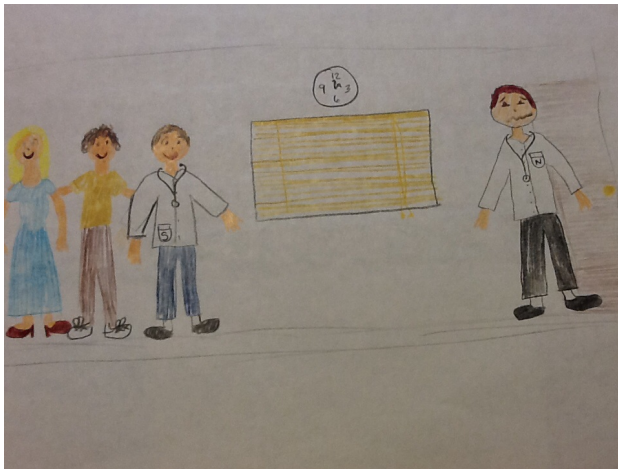
## By: Daniel Keyes

Reminder: When you read or listen to language, it is helpful to *visualize* what you are seeing. You are making a picture (or movie) in your head. Your picture has to have details – what, color, number, size, shape, where, motion, mood, texture, sound, when, background, perspective – in order to help you remember, interpret, and analyze what you read.

Use this copy to make your own notes about Charlie, what is happening to him, and how he is feeling. You may add your notes in words or pictures.

The pictures in this section may be incomplete. You will have better comprehension if you complete the pictures!

### progris riport 4 – Mar 8



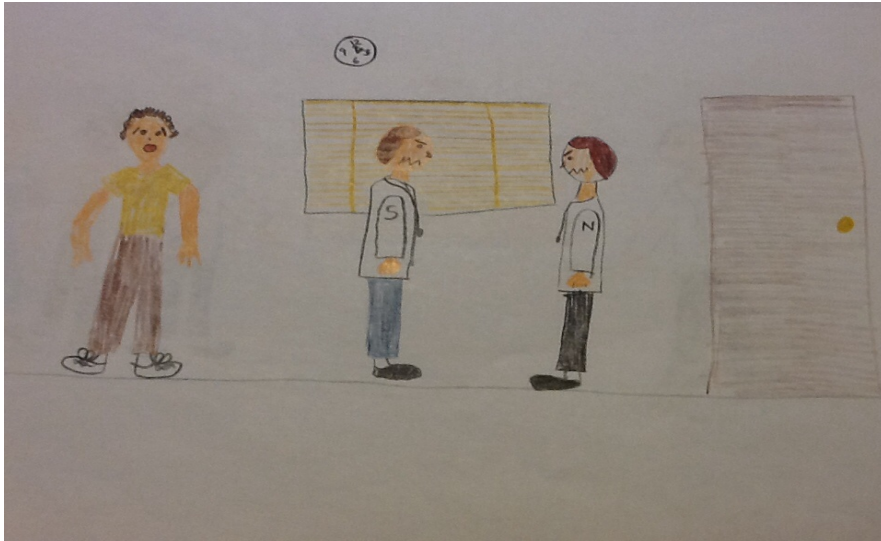
Their going to use me! Im so excited I can hardly rite. Dr Nemur and Dr Strauss had a argament about it first. Dr Nemur was in the office when Dr Strauss brot me in. Dr Nemur was worried about using me but Dr Strauss told him Miss Kinnian rekemmed me the best from all the people who she was teaching. I like Miss Kinnian because shes a very smart teacher. And she said Charlie your going to have a second chance. If you volunteer for this experament you mite get smart. They dont know if it will be perminint but theirs a chance. Thats why I said ok even when I was scared because she said it was an operashun. She said dont be scared Charlie you done so much with so little I think you deserv it most of all.

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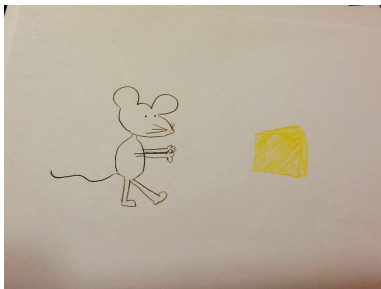
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So I got scaird when Dr. Nemur and Dr. Strauss argud about it. Dr. Strauss said I had something that was very good. He said I had a good *motor-vation*. I never even knew I had that. I felt proud when he said that not every body with an eye-q of 68 had that thing. I dant know what it is or where I got it but he said Algernon had it too.



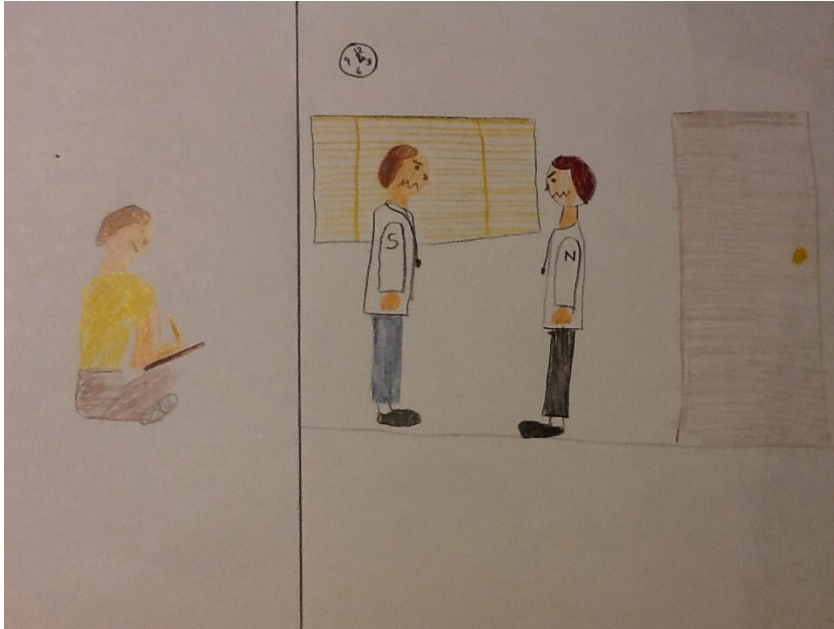
Algernons *motor-vation* is the cheese they put in his box. But it cant be that because I didn't eat any cheese this week.

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Then he told Dr Nemur something I dint understand so while they were talking I wrote down some of the words.

He said Dr. Nemur I know Charlie is not what you had in mind as the first of your new brede of intelek\*\* (couldnt get the word) superman. But most people of his low ment\*\* are host\*\* and uncoop\*\* they are usually dull apath\*\* and hard to reach. He has a good natcher hes intristed and eager to please.

Dr Nemur said remember he will be the first human beeng ever to have his intelijence tripled by surgicle meens.

Dr. Strauss said exakly. Look at how well hes lerned to read and write for his low mentel age its as grate an achev\*\* as you and I lerning einstines therey of \*\*vity without help. That shows the inteness motor-vation. Its comparat\*\* a tremen\*\* achev\*\* I say we use Charlie.

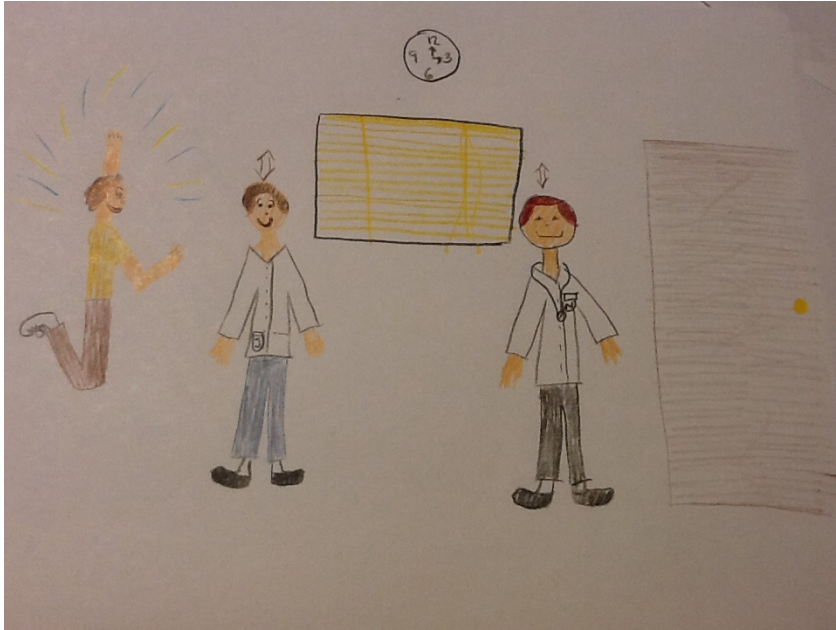
I dint get all the words but it sounded like Dr Strauss was on my side and like the other one wasnt.

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Then Dr Nemur nodded he said all right maybe your right. We will use Charlie. When he said that I got so excited I jumped up and shook his hand for being so good to me. 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.

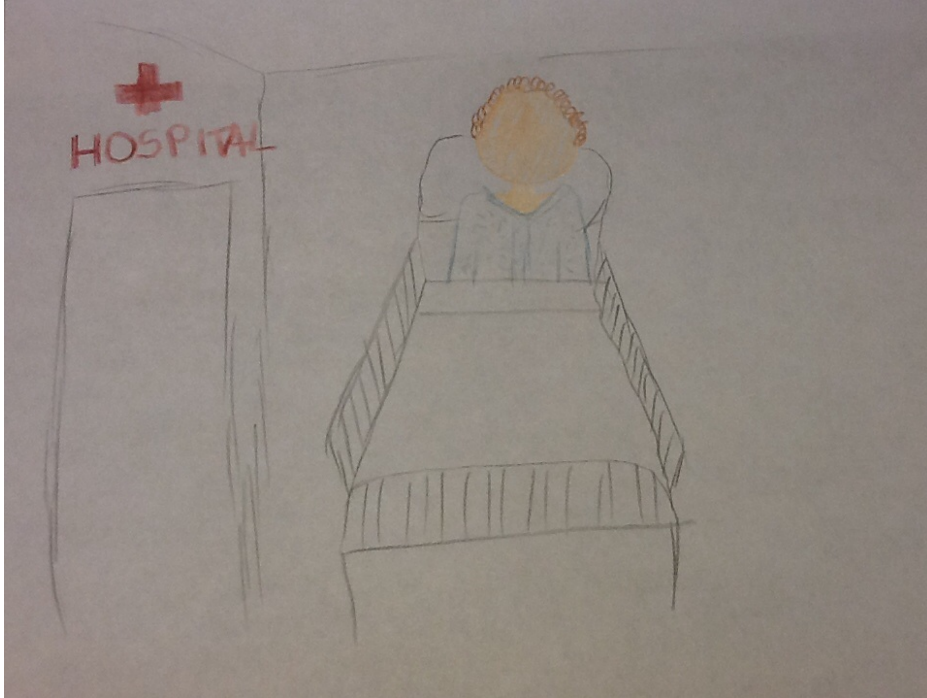
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## progris ript 5—Mar 10



**How is Charlie feeling? Add his expression to the picture.  
What other objects might be in Charlie's room?**

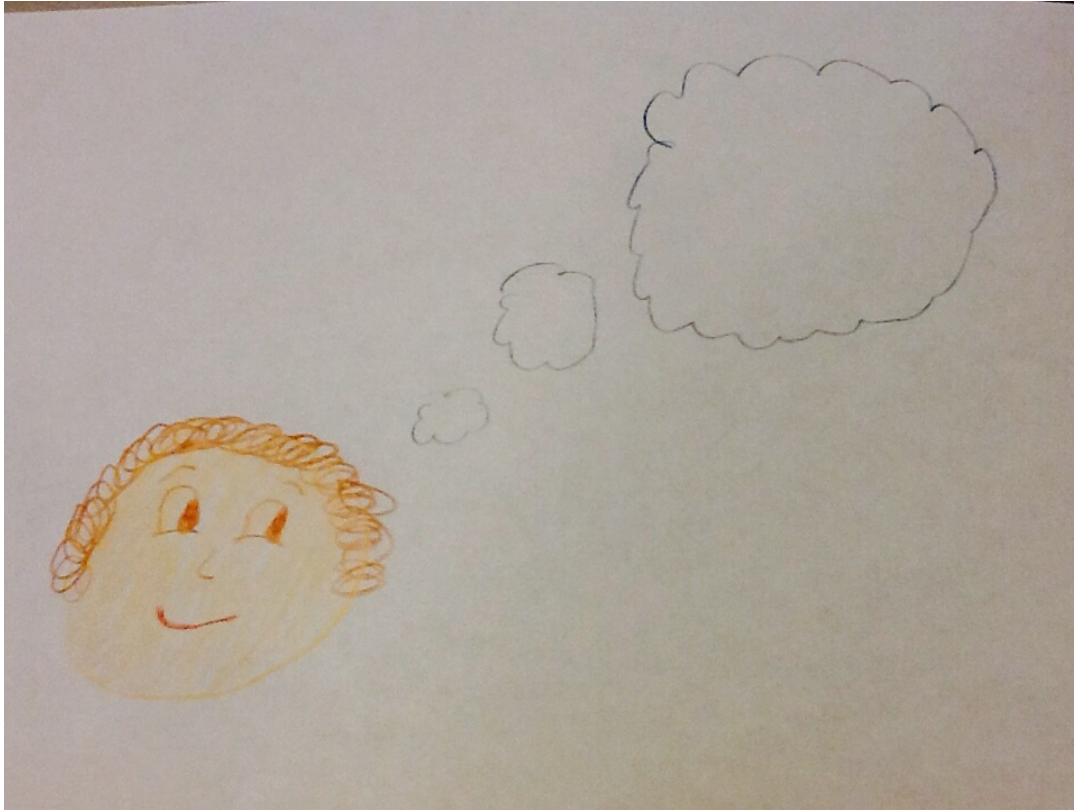
Im skared. Lots of the nurses and the people who gave me the tests came to bring me candy and wish me luck. I hope I have luck. I got my rabbits foot and my lucky penny. Only a black cat crossed me when I was comming to the hospitol. Dr Strauss says dont be supersitis Charlie this is science. Anyway Im keeping my rabbits foot with me.

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**What is Charlie thinking about? Draw what Charlie hopes will happen after the operation.**

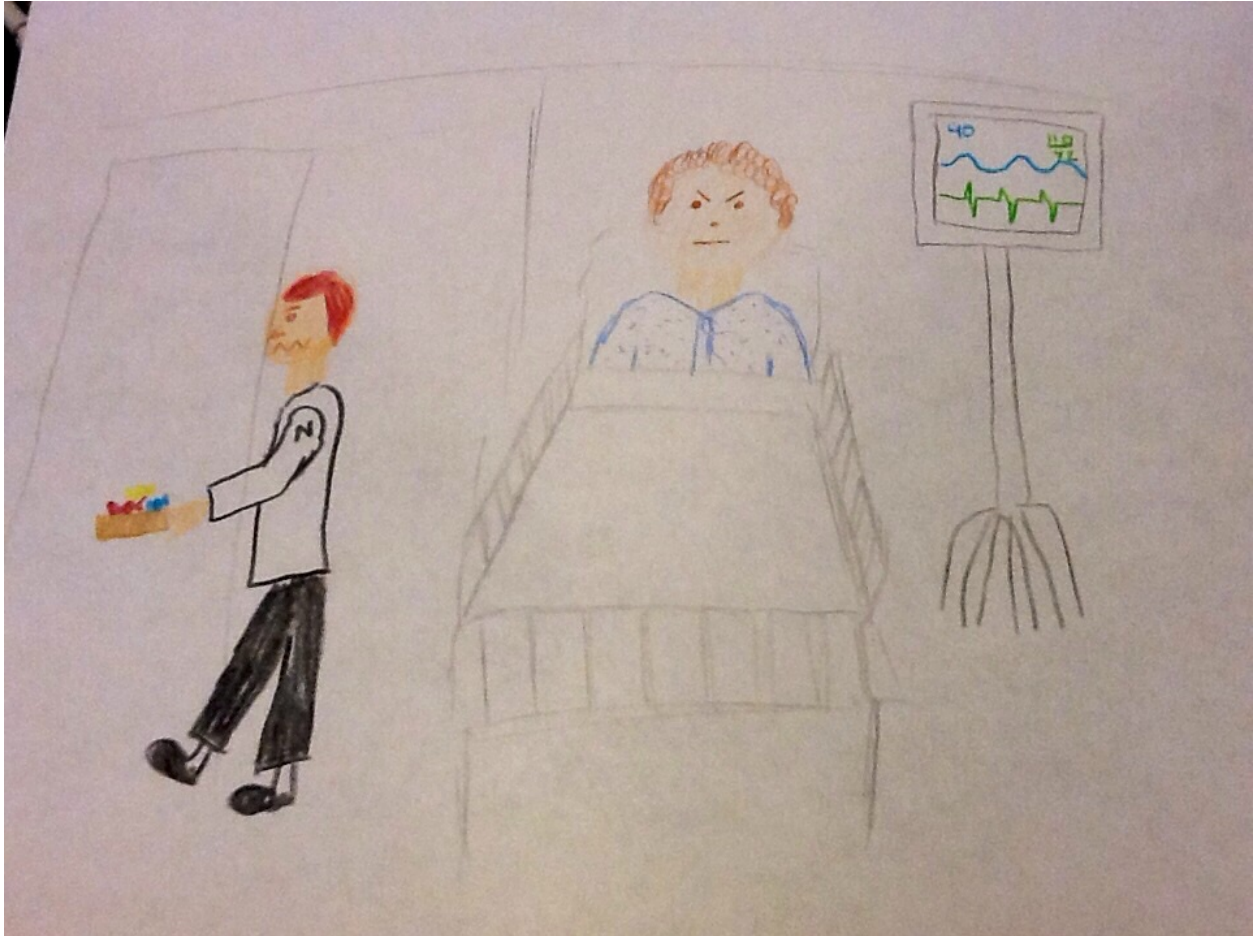
I asked Dr Strauss if Ill beat Algernon in the race after the operashun and he said maybe. If the operashun works Ill show that mouse I can be as smart as he is. Maybe smarter. Then Ill be abel to read better and spell the words good and know lots of things and be like other people. I want to be smart like other people. If it works perminint they will make everybody smart all over the wurld.

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They didnt give me anything to eat this morning. I dont know what that eating has to do with getting smart. Im very hungry and Dr. Nemur took away my box of candy. That Dr Nemur is a grouch. Dr Strauss says I can have it back after the operashun. You cant eat before a operashun....

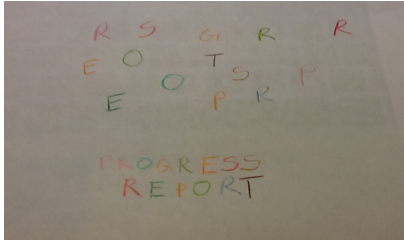
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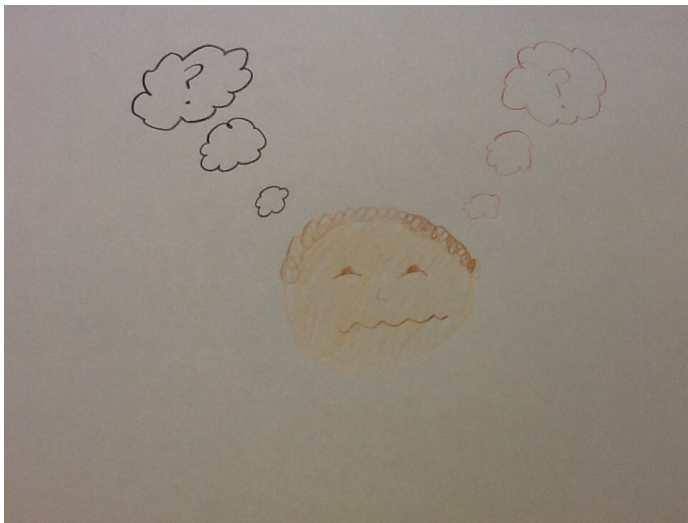
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## Progress Report 6–Mar 15



The operashun dint hurt. He did it while I was sleeping. They took off the bandijis from my head today so I can make a PROG- RESS REPORT. Dr. Nemur who looked at some of my other ones says I spell PROGRESS wrong and told me how to spell it and REPORT too. I got to try and remember that.



**What two things did Dr. Strauss tell Charlie to tell about? Draw Dr. Strauss and his instructions (i.e., a symbol for each thing he told Charlie to tell about).**

I have a very bad memary for spelling. Dr Strauss says its ok to tell about all the things that happin to me but he says I should tell more about what I feel and what I think. When I told him I dont know how to think he said try. All the time when the bandijis were on my eyes I tried to think. Nothing happened. I dont know what to think about. Maybe if I ask him he will tell me how I can think now that Im supposed to get smart. What do smart people think about. Fancy things I suppose. I wish I knew some fancy things alredy.

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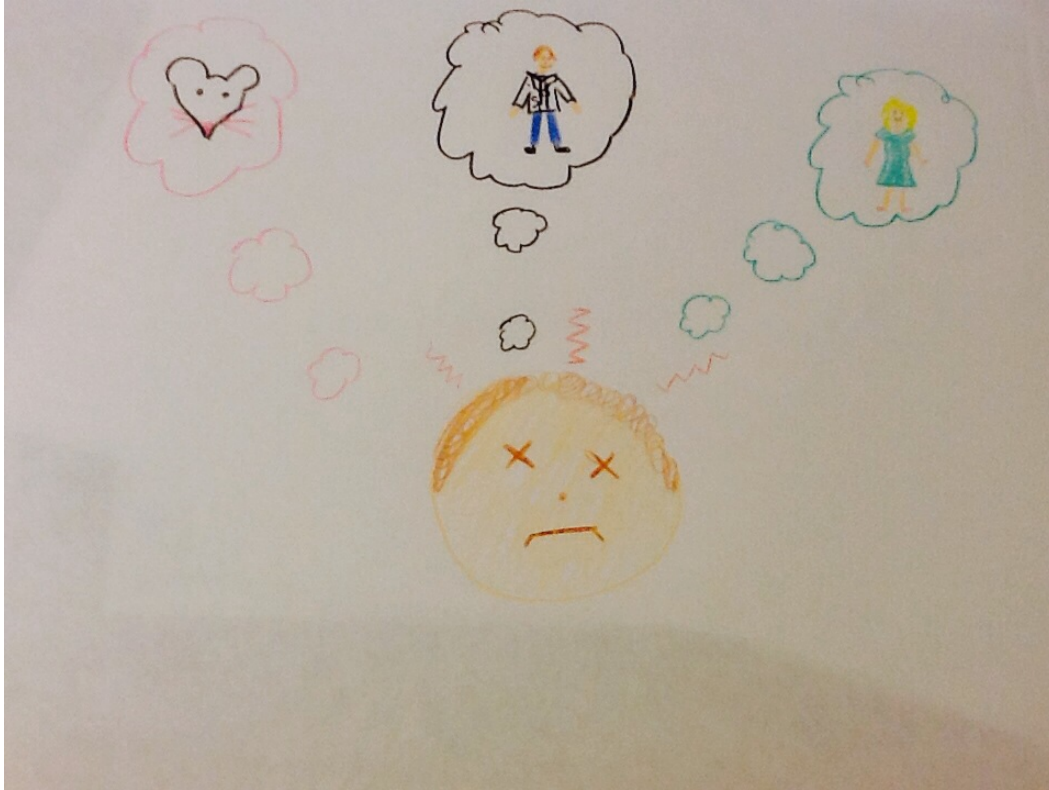
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## Progress Report 7—mar 19



Nothing is happening. I had lots of tests and different kinds of races with Algernon. I hate that mouse. He always beats me. Dr. Strauss said I got to play those games. And he said some time I got to take those tests over again. Those inkblots are stupid. And those pictures are stupid too. I like to draw a picture of a man and a woman but I wont make up lies about people.

I got a headache from trying to think so much. I thot Dr Strauss was my frend but he dont help me. He dont tell me what to think or when Ill get smart. Miss Kinnian dint come to see me. I think writing these progress reports are stupid too.

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## Progress Report 8—Mar 23



**Add details to the picture: a) Where does Charlie work? How does he feel about returning to work?**

Im going back to work at the factory. They said it was better I shud go back to work but I cant tell anyone what the operashun was for and I have to come to the hospitol for an hour evry night after work. They are gonna pay me mony every month for learning to be smart.

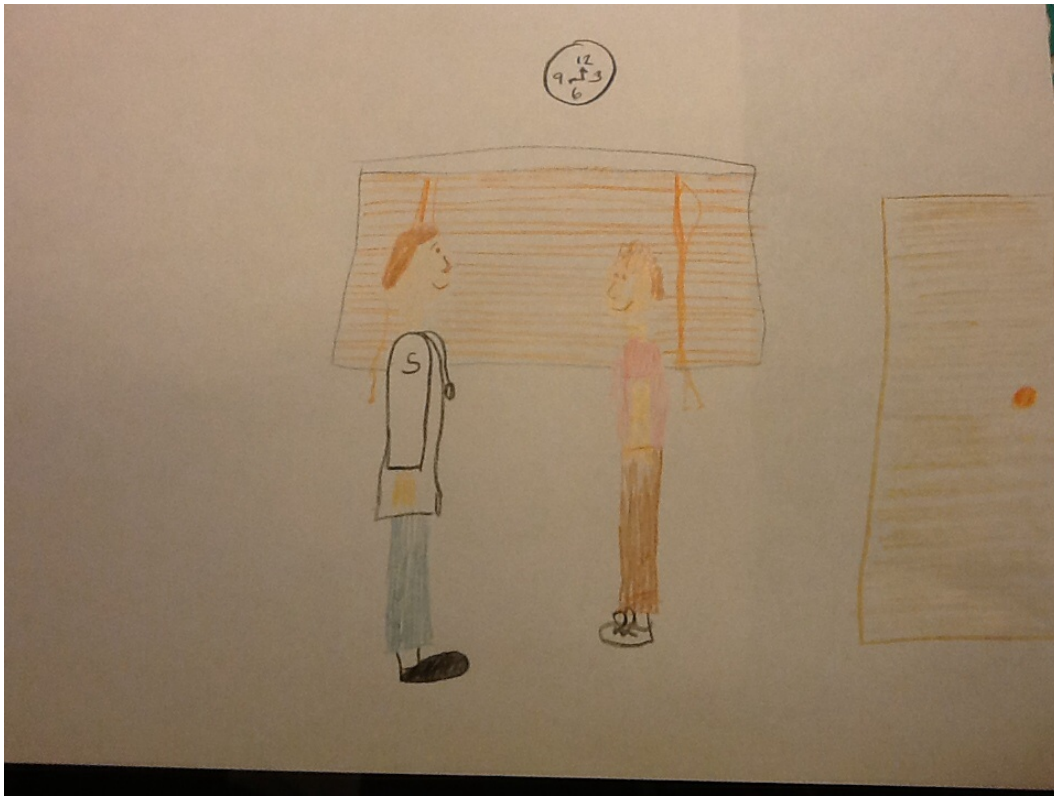
Im glad Im going back to work because I miss my job and all my frends and all the fun we have there.

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**What does Dr. Strauss say that makes Charlie feel better? Add that detail to the picture.**

Dr Strauss say's I shud keep writing things down but I dont have to do it every day just when I think of something or something speshul happins. He says dont get discoridged because it takes time and it happins slow. He say's it took a long time with Algernon before he got 3 times smarter than he was before. Thats why Algernon beats me all the time because he had that operashun too. That makes me feel better. I coud probly do that amazed faster than a reglar mouse. Maybe some day Ill beat him. That would be something. So far Algernon looks smart permanent.

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Mar 25



**How does Charlie feel about his coworkers? Draw him in the picture. What are his coworkers laughing at? Show that in the picture.**

(I dont have to write PROGRESS REPORT on top any more just when I hand it in once a week for Dr Nemur. I just have to put the date on. That saves time)

We had a lot of fun at the factory today. Joe Carp said hey look where Charlie had his operashun what did they do Charlie put some brains in. I was going to tell him but I remembered Dr Strauss said no. Then Frank Reilly said what did you do Charlie forget your key and open your door the hard way. That made me laff. Their really my friends and they like me.

Sometimes somebody will say hey look at Joe or Frank or George he really pulled a Charlie Gordon. I dont know why they say that but they always laff. This morning Amos Borg who is the 4 man at Donnegans used my name when he shouted at Ernie the office boy. Ernie lost a packige. He said Ernie for godsake what are you trying to be a Charlie Gordon. I dont understand why he said that. I never lost any packiges.

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Mar 28



**What did Dr. Strauss give to Charlie? Draw it in the picture.**

Dr Strauss came to my room tonight to see why I dint come in like I was suppose to. I told him I dont like to race with Algernon any more. He said I dont have to for a while but I shud come in. He had a present for me. I thot it was a little television but it wasnt. He said I got to turn it on when I go to sleep. I said your kidding why shud I turn it on when Im going to sleep. Who ever herd of a thing like that. But he said if I want to get smart I got to do what he says. I told him I dint think I was going to get smart and he puts his hand on my sholder and said Charlie you dont know it yet but your getting smarter all the time. You wont notice for a while. I think he was just being nice to make me feel good because I dont look any smarter.

Oh yes I almost forgot. I asked him when I can go back to the class at Miss Kinnians school. He said I wont go their. He said that soon Miss Kinnian will come to the hospitil to start and teach me speshul. I was mad at her for not comming to see me when I got the operashun but I like her so maybe we will be friends again.

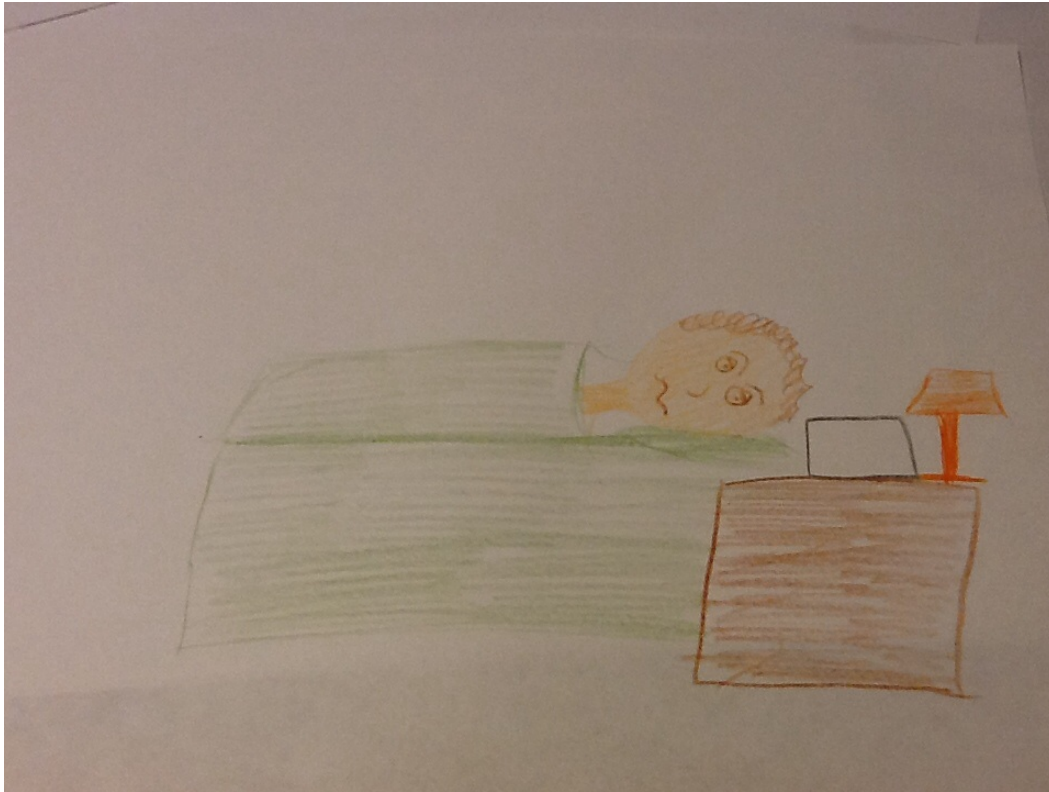
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Mar 29



**Why can't Charlie sleep? Draw it in the picture.**

That crazy TV kept up all night. How can I sleep with something yelling crazy things all night in my ears. And the nutty pictures. Wow. I don't know what it says when I'm up so how am I going to know when I'm sleeping.

Dr Strauss says it's ok. He says my brains are learning when I sleep and that will help me when Miss Kinnian starts my lessons in the hospital (only I found out it isn't a hospital it's a laboratory.) I think it's all crazy. If you can get smart when you're sleeping why do people go to school. That thing I don't think will work. I used to watch the late show and the late late show on TV all the time and it never made me smart. Maybe you have to sleep while you watch it.

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