

## **Chapter: “The Orientation”**

The entire novel is told by the author, Mitch Albom, in the first-person point of view. Albom’s emotional state during his first arrival at Morrie’s house can be described as nervous, anxious, and awkward. Albom is afraid to get out of the car and greet his old professor, and he pretends to search for his keys on the floor. Once he gets out of the car and sees Morrie, he is startled by Morrie’s deteriorating appearance and is embarrassed by the overwhelming affection Morrie shows him. Morrie, on the other hand, seems calm and happy.

Rewrite the opening scene from this chapter from Morrie’s point of view. What is he thinking when Albom drives into the driveway and takes several minutes to get out of the car? Write from Morrie’s perspective instead of Albom’s.

## Chapter: “Taking Attendance”

This activity has two parts:

1. Explain why you think this chapter is called “Taking Attendance.”

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2. Make a list of activities you engage in or would like to engage in. Which activities feed your soul instead of improving your self-image and earning you money? Which activities make you feel more connected to your true self and to the other people around you?

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## Chapter: "The Second Tuesday/We Talk About Feeling Sorry for Yourself"

What does Morrie say in this chapter about society and compassion?

Take a look at a newspaper and **record the date** in the space below. Look through several pages of the paper and **record**, on this page, several of the headlines. Also, **read** at least **three of the stories**.

Newspaper date:
Headline #1:
Headline #2
Headline #3
Headline #4
Headline #5

Explain how the newspaper headlines and stories you examined illustrate Morrie's point of view.

## **Chapter: "The Fourth Tuesday/We Talk About Death"**

What point does Morrie make in this chapter about sleepwalking?

Do you agree with Morrie's point of view? Explain.

Take a "Morrie test" and walk from the Lake Theater (B100) to Tasty Dog (BHS cafeteria). What do you notice that you have never noticed before (architecture, stores, people, sounds, smells, etc.)?

How does this walking experiment relate to Morrie's observation about sleepwalking?

## **Chapter: "The Sixth Tuesday/We talk About Emotions"**

As you read this chapter, you probably felt a range of emotions, from love and peace to fear, loneliness, and sadness. Draw a picture of one of the emotions you felt while reading. Include a **quotation** from the book for a caption. *Please use this page for your drawing.*

EMOTION DRAWING

## **Chapter: "The Eleventh Tuesday/We Talk About Our Culture"**

What are Morrie's views on the predominant culture in this country?

Find a newspaper article that supports his views. Tape the article on this page and explain the connection between Morrie's views and the article.

## Chapter: "The Thirteenth Tuesday/We Talk About the Perfect Day"

An aphorism is a brief saying that defines the way you want to live your life. Morrie mentions many in the book. Create your own original aphorism that you could live by, and then link your aphorism to a little story like the one about the wave and the ocean. Here are three aphorisms from Morrie:

Love wins. Love always wins.

Satisfaction comes from offering others what you have to give.

You live on in the hearts of everyone you have touched.

For this activity, write an original aphorism that you think would be helpful advice to someone else. Your aphorism should reflect a value you believe everyone should have, or it should give an important lesson you think applies to all people. Avoid writing clichés, such as “Live life to the fullest” or “Never give up.”

Your Aphorism:

Your Story:

“The Sixth Tuesday: *We Talk About Emotions*”  
Textual Evidence

**Objective:** Discovering textual evidences

**Activity**

It has been six weeks since Morrie’s “class” with Mitch began, and each week brings Morrie closer to his final lecture. While Morrie explores how to make his death less traumatic, his health is rapidly declining. This chapter discusses Morrie’s further decline in health and the inevitability of his death. There are clues within the chapter that reflect this.

In the chart that follows, list clues that indicate the severity of Morrie’s illness, and explain how these clues signify Morrie’s impending death.

**CLUES OF MORRIE’S ILLNESS CHART**

Clues	Meaning of Clues



## Morrie Project

**Choose one of the following projects to complete for your final reader response.**

### **Chapter: “The Tenth Tuesday: *We Talk About Marriage*”**

#### **Responding to Music**

**Objective:** Relating song lyrics to the text

#### **Activity:**

In this chapter, Albom’s wife, Janine, finally meets Morrie. She is immediately taken with him. When he finds out she is a professional singer, he asks her to sing for him, and much to Albom’s surprise, she does. Normally, she is put off by the request, but she feels compelled to sing for Morrie. The performance moves Morrie to tears. Music has a great effect on him.

This chapter is about love, marriage, and relationships, and the song Janine sings is a love song. However, for this activity, you do not need to confine your work to the topic of love and marriage. Each Tuesday has a different topic that Morrie and Albom discuss. Choose one of the topics listed below, and find a song that has lyrics related to that topic. Even better, try to find a song that echoes what Morrie has said on that subject. Finally, write a paragraph or two explaining the connection between the book and the song you chose.

Here are the topics to choose from:

- The World
- Feeling Sorry For Yourself
- Regrets
- Death
- Family
- Emotions
- Fear of Aging
- Money
- How Love Goes On
- Marriage

### **Chapter: “The Thirteenth Tuesday: *We Talk About the Perfect Day*”**

#### **Creative Writing and Art**

**Objectives:** Using descriptive language and sensory imagery  
Expressing ideas through art

#### **Activity**

Morrie is now very close to death. He knows it is too late to try a new, experimental drug, and he begins making plans for his cremation. Albom asks Morrie what he would do for twenty-four hours if he were in perfect health. Morrie describes his perfect day, starting with, “Let’s see...I’d get up in the morning, do my exercises, [and] have a lovely breakfast of sweet rolls and tea...”

Read Morrie’s description of his perfect day. You will notice that he lists the things he will do without describing them in detail or using sensory imagery. Write down two events from Morrie’s perfect day. Develop each of the events into two paragraphs that fully describe that activity. Elaborate on the details of his perfect day by adding more sentences, more adjectives, stronger verbs, similes, metaphors, and sensory images.

Afterward, brainstorm your perfect day. You need at least five activities, several vivid adjectives, and sensory images for each. You could also include literary devices like similes and metaphors. After brainstorming, use the information you recorded to write a description of your perfect day. The description should be at least three paragraphs long.