Adversity

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power

-Abraham Lincoln

Before I go on about what and how this quote relates to Charlie and the early natives of Georgia, I should probably explain what adversity means. Adversity technically means a time of hardships or distress due to a case of some “bad luck.” There are many ways Charlie and the natives were compared to this word before. I’ve had some adversity before and this could relate to you. So as you read this, think about how adversity has affected your life in a way.

So how does this quote relate to Charlie? Well if you had read the book Flowers for Algernon, you would have known that Charlie is a man with a learning disorder. He was often teased and was very lonely and sad. This is where adversity comes in. As I said earlier, adversity is a time of hardships. Charlie had some hard times everywhere he went. For example, Charlie was often teased due to his stupidity and when people often pulled a mistake, they often said that that was what you called pulling a Charlie Gordon. In this stage, Charlie is not understood that much. After being given the power to possess tons and tons of knowledge, people see the true colors of Charlie and start to dislike. They gain their own adversity in this way because Charlie has outsmarted them.

Now we go on to what kind of adversity the early natives had gone through. As you may have or not have known, there were 4 prehistoric native groups that had lived here in Georgia. They were the Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian tribes. Each of these tribes were not understood a lot at the time because there were no WRITTEN records at the time so we don’t know about the quote for this part. However, adversity appeared the late Mississippian period. Hernando de Soto, a Spanish explorer, came to Georgia and created adversity for the Mississippian people. He killed, enslaved, and enforced the Indians. The refugees’ adversity was the hope in order to find a way to build a new tribe.