Eighth Grade English – Summer Reading

*Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom – Reading Guide Packet

**Answer the following questions in COMPLETE SENTENCES and define the vocabulary words given.**

 **(Chapter 1) “The Curriculum” pg. 1-4**

**Questions**

1. Name two things that were expected of Mitch during his “classes” with his old professor, Morrie?

2. Write down three physical descriptions of Morrie that Mitch describes in this chapter.

**Vocab**

 . . . in ***lieu*** of graduation. . . (p.1)

. . . ***whisk*** him up into the clouds. . . (p.3)

 (Chapter 2) “The Syllabus” **pg.** 5-13

**Questions**

1. After Morrie is diagnosed with ALS, what two activities can he no longer do?

2. What is a “living funeral”?

**Vocab**

 . . . a ***prominent*** doctor of sociology (p.5)

. . . study me in my slow and patient ***demise***.

(Chapter 3) “The Student” **pg.** 14-17

**Questions**

1. What was Mitch’s dream career after college? Did he succeed in having this career? Explain.

 2. How did Mitch’s life change after his uncle’s funeral?

**Vocab**

. . . silently, cleaning, the plates, ***averting*** our eyes. (p.15)

. . . I buried myself in my ***accomplishments***. . . (p.17)

(Chapter 4) “The Audiovisual” **pg.** 18-25

**Questions**

1. How did Morrie get the attention of a producer of the ABC show, “Nightline”?

2. How is a television involved in Mitch’s reconnecting with Morrie?

**Vocab**

 . . . I thought you were a ***narcissist***. . . (p 21)

. . . that’s inducing ***humility***. (p.22)

(Chapter 5) The Orientation **pg.** 26-31

**Questions**

1. How does Mitch feel while sitting in his car as he arrives to Morrie’s house?

**Vocab**

 . . . this new ***withered*** version of a man I had once known. . . (p.27)

. . . To ***compensate*** for my youth on campus. . . (p.30)

(Chapter 6) “The Classroom” **pg.** 32-40

**Questions**

1. According to Morrie, Why are so many of the people that visit him unhappy?

2. What does Morrie mean when he says, “create your own culture” (pg. 35)?

3. Explain in your own words what “the tension of opposites” is.

**Vocab**

 . . . was almost magically ***serene***… (p.37)

(Chapter 7) “Taking Attendance” **pg.** 41-47

**Questions**

1. Name three activities that are a part of Morrie’s culture:

2. Morrie says the way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to what three things?

**Vocab**

. . . ***alienation*** of youth. . . (p.46)

(Chapter 8) “The First Tuesday (We Talk About the World)” **pg.** 48-54

**Questions**

1. How do Mitch and Morrie differ when it comes to crying? Explain.

2. A. What does Morrie says is the most important thing in life?

B. Do you agree with the statement you just wrote down? Explain why or why not.

**Vocab**

. . . his legs had ***atrophied***. . . (p. 48)

. . . ***cynical*** response. . . (p,50)

Love is the only ***rational*** act. (p.52)

(Chapter 9) “The Second Tuesday (We Talk About Feeling Sorry for Yourself)” **pg.** 55-61

**Questions**

1. When does Morrie feel sorry for himself?

2. After he mourns a bit, what two things does Morrie concentrate on?

**Vocab**

. . . ***mimicking*** Morrie. (p.55)

. . . ***withered*** legs. . . (p.56)

. . . go on the ***commode***. (p.56)

(Chapter 10) “The Third Tuesday (We Talk About Regrets)” **pg.** 62-68

**Questions**

1. What does Mitch make a list of in this chapter? Name three of the things on Mitch’s list.

**Vocab**

. . . that tape recorder was more than ***nostalgia***. (p.63)

Did he ***lament*** lost friends? (p. 64)

(Chapter 11) “The Audiovisual, Part II” **pg.** 69-72

**Questions**

1. Why does Morrie become emotional and cry during his interview with Ted Koepell?

**Vocab**

. . . such an ***essential*** part of me. . . (p.70)

(Chapter 12) “The Professor” **pg.** 73-79

**Questions**

1. What happened when Morrie was eight years old?

2. Why did Morrie feel responsible for David having polio?

3. What did Morrie promise to himself about working?

**Vocab**

. . . a ***communal*** kitchen. (p.74)

. . . he would never do any work that ***exploited*** someone. . . (p.78)

(Chapter 13) “The Fourth Tuesday (We Talk About Death)” **pg.** 80- 89

**Questions**

1. Why does Mitch describe Morrie as a “religious mutt”?

2. What does Morrie mean when he says, “Once you learn how to die, you learn how to live”?

**Vocab**

. . . but became an ***agnostic***. . . (p. 81)

So you were ***optimistic***. (p. 82)

. . . we’re ***deficient*** in some way. (p.84)

(Chapter 14) “The Fifth Tuesday (We Talk About Family)” **pg.** 90-99

**Questions**

1. Describe Morrie’s family.

2. Why hasn’t Mitch spoken to his brother in a long time?

**Vocab**

Love each other or ***perish***. (p.91)

. . . the cancer was in ***remission***. (p.96)

(Chapter 15) “The Sixth Tuesday (We Talk About Emotions)” **pg.** 100-108

**Questions**

1. What is Morrie’s theory on “detaching from emotions”?

**Vocab**

. . . ***detaching*** myself. . . (p.103)

You’re afraid of the ***vulnerability*** that loving. . . (p.104)

(Chapter 16) “The Professor, Part Two” **pg.** 109-114

**Questions**

1. Mitch describes Morrie as being a peacemaker (“always made good peace”). Describe the example in this chapter that shows Morrie’s ability to make peace.

**Vocab**

. . . lose their ***deferments*** and be drafted. (p.111)

. . . the situation was ***diffused***. (p.113)

(Chapter 17) “The Seventh Tuesday (We Talk About the Fear of Aging)” **pg.** 115-122

**Questions**

1. Why does Morrie embrace aging?

2. What does Morrie mean when he says “I am every age”?

(Chapter 18) “The Eighth Tuesday (Money)” **pg.** 123-129

**Questions**

1. What are Morrie’s thoughts on money?

2. What is Morrie’s answer to his question, “You know what really gives you satisfaction?”

**Vocab**

. . . to very ***disillusioned*** lives. (p.124)

. . . bank account was rapidly ***depleting***. (p.126)

(Chapter 19) “The Ninth Tuesday (Love Goes On)” **pg.** 130-141

**Questions**

1. Does Morrie worry about being forgotten after he dies? Explain Why or Why not?

2. How does Morrie want his passing to be different from his parents?

(Chapter 20) “The Tenth Tuesday (Marriage)” **pg.** 142- 151

**Questions**

1. Who is Janine? What is her profession? How is she important in this chapter?

2. What are three of the “rules” that Morrie knows to be true about love and marriage?

**Vocab**

. . . know how to ***compromise***. . . (p.149)

(Chapter 21) “The Eleventh Tuesday (Our Culture)” **pg.** 152-159

**Questions**

1. Explain what Morrie means by “building your own subculture.”

**Vocab**

. . . ***alabaster*** skin. . . (p.152)

. . . the ***inherent*** good of people. (p.154)

(Chapter 22) “The Audiovisual, Part 3” **pg.** 160-163

**Questions**

1. Morrie says that the world may be a better place if we can learn what lesson?

2. Morrie shares his latest aphorism in this chapter—What is it? What do you think it means?

**Vocab**

. . . ***stoic*** anchor. (p. 160)

. . . added his ***mantra***. . . (p. 163)

(Chapter 23) “The Twelfth Tuesday (Forgiveness)” **pg.** 164-170

**Questions**

1. Who is Norman? What does Morrie regret involving Norman?

**Vocab**

. . . ***callused*** and curled. . . (p.164)

His breathing was ***audible***. . . (p.167)

(Chapter 24) “The Thirteenth Tuesday (The Perfect Day)” **pg.** 171-180

**Questions**

1. Describe the things Morrie says he would do if he had one perfectly healthy day.

**Vocab**

. . . wanted to be ***cremated***. (p. 171)

(Chapter 25) “The Fourteenth Tuesday (We Say Goodbye)” **pg.** 181-186

**Questions**

1. How did you feel while reading the “goodbye” that took place in this chapter?

**Vocab**

. . . ***hospice*** nurse. . . (p.183)

(Chapter 26) “Graduation” (none)

(Chapter 27) “Conclusion” **pg.** 190-192

**Questions**

1. Mitch says “If Morrie taught me anything at all, it’s

this:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 2. Do you agree with this statement? Explain why or why not.