

# Tuesdays With Morrie Discussion Prompts Answers

## Tuesdays with Morrie Discussion Prompts

**\*\*Starred questions indicate thought or opinion based questions\*\***

### The Curriculum – The Syllabus (pages 1-13)

1. Where does Mitch Albom's last class with Morrie Schwartz take place? When do they meet? What is the subject they study?
2. What are some of the topics they cover? What is held in lieu of graduation?
3. When did Mitch graduate from college? Explain Morrie's parting request of Mitch and Mitch's reply?
4. Identify Morrie's fatal illness. Give the date he receives the diagnosis and prognosis. What famous person is the disease named for?
5. \*What is the first "loss" Morrie experiences? How do you think this affects him emotionally?
6. \*Identify Charlotte. What are her primary concerns after learning of Morrie's terminal illness? How do you think she will cope?
7. \*How does Morrie initially react to the diagnosis of ALS? Quote and explain the simile that describes his feelings.
8. Sequence the usual progression of Morrie's disease.
9. How does Morrie conduct his "living funeral"? Why does he do so? What is the outcome?
10. \***Prediction:** What will unfold during the most unusual part of Morrie's life?

### The Student – Orientation (pages 14-31)

1. Identify three major events in Mitch's life since he last saw Morrie.
2. \*How does Mitch's life change after his uncle dies? Why do you think he makes these changes?
3. How does Mitch learn about Morrie's illness?
4. Describe Morrie's physical and mental condition the first time Ted Koppel interviews him.
5. \*How does Morrie initially react to Koppel? Why do you think he does so?
6. \*Quote one of Morrie's aphorisms and explain what you think it means (page 18).
7. \*During Koppel's interview, how does Morrie explain his philosophy about living with a terminal illness? What does he most dread about the decay of his body? Why do you think this especially bothers him?
8. Explain how Morrie and Mitch react to each other when they first meet at Brandeis University. What does Mitch begin to call Morrie? What are Mitch's two overwhelming desires during his acquaintance with Morrie at Brandeis?
9. \*What is Mitch doing when he first arrives at Morrie's house after seeing him on "Nightline"? What do you think this reveals about Mitch?
10. How does Morrie react to Mitch's first visit? How does Morrie introduce the "last class" he will ever have with Mitch?

**Tuesdays with Morrie** is a poignant memoir written by Mitch Albom that captures the life lessons imparted by Morrie Schwartz, a beloved college professor, as he battles ALS. Throughout the book, Morrie shares his insights on life, love, death, and the importance of human connections. For readers and book clubs, discussing these themes can deepen the understanding of the text and its relevance to their own lives. Below are some discussion prompts and comprehensive answers that can help guide conversations around this profound narrative.

# Key Themes in "Tuesdays with Morrie"

Before diving into specific discussion prompts, it's essential to understand the underlying themes of the book. This knowledge will enrich the conversation and provide context for the questions.

## Love and Relationships

Morrie emphasizes the importance of love and relationships as fundamental to a fulfilling life. He believes that human connections are what make life meaningful.

## Death and Acceptance

Morrie's confrontation with his terminal illness leads him to offer insights on death, teaching that acceptance is crucial to living a full life.

## Regrets and Life Choices

The book also touches on the idea of living without regrets and making choices that align with one's values.

## Discussion Prompts and Answers

Here are some discussion prompts along with thoughtful answers to facilitate a deeper understanding of "Tuesdays with Morrie."

### 1. What lessons does Morrie teach about love and relationships?

Morrie teaches that love is the foundation of a meaningful life. He suggests that relationships should be nurtured and prioritized over material possessions. During their meetings, he often reiterates that love is the only thing that truly matters, stating, "We're too involved in materialistic things. We're missing the point of life." This lesson encourages readers to reflect on their own relationships and consider how they can foster deeper connections with family and friends.

### 2. How does Morrie's illness shape his perspective on life?

Morrie's battle with ALS becomes a lens through which he views life. It sharpens his focus on what truly matters, allowing him to confront difficult topics such as death and regrets openly. He explains that facing death has taught him to appreciate life in its entirety, urging Mitch and readers to do the same. This

perspective prompts discussions about how personal challenges can lead to growth and clarity.

### **3. In what ways does Mitch change throughout the book?**

Initially, Mitch is consumed by his career and the hustle of life, often losing sight of what is important. Through his weekly meetings with Morrie, he begins to reassess his priorities, learning to value human connection over professional success. By the end, Mitch has transformed into a more conscious individual, understanding the importance of living authentically and with purpose. This evolution invites readers to examine their own lives for areas of improvement.

### **4. What role does forgiveness play in the book?**

Forgiveness is a recurring theme that Morrie addresses as essential for emotional well-being. He encourages Mitch to forgive himself and others for past mistakes, explaining that holding onto anger and resentment only burdens the spirit. This theme encourages readers to think about their own experiences with forgiveness and how it affects their mental health and relationships.

### **5. How does Morrie view the concept of success?**

Morrie challenges the conventional definition of success, which often includes wealth and status. Instead, he defines success as the ability to love, to be loved, and to find meaning in relationships and experiences. This perspective invites readers to redefine their own understanding of success and consider what truly brings fulfillment.

### **6. What impact does the format of the book have on its message?**

"Tuesdays with Morrie" is structured as a series of conversations between Mitch and Morrie, which creates an intimate and personal tone. This format allows readers to feel as if they are part of the discussions, fostering a deeper emotional connection to the lessons shared. The conversational style also emphasizes the simplicity and clarity of Morrie's teachings, making profound ideas accessible to a broad audience.

### **7. Discuss the significance of the title "Tuesdays with Morrie."**

The title signifies the weekly meetings that Mitch has with Morrie, highlighting the importance of routine and commitment to learning. These Tuesday meetings become a sacred space where deep conversations unfold, allowing both characters to explore significant life issues. The title also suggests that these lessons are not merely academic; instead, they are life lessons that resonate deeply with readers.

## **8. How does Morrie's view on dying influence his perspective on living?**

Morrie believes that understanding and accepting death is essential for truly living. He argues that people often avoid thinking about death, which detracts from their ability to appreciate life. By accepting that life is finite, Morrie teaches that individuals can make more meaningful choices and focus on what is genuinely important. This concept encourages readers to confront their own perceptions of mortality.

## **Practical Application of Morrie's Lessons**

After discussing the themes and insights from "Tuesdays with Morrie," it is valuable for readers to consider how to apply these lessons in their own lives.

### **1. Reflect on Relationships**

Readers should take time to evaluate their relationships. Who do they cherish? Are they nurturing these connections? Making a conscious effort to strengthen bonds can lead to a more fulfilling life.

### **2. Embrace Vulnerability**

Morrie teaches the value of being open about emotions. Discussing fears, regrets, and desires with loved ones can enhance intimacy and understanding.

### **3. Live with Purpose**

Consider what brings joy and meaning to life. Set intentions that align with personal values, and prioritize activities that contribute to emotional well-being.

### **4. Practice Forgiveness**

Identify any grudges or resentments that may be held and actively work towards forgiveness. This can be a liberating experience that promotes inner peace.

### **5. Cultivate Gratitude**

Encourage a daily practice of gratitude. Acknowledging the positive aspects of life can enhance overall happiness and perspective.

## Conclusion

"Tuesdays with Morrie" serves as a timeless reminder of the importance of relationships, love, and living authentically. Through engaging in discussions using the prompts provided, readers can uncover deeper meanings within the text and apply Morrie's wisdom to their own lives. The insights gained from Morrie Schwartz transcend his terminal illness, offering valuable life lessons that resonate with all, regardless of age or circumstance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the significance of the title 'Tuesdays with Morrie'?**

The title reflects the weekly meetings between Mitch Albom and his former professor, Morrie Schwartz, where they discuss life lessons and values every Tuesday.

### **How does Morrie's perspective on death influence his teachings?**

Morrie's acceptance of death allows him to live authentically and fully, teaching that acknowledging mortality can lead to a more meaningful life.

### **What role does forgiveness play in Morrie's lessons?**

Forgiveness is central to Morrie's philosophy; he emphasizes the importance of letting go of grudges to live a happier, more fulfilling life.

### **What are some key life lessons that Morrie imparts to Mitch?**

Key lessons include the importance of love, the value of relationships, living with purpose, and the necessity of accepting vulnerability.

### **How does the relationship between Mitch and Morrie evolve throughout the book?**

Mitch transitions from a former student to a close friend, learning to appreciate Morrie's wisdom and the significance of their bond in facing life's challenges.

### **What is the impact of societal values on the themes of the book?**

The book critiques societal values that prioritize success and materialism, contrasting them with Morrie's emphasis on love, compassion, and meaningful connections.

## How does Morrie address the concept of aging in his discussions?

Morrie views aging as a natural part of life, encouraging acceptance and appreciation of the wisdom that comes with it rather than fear of getting older.

## In what ways does 'Tuesdays with Morrie' inspire readers to reflect on their own lives?

The book prompts readers to consider their priorities, relationships, and how they face mortality, encouraging a reevaluation of what truly matters in life.

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