

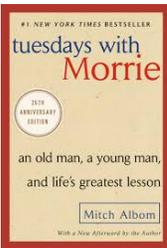


## Honors Freshman English Summer Reading Requirements 2025-2026

The RRHS English Department welcomes you to Rocky River High School! This summer's reading requirement is **Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie***. Along with reading this book, you will also be required to complete the assignment that is explained in this handout.

**Course Overview:** English 9 Honors lays a strong foundation for the rest of the Honors English courses at Rocky River High School. In addition to building the vocabulary (both literary and otherwise) and the skills to explore complex literature, including fiction and an increased focus on nonfiction, 9H enables students to develop sophistication, maturity, and voice in their writing through regular writing assignments and intense grammar study. A strong focus on the research process helps to prepare students for future writing intensive courses at the high school. A rigorous course, 9H explores complex texts for both their intricate plot structures and their deeper socio-political and artistic purposes. Paving the way for the exploration of such novels and plays as: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, this year's summer reading will begin to explore issues of friendship, morality, and mentorship while focusing on vocabulary, characterization, and supporting details.

### Mitch Albom's *Tuesday with Morris*



*"The most important thing in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in."*

Maybe it was a grandparent, or a teacher, or a colleague. Someone older, patient and wise, who understood you when you were young and searching, helped you see the world as a more profound place, gave you sound advice to help you make your way through it.

For Mitch Albom, that person was his college professor Morrie Schwartz.

Mitch Albom had that second chance. He rediscovered Morrie in the last months of the older man's life. Knowing he was dying, Morrie visited with Mitch in his study every Tuesday, just as they used to back in college. Their rekindled relationship turned into one final "class": lessons in how to live. "The truth is, Mitch," he said, "once you learn how to die, you learn how to live."

*Tuesdays with Morrie* is a magical chronicle of their time together, through which Mitch shares Morrie's lasting gift with the world.

\*Summary adapted from amazon.com

### *Tuesdays with Morrie* Assignment Details

The joy of summer reading is that you can read the book over time or all in one sitting; the choice is yours!

- You should complete the vocab list, using the directions provided on the next pages.
- Additionally, you are being asked to find quotes that respond to Thought Questions provided on the following pages of this document. You will find at least two quotes per question. Your quotes will be graded, and you will be permitted to use these assignments on some of the work completed in the fall.

**Note: All assignments should be completed independently. Be sure your choices, thinking, and writing are your own. Do not use A.I. "for ideas" or to find the quotations for you. If your work too closely resembles that of another student, or if it's clear that your work is not your own, it will be marked as missing and returned to you to be redone. Late penalties and other deductions will apply.**

**Due Date: Wednesday, August 20**

If you have any questions about either assignment, please feel free to email us:

Mr. Jonathan Hopkins: [hopkins.jonathan@rrcs.org](mailto:hopkins.jonathan@rrcs.org)

Ms. Sarah Horton: [horton.sarah@rrcs.org](mailto:horton.sarah@rrcs.org)

Mrs. Ashley Morris: [morris.ashley@rrcs.org](mailto:morris.ashley@rrcs.org)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ *Tuesdays with Morrie: Important Vocabulary*

**Directions:** Using any resources that you can find independently, please look up the terms below that are crucial for the overall understanding of the novel. You will be assessed over your knowledge of these words at the start of the school year. This is a handwritten assignment, and it is due on the first day of class. You will need to provide the word's part of speech as it's used in the text and the definition in your own words.

Vocab Word	Part of Speech	Definition in your own words
1. Biopsy		
2. Demise		
3. Insatiable		
4. Aphorisms		
5. Humility		
6. Deferments		
7. Lamented		
8. Alienation		
9. Atrophied		
10. Cynical		
11. Rational		
12. Insidious		
13. Intrusive		
14. Clamoring		
15. Imminent		
16. Ambivalence		
17. Egotistical		
18. Opiate		
19. Communal		

20. Antidote		
21. Exploited		
22. Indecipherable		
23. Solidarity		
24. Agnostic		
25. Transcend		
26. Deficient		
27. Teeming		
28. Lavalier		
29. Perish		
30. Condemned		
31. Laurels		
32. Linting		
33. Exertion		
34. Stout		
35. Gazelle		
36. Radical		
37. Levitate		
38. Inclination		
39. Revel		
40. Oblivion		

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ *Tuesdays with Morrie: Essential Questions*

Directions: As you read the novel, mark down at least two quotes that help support / answer the questions listed below. You may include more if you find great evidence that you don't want to forget! This will be graded for accuracy, and you must include the page number along with the quotes. You will use these notes on assignments in the fall. Your quotes should be pulled from the entirety of the novel--not just from a small section of pages. This will help to ensure that you've read and understood the whole book. This is a handwritten assignment, and it is due on the first day of class.

<p>1. What role does a mentor play in an individual's development?</p>	
<p>2. How is meaning (of life) created for an individual?</p>	

3. How does one's disposition--attitude-- affect their approach to adversity or uncertainty?

4. What is friendship? What makes a good friend?