

Freshmen Summer Reading

The RRHS English Department welcomes you to Rocky River High School! This summer's reading requirements are **Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie*** and **Jack London's *The Call of the Wild***. Along with reading both books, you will also be required to complete **two assignments** that are explained in this pamphlet.

Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie*

In *Tuesdays with Morrie*, Mitch Albom introduces us to one of his own heroes, Morrie Schwartz. Morrie's courage in the face of his own slow, painful, and often times frustrating death process can be an inspiration to each of us.

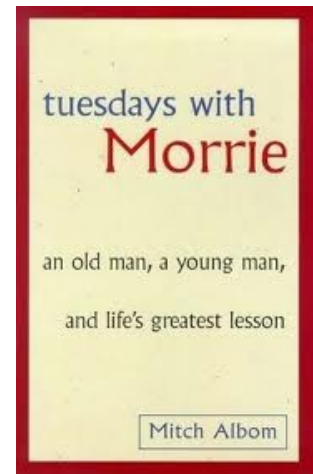
Morrie was a teacher even in his death, and he left Mitch with many useful aphorisms (philosophies on life) to guide him through the difficult times in his own life. Your task for this novel is to analyze one of these aphorisms.

Tuesdays with Morrie Assignment Details

Type a 250-300 word (one page), double-spaced response to the following question:

Choose one of Morrie's aphorisms (they appear in italics throughout the story). How did Mitch find truth in the aphorism in his own life? Provide evidence from the story that proves that Mitch's life has changed due to the teachings of Morrie.

Note: The writing component must be typed, double-spaced, in MLA format (Times New Roman, 12 pt font).



Assignment Due Dates

Tuesdays with Morrie
one page Response:

Friday, August 26

The Call of the Wild
Worksheet on
Naturalism:

Friday, August 26

Freshmen Teacher

Mr. Mike Sislowski: sislowski.michael@rrcs.org

Freshmen Summer Reading, cont'd

Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*

The Call of the Wild is more than just a dog story! It is a parable expressing the key ideas of literary Naturalism through Buck's transformation from a civilized and urbane creature into a savage and violent beast.

Naturalism is a literary movement that was strongly influenced by Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*. The movement took place in American Literature during the late 19th century, and it is best exemplified through **three basic motifs**:

1. Nature is a powerful force and is indifferent to humans and all creatures
2. Life is a struggle for survival, only the strongest will survive.
3. All creatures have violent instincts lurking beneath a thin veneer of civility.

Your job as you read *The Call of the Wild* is to find examples of these motifs throughout the story!

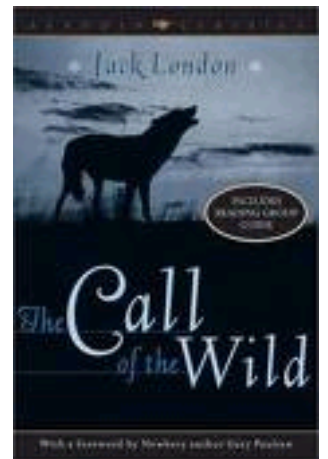
The Call of the Wild Assignment Details:

Reading Activity:

As you read the novel, complete the attached handout on the three motifs of literary Naturalism.

As the handout stipulates, you will be required to submit the following:

- **Two** examples (with corresponding page numbers) of each motif from the text (6 examples total).
- A **30 word summary** of the situation that explains each example (6 summaries total).
- A detailed illustration that is representative of each motif as demonstrated in the text (3 illustrations total).



Freshmen Teacher

Mr. Mike Sislowski: sislowski.michael@rrcs.org

Name _____

Date _____

The Call of the Wild: Motifs of Literary Naturalism

Directions: The motifs of Literary Naturalism can be discovered throughout the story *The Call of the Wild*. Please find two examples where each of the following ideas is present in the story. Summarize each example in 30 words and provide the page numbers from the text where the example exists. Then for each motif, sketch an illustration depicting one example of how it is shown in *The Call of the Wild*. Please attach illustrations to the handout.

I. Motif of Literary Naturalism: Nature is a powerful force and is indifferent to humans and all creatures.

Example/Evidence 1:

Summary:

Example/Evidence 2:

Summary:

II. Motif of Literary Naturalism: Life is a struggle for survival, only the strongest will survive.

Example/Evidence 1:

Summary:

Example/Evidence 2:

Summary:

III. Motif of Literary Naturalism: All creatures have violent instincts lurking beneath a thin veneer of civility.

Example/Evidence 1:

Summary:

Example/Evidence 2:

Summary: