

# **Tuesdays with Morrie**

**Mitch Albom**

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Book	Tuesdays with Morrie
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Content Introduction	This book offers positive attitude toward life. Show us how love goes on. Tell us to design a perfect day. What's more, it makes us understand money is not a substitute for love or for gentleness or for tenderness. There are 14 issues in this book. It's an elegantly simple story about a writer getting a second chance to discover life through the death of a friend. If you'd like to live a passionate life, this book is the best choice.

### **Abstract**

There are fourteen topics in this book. Mitch and his teacher talk about different subjects every Tuesday. They talk about the world, about feeling sorry for yourself, about regrets, about death, family, emotions, the fear of aging, money, how love goes on, marriage, the culture, forgiveness, the perfect day, and they say good-bye in the fourteenth Tuesday. Mitch had not seen his collage teacher, Morrie, in sixteen years. He met Morrie by chance. At that time, Morrie had only a few months to live and then Mitch took fourteen more of his courses. Mitch was the only student, of course.

## Tuesdays with Morrie

Why I choose this book? Firstly, I wish we human beings can learn to concern about the society and the world through out reading this book. Secondly, we would realize how to plan and take advantage of every single day. Besides, we have to understand our families would always encourage and support us no matter what difficulties we have. Furthermore, we get to know the positive viewpoint of money. People should emphasize what money can not buy. Last but not least, we have to give love and accept love.

As a room teacher in private high school, I found students loose passion in their lives. I planned to set theme for students to write in their weekly journals. And I gave them feedback according to the contents of the book “Tuesdays with Morrie”

It would provide us the positive attitude of life through this true story. What’s more, we may gain the ability of judgment when we face different kinds of topics for discussion. The most important of all, the author is a native speaker, and the book is written by easy and useful words. The following are six parts which I think more important to discuss. Now I would like to introduce some issues of this book.

### 1. We talk about the world

Morrie told us to look at life uniquely. When we can’t go shopping, we can’t take care of the bank accounts, we can’t take out the garbage. Morrie said “But we can sit here with my dwindling days, and look at what we think is important in life.” We have both the time and the reason to do that.

Sometimes we don’t read daily newspapers; certainly, we don’t know what’d happening in the world. The same, we don’t care about people around us. So that I asked students to write down one thing they care about the most and tell me why they focused on it. Hence I we can discuss over it.

### 2. We talk about the perfect day

Mitch asked his teacher “What if you had one day perfectly healthy, what would

you do?" He said "I'd get up in the morning, do my exercise, have a lovely breakfast of sweet rolls and tea, go for a swim, then have my friend come over for a nice lunch. I'd have them come one or two at a time so we could talk about their families, their issues, talk about how much we mean to each other. Then I'd like to go for a walk, in a garden with some trees, watch their colors, watch the birds, and take in the nature that I haven't seen in so long now. In the evening, we'd all go together to a restaurant with some great pasta, maybe some duck and then we'd dance the rest of the night. I'd dance with all the wonderful dance partners out there, until I was exhausted. And then I'd go home and have a sleep, wonderful sleep."

Because of the prediction of the end of the world, I wanted my students to express how to design a perfect day. The mostly answers they have shown were to sleep all day. So much stress they felt, they ignored the beauty of the nature.

### 3. We talk about family

The fact is, there is no foundation, no secure ground, upon which people may stand today if it isn't family. It's become quite clear to me as I've been sick. If don't have the support and love and caring and concern that we get from a family. We don't have much at all. Love is so supremely important. As our great poet Auden said, "Love each other or perish."

This is part of what a family is about, not just love, but letting others know there's someone who is watching out for them. Our family will be there watching out for you. Nothing else will give us that. Not money. Not fame.

Teenagers at this time usually have lots of conflicts with their parents. I read this paragraph for them. I would like to show them how much their parents love them. To discipline them is just because the parents want to protect them.

### 4. We talk about how love goes on

Many people with far smaller problems are so self-absorbed; their eyes glaze over if you speak for more than thirty seconds. They already have something else in mind-a friend to call, a fax to send, a lover they are daydreaming about. Part of the problem, is that everyone is in such a hurry. People haven't found meaning in their lives, so they're running all the time looking for it. They think the next car, the next house, the next job. Then they found those things are empty, too, and they keep running.

I found students pursued material things. They went part-time jobs to gain more money just because they wanted to possess a new cell phone or new on-line games. They spent less time caring about their families or friends. For this reason, I requested students to write down “What does love mean to you?” Thus, we can talk about it in the weekly journals.

#### 5. We talk about forgiveness

“Forgive yourself before you die. Then forgive other.” I always wished I had done more with my work. I wished I had written more books. I used to beat myself up over it. Now I see that never did any good. Make peace. You need to make peace with yourself and everyone around you.

We also need to forgive ourselves. For all the things we didn’t do. All the things we should have done. You can’t get stuck on the regrets of what should have happened. That doesn’t help you get to where I am.

I love this paragraph. We often criticized ourselves or others severely. We all forgot to make peace with ourselves. These words reminded me to forgive myself and people around me. No matter good things or bad things we have done. It is no use to regret what have happened.

#### 6. We talk about money

I met people waiting to gobble up something new. Gobble up a new car. Gobble up a new piece of property. Gobble up the latest toy? These were people so hungry for love that they were embracing material things and expecting a sort of hug back. But you can’t substitute material things for love or for gentleness or for tenderness or for a sense of comradeship. Money is not a substitute for tenderness, and power is not a substitute for tenderness. Neither money nor power will give you the feeling you are looking for.

I am afraid that the students are seeking for material things in wrong ways. I always want them to think what money can not buy. Such as love, home, health, friendship, happiness, and lost time. We can’t substitute material things for them.