

## Colin Monahan 2025 LAL Top Prize Winner Level 3 (grades 9-12)

January 2025

Dear Mitch Albom,

I will be honest - I chose to read "Tuesdays with Morrie" purely due to the book's petite size. I assumed it would be a quick, light read that I could whiz through in a few days, and then not worry about independent reading for the remainder of the semester. However, the amount of wisdom I absorbed during what I would not call reading, but an 'experience', made "Tuesdays with Morrie" perhaps the densest book I have ever discovered.

As you described your post-college life in the opening chapters of the book, I instantly connected with you. I too get caught up in day-to-day life at times and feel, as you so accurately put it, "cranked to a fifth gear". I am currently approaching my transition to college, and to say the amount of work and stress present is a lot is an understatement. Learning your backstory through "Tuesdays with Morrie" felt like we were empathizing with each other, page after page.

Once Morrie's 'final class' began, I felt as though he was simultaneously teaching you and me about life. His lesson about death introduced me to a new and comforting way of thinking about a topic that once both confused and scared me. With Morrie's health in steady decline each week, I finished each chapter worrying that he would be gone and unable to converse with you and me the following Tuesday. However, when his time inevitably came, and the book ended, I felt at ease. Morrie's advice and wisdom, passed from him through you to me just made me feel grateful to take part in his 'final class'!

In order to appreciate the important things in life: family, forgiveness, and meaning, you and Morrie taught me through "Tuesdays with Morrie" that I shouldn't worry about the future or dwell on the past, but experience and appreciate the present. Although I know that regret about what is done and anxiety about what is to come are inevitable parts of life, your book has already caused me to prioritize living in the 'now' as much as I can.

Perhaps one day in the future, I will write a memoir called "Sundays with 'Tuesdays with Morrie,'" adding another layer to the framed narrative comprising Morrie's important lessons about life! Ending on a serious note, though, I was genuinely moved by your book, and I hope to continue living by Morrie's values even as life gets busy.

Sincerely,

Colin Monahan