

Summer Reading Assignment-English I

Dear English I Student,

Welcome to the beginning of your reading and writing career here at Shrine Catholic High School! I am so excited to have you in class and am looking forward to a wonderful year of sharing with you through reading, writing and discussion. As a new student at Shrine, you are required to participate in our Summer Reading Program. This year's selection is *Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom. The paperback is available for purchase at local bookstores or through www.ecampus.com.

As you read the assigned novel, I want you to jot down a few notes in response to the following questions. They will help you to prepare for a quiz which will be given on the first full day of classes.

Carpe Diem,
Mrs. Harper

Tuesdays with Morrie:

Did your opinion about Mitch change as book went on? In what way?

Who do you think got more out of their Tuesday meetings, Mitch or Morrie? In what ways? How do you think each would answer this question?

Morrie referred to himself as a bridge, a person who is in between life and death, which makes him useful to others as a tool to understand both. Talk about other literary, historical, political, or religious figures who have also served this purpose.

Morrie was seventy-eight years old when diagnosed with ALS. How might he have reacted if he'd contracted the disease when he was Mitch's age? Would Morrie have come to the same conclusions? The same peace and acceptance? Or is his experience also a function of his age?

Morrie told Mitch about the "tension of opposites" (p. 40). Talk about this as a metaphor for the book and for society.

As his visits with Morrie continued, Mitch explored some other cultures and religions and how each views death. Discuss these and others that you've studied.