

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher:	Zettler	School:	OHS
Book Title:	Tuesdays With Morrie	Genre:	Nonfiction
Author:	Mitch Albom	Pages:	224
Publisher:	Doubleday	Copyright:	1997

In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.

Book Summary and summary citation: (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

This true story about the love between a spiritual mentor and his pupil has soared to the bestseller list for many reasons. For starters: it reminds us of the affection and gratitude that many of us still feel for the significant mentors of our past. It also plays out a fantasy many of us have entertained: what would it be like to look those people up again, tell them how much they meant to us, maybe even resume the mentorship? Plus, we meet Morrie Schwartz--a one of a kind professor, whom the author describes as looking like a cross between a biblical prophet and Christmas elf. And finally we are privy to intimate moments of Morrie's final days as he lies dying from a terminal illness. Even on his deathbed, this twinkling-eyed mensch manages to teach us all about living robustly and fully. Kudos to author and acclaimed sports columnist Mitch Albom for telling this universally touching story with such grace and humility. --Gail Hudson found at Amazon.com

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s): (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

Reading: Literature/Key Ideas and Details 1-3; Reading: Literature/Craft and Structure 5; Writing: Text Types and Purposes 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f; Writing/Production and Distribution of Writing 4-5; Speaking and Listening/Comprehension and Collaboration 1a, 1c; Language/Conventions of Standard English 2b, Language/Knowledge of Language 5a

Include two professional reviews of this title: (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be "cut and pasted" (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

Tuesdays with Morrie Mitch Albom Doubleday, 19.95
Review by Stephanie Bowen - CNN.com

He wasn't a superstar athlete, a successful entrepreneur or a famous actor. He was not a household name. His only claim to fame was an appearance on Nightline. But ask anyone who knew him and they'll likely tell you that Morrie Schwartz made more of an impression on them than Michael Jordan, Bill Gates and Jodie Foster combined.

Tuesdays with Morrie TWM is more than just a dying mans last words. It is an inspirational recount of a mans life a man whose passion for the human spirit has continued to live long after his last breath.

You could say there are two stories within TWM. One is the story of a man and a disease. The other is the story of a professor of social psychology who has come to understand that life's complexities can be broken down into simple truths.

This book was not planned; it came about after Mitch Albom, by chance, saw his old professor on ABCs Nightline being interviewed by Ted Koppel about what it was like to be dying of ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gherigs disease. Mitch had lost track of his Brandeis University professor and college mentor shortly after he graduated and settled in Detroit as a sports writer.

Albom was surprised and saddened to learn that Morrie was dying and quickly got in touch with his old professor. What started as a reunion of old friends turned into the project of a lifetime.

Mitch and Morrie subsequently spent the next sixteen Tuesdays together exploring many of life's fundamental issues family, marriage, aging and culture to name a few. Morrie was giving his last lecture while Mitch was writing his final thesis.

Take aging, an issue many struggle with. As his disease progresses, Morrie finds himself dealing with aging in a more concentrated way than most. When Mitch asks him how he is able to refrain from being jealous of the young, Morrie says, "It's like going back to being a child again. Someone to bathe you. Someone to lift you. Someone to wipe you. We all know how to be a child. It's inside all of us. For me it's just remembering how to enjoy it." With wonderful insight, Morrie continues, "We all yearn in some way to return to those days when we were completely taken care of unconditional love, unconditional caring. Most of us didn't get enough." Now if that isn't getting the most of an unfortunate situation, I dont know what is.

Review #2

Publisher's Weekly - As a student at Brandeis University in the late 1970s, Albom was especially drawn to his sociology professor, Morris Schwartz. On graduation he vowed to keep in touch with him, which he failed to do until 1994, when he saw a segment about Schwartz on the TV program Nightline, and learned that he had just been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. By then a sports columnist for the Detroit Free Press and author of six books, including Fab Five, Albom was idled by the newspaper strike in the Motor City and so had the opportunity to visit Schwartz in Boston every week until the older man died. Their dialogue is the subject of this moving book in which Schwartz discourses on life, self-pity, regrets, aging, love and death, offering aphorisms about each -e.g., ""After you have wept and grieved for your physical losses, cherish the functions and the life you have left."" Far from being awash in sentiment, the dying man retains a firm grasp on reality. An emotionally rich book and a deeply affecting memorial to a wise mentor, who was 79 when he died in 1995. (Sept.)

What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

<u>Title:</u> Have a Little Faith	<u>Author:</u> Mitch Albom
<u>Title:</u> The Five People You Meet in Heaven	<u>Author:</u> Mitch Albom
<u>Title:</u> For One More Day	<u>Author:</u> Mitch Albom
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>
<u>Title:</u>	<u>Author:</u>

Document any potentially controversial content:

Theme - death

Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)

Gifted/Accelerated Regular At Risk

GRADE LEVEL(S): 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Reading level of this title (if applicable):

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 5/2012

Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults