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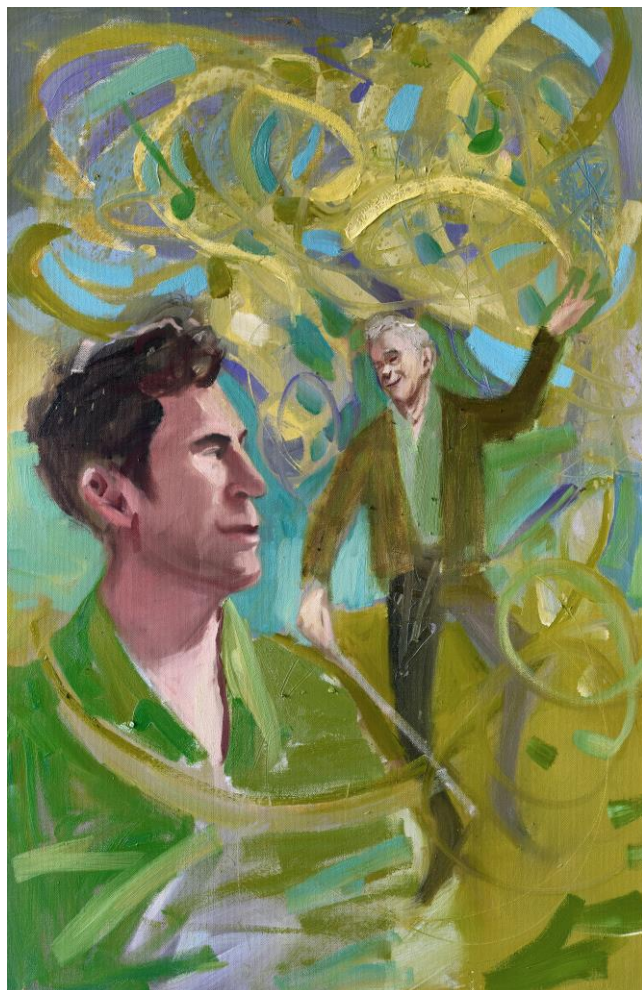
# TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

by Jeffrey Hatcher & Mitch Albom  
based on the book by Mitch Albom

streaming  
February 2 – 21, 2021

from the  
OneAmerica  
Mainstage

filmed by WFYI



## STUDY GUIDE

edited by Richard J Roberts, Resident Dramaturg  
with contributions by  
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Rob Koharchik • Guy Clark • Melanie Chen Cole

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# ***TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE***

by Jeffrey Hatcher & Mitch Albom

adapted from the book by Mitch Albom

Morrie was Mitch’s sociology professor, but he was also his mentor, his advisor, his life coach. Now Mitch is a busy sportswriter with a frantic schedule and a troubled marriage, and Morrie is dying. One visit turns into a weekly pilgrimage and a final course in the meaning of life. The beloved book comes to life in this life-affirming play, full of compassion, humor, and hope.

**STREAMING** February 2 – 21, 2021

**LENGTH** Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

**AGE RANGE** Recommended for grades 9–12

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# THE STORY OF

## *TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE*

Morrie Schwartz taught sociology at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, beginning in 1959. Among his students were future radicals Abbie Hoffman and Angela Davis. Morrie was widely respected and admired by both colleagues and students, and his department at Brandeis was considered to be on the cutting edge of sociology.

In August 1994, at the age of 78, Morrie was diagnosed with ALS, a fatal disease of the neurological system. He taught one last semester at Brandeis, incorporating what he was learning about the meaning of life as he faced impending death. He entertained a steady stream of visitors and held discussion groups about death. He organized and hosted his own “living funeral” so he could be a part of the event. He began to write down his ideas and philosophies. A friend sent some of these aphorisms to the *Boston Globe*, who published a feature story entitled “A Professor’s Final Course: His Own Death.” When the producer of ABC-TV’s *Nightline* read this article, Ted Koppel visited Morrie in his home for three interviews broadcast in March, April, and October 1995. The shows were among the highest rated ever for *Nightline*.

Sports writer Mitch Albom, who had been one of Morrie’s students at Brandeis in the late 1970s, saw Morrie on *Nightline* and went to visit him in Waltham. One Tuesday visit turned into another, resulting in a “final class” between professor and student on learning how to live as you prepare to die. Albom wrote the book *Tuesdays with Morrie* with the intent of paying Morrie’s medical bills, but it was turned down by many publishers.

Morrie continued to write, and later dictate, his final manuscript. He died in November 1995. His book was published in 1996 under the title *Letting Go* (later re-issued as *Morrie: In His Own Words*). Doubleday finally agreed to publish Albom’s book in 1997, with an initial print run of just 25,000 copies. *Tuesdays with Morrie* was on the best-seller list for four years, has sold more than 15 million copies, and is the best-selling memoir of all-time.

Oprah Winfrey produced a TV-movie of *Tuesdays with Morrie* that first aired in 1999. It starred Jack Lemmon as Morrie in his last major role, and Hank Azaria as Mitch. It was the most watched TV film of the year, with an audience of nearly 25 million. Both actors won Emmy Awards, and the film won the Emmy for Best TV Movie.

Albom co-authored a stage adaptation of his book with noted playwright Jeffrey Hatcher. It was originally produced off Broadway in 2002 and has had many productions across the country. The IRT previously produced the play on the Upperstage in 2007.

# COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

BY JANET ALLEN, MARGOT LACY ECCLES ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

When we first realized, long about May, that the world would require different stories of us in the pandemic, one of the first plays I thought of was *Tuesdays with Morrie*. It contains so many of the emotions and questions we hold now, inviting us to consider deeply what it means to be alive in the face of possible death. And the play does this with both the tools of humor and the act of summoning the real emotions of confronting loss. Amid these polarities, celebrated writer Mitch Albom, with a remarkable assist from playwright Jeffrey Hatcher, actually succeeds in giving us great insights into what it means to live fully, and to love with abandon no matter how much time is given us, all while telling the story of an impending death. And amazingly, we have a remarkably good time witnessing this journey, in part because now we are all more aware that we share this journey: the play is an open-hearted entreaty to face down the things that separate us from our best selves.

Watching Mitch struggle to prioritize his high stress, globe-trotting, workaholic life, where he has left very little space for navigating his emotional needs or his relationships, seems eerily familiar to many of us. Before the pandemic, so many of our cultural messages supported this view of ambition, rampant capitalism, and growing workplace demands as pinnacles of achievement. But once the pandemic lengthened into months, and so many of us were stopped in our tracks, time itself began to illustrate the choices we make to achieve at the expense of living a meaningful life. Mitch's journey to this realization is not the work of a pandemic: it's the work of American values run amok. But for our lives now, we see that viewpoint more clearly as a choice rather than a cultural imperative. The conditions of our world have forced us to stop and reflect and rethink, literally, what it means to be human, and hopefully, to count our blessings.



As this second foray into making theatre art that is delivered virtually, we have come to really count our IRT blessings: we have created safe, if somewhat unusual conditions in which to make our art, keep many talented artisans and administrators employed, provide mission-based art to our patrons, and feature the art making of some wonderful local and national artists. In *Tuesdays with Morrie*, we celebrate gratitude

for associate artistic director Ben Hanna, and for this opportunity to experience his work outside of the realm of holiday and youth fare. We celebrate the work of four wonderful designers. Two are local: Rob Koharchik, in his 60th design for us, who is designing scenery for the first three shows of our season; and Guy Clark, our in-house costume designer and shop manager. Two are from the national theatre community: Xavier Pierce, bringing his fourth exquisite lighting design to our stages; and Melanie Chen Cole, the sound designer and composer, whose work we are *finally* going to experience fully after missing our opportunity when we had to cancel *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin* in the lockdown. Melanie will do what we are learning to do as a theatre community: she will design the show without ever leaving her home in LA, and our amazing sound department will execute that design as she Zooms and listens in!

And we are particularly blessed in this tumultuous time to enjoy the mastery of two magnificent local actors: Ryan Artzberger and Henry Woronicz. Both have made life-changing theatre-going experiences for us in the past and now join forces to create something meaningful for our times. Ryan played Mitch in IRT's 2007 production of *Tuesdays with Morrie* on the Upperstage, so brings with him many insights into the work; Henry has played any number of qualifying roles in recent years (*King Lear* at IU, and even *Morning After Grace* last year where he wrestled with the truths of aging and loss). We truly look forward to experiencing their chemistry in this production.



I write this on the winter solstice, the darkest day in the year; yet many things give us hope for the return of light and more healthful times in our world. We hope that this production, winging its way into your home through the magic of the internet, will solace you a bit and bolster your spirits for the journey ahead where we can hug and dance with abandon.

*(opposite) Ryan Artzberger & Jon Farris  
in the IRT's 2007 Upperstage production of Tuesdays with Morrie.*

*(above) Henry Woronicz in the IRT's 2020 production of Morning After Grace.*

# LISTENING TO MORRIE

BY BENJAMIN HANNA, DIRECTOR

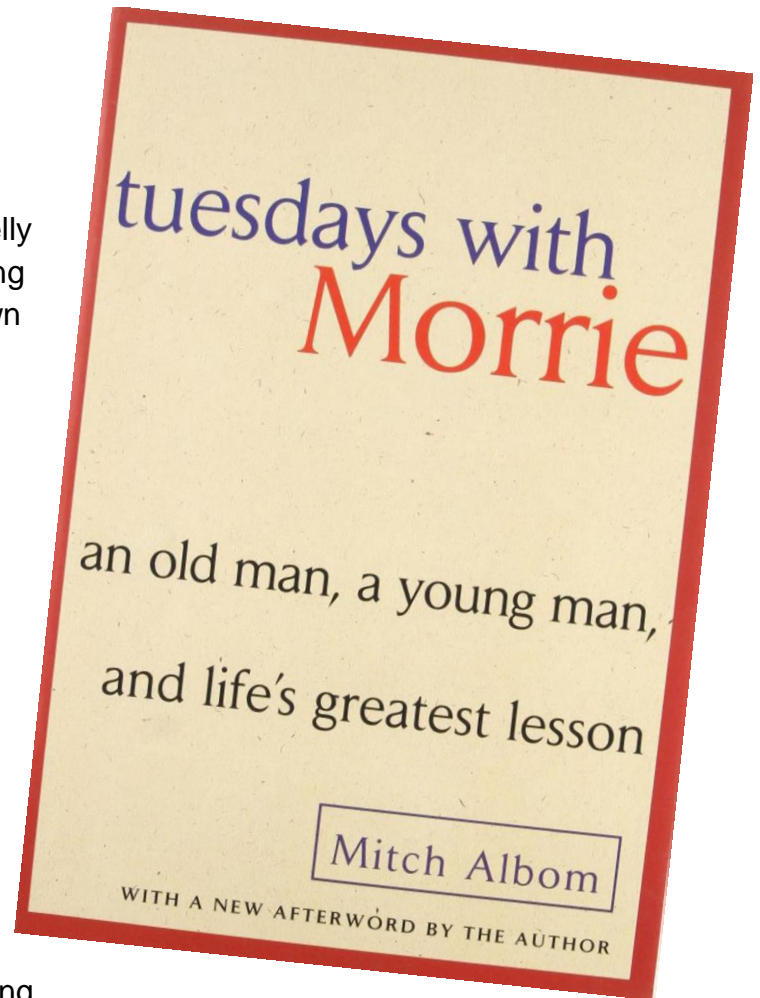
I first encountered *Tuesdays with Morrie* when a high school teacher read the book aloud to us in homeroom. The story effortlessly crossed generations, the room full of misty eyes, deep belly laughs, and roaring applause. I remember thinking how powerful it was to hear the story of two grown men sharing deep truths with each other through mentorship. Morrie was the real deal: someone who had figured this whole life thing out.

If you are lucky, you know and love a Morrie. Your life-teachers may not come to mind immediately. Perhaps, like Mitch, your pursuit of progress has relegated them to the recesses of your memory. But they are there, somewhere, waiting to recount their pearls of wisdom and sage advice.

One of my mentors bears a striking resemblance to Morrie. My dear grandfather, Frank Haughland, died of Lou Gehrig's disease in 2006. I can still remember him charming crowds of people, even as the disease ruthlessly took his ability to speak. Frank had a way of making everyone feel special, and he delighted in sharing his opinion with anyone who would listen. Every time I visited, I feared that the disease would have taken away his joyful, mischievous smile. My grandma said he was too stubborn for that to happen, and he maintained his dry sense of humor, his zest for living, and his kindness until the end.

I turned 38 this year—the same age we find Mitch as he reencounters Morrie. Like Mitch, I have often found myself speeding from meeting to meeting, grabbing a quick bite between rehearsals, and filling my days with to-dos and should-haves. But the pandemic has changed the structure of our days, and when not at work or doing essential tasks, I am alone now more than I have ever been before. This period of isolation has shown me how little space I have made to slow down and find joy in life's smaller moments. As I revisit the story of Mitch and Morrie, I recall the teachings of my many mentors.

I hope that *Tuesdays with Morrie* inspires you to remembering the words of your Morrie, whoever and wherever they may be, and that you live joyfully in our new year.



## MORRIE SCHWARTZ TEACHER

Morrie Schwartz wrote his own epitaph: “A Teacher to the Last.” In 1959 he began a life-long career teaching sociology at Brandeis University. He continued teaching classes after he was diagnosed with ALS at the age of 76, incorporating what he was learning about the meaning of life as he faced impending death. When ABC-TV’s *Nightline* producer heard of these classes, Ted Koppel flew to Boston for the first of three interviews with Morrie. The shows were among the highest rated ever for *Nightline*. During the final weeks of his life, a former student, Mitch Albom, made a series of trips to visit Morrie. This experience led Albom to write *Tuesdays with Morrie*, which became a best-selling memoir in 1997.

## MITCH ALBOM AUTHOR

Mitch Albom is the author of 11 books, including *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, *For One More Day*, and *The Next Person You Meet in Heaven*, as well as *Tuesdays with Morrie*. His books have collectively sold more than 40 million copies, been published in 45 languages, and been made into several television movies. A nationally syndicated columnist for the Detroit Free Press and a nationally syndicated radio host for WJR, Albom was named



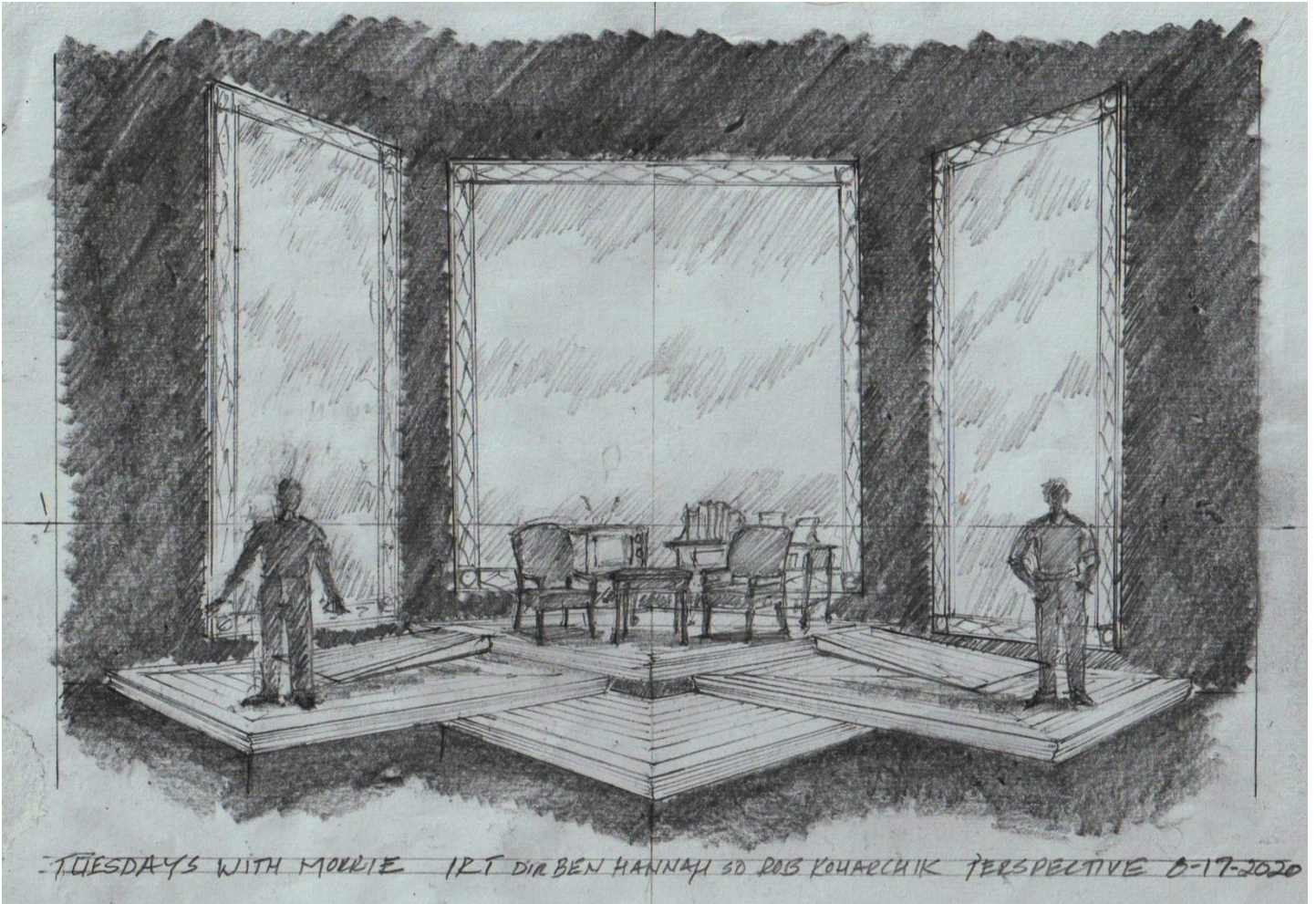
*Morrie Schwartz & Mitch Albom, 1996.*

top sports columnist in the nation by the Associated Press Sports Editors 13 times. Formerly a panelist on ESPN’s *The Sports Reporters*, Albom now appears regularly on *SportsCenter*. He serves on numerous charitable boards and has founded or directed several charities in metropolitan Detroit.

## JEFFREY HATCHER PLAYWRIGHT

The IRT has previously produced four of Jeffrey Hatcher’s plays: *Holmes and Watson* (2018), inspired by the Sherlock Holmes stories of Arthur Conan Doyle; Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* (2012), which was nominated for an Edgar Award; *Tuesdays with Morrie* (2007), co-written with author Mitch Albom; and Henry James’s *The Turn of the Screw* (2003). Hatcher’s other plays include *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club*, *Ten Chimneys*, *A Picasso*, *Three Viewings*, *Work Song*, *Scotland Road*, and *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, which he adapted for the screen as *Stage Beauty*. Other films include *The Good Liar* starring Helen Mirren and Ian McKellen, *Mr. Holmes*, *The Duchess*, and *Casanova*. Early in his career Hatcher wrote for the long-running TV series *Columbo*.

# “A TREE’S LEAVES ARE MOST COLORFUL JUST BEFORE THEY DIE”



*Preliminary sketch by scenic designer Rob Koharchik.*

## **ROB KOHARCHIK** SCENIC DESIGNER

*Tuesdays with Morrie* is a memory play, as Mitch tells us about a former professor and the conversations they had about life lessons. The set design is centered around creating spaces for those memories, using those items that would best assist in the storytelling. Over the course of the play, we see Morrie’s health decline; and as the story progresses, we see him move from his favorite chair to a wheelchair and then to his bed. Even though his body fails him, his mind stays sharp until the end, imparting wisdom and life lessons to his former student Mitch.



## Tuesdays With Morrie



Morrie

### **GUY CLARK** COSTUME DESIGNER

*Tuesdays with Morrie* is, at its heart, a reminiscence: a loving portrait of a cherished teacher, painted by a former student, who also crafts a revealing sketch of himself. As in all memory plays, the audience is invited to time travel with our narrator, Mitch, and we trust him to guide us through the years of his story, drawing our attention to particular moments in his memories, passing over others. Not every new memory requires a complete costume change to tell this story. Rather than showcasing every subtle shift in men's fashions through the years of the play, I hope the costumes will instead help the actors to embody the emotional journey of the story they offer us.

*Preliminary costume sketch for Morrie by designer Guy Clark.*

### **MELANIE CHEN COLE** SOUND DESIGNER & COMPOSER

I was very excited to be asked to work on this show, because I remember enjoying the book version of *Tuesdays with Morrie* years ago. What struck me about the story, rereading it now, is how much the themes of love and hope stands out. I believe that they're both things we need the most right now. There is so much music in this production, and I'm excited to collaborate with a talented Indianapolis pianist, Gary Walters, to bring it all to life.

# ALS

Just what is ALS? Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a motor neuron disease, first described in 1869 by noted French neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot. Although the cause of ALS is not completely understood, the last decade has brought a wealth of new scientific understanding about the disease that provides hope for the future.

Lou Gehrig first brought national and international attention to the disease in 1939 when he abruptly retired from baseball after being diagnosed with ALS. Most commonly, the disease strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70, and as many as 30,000 Americans have the disease at any given time. ALS has cut short the lives of other such notable and courageous individuals as Hall of Fame pitcher Jim “Catfish” Hunter, Senator Jacob Javits, actors Michael Zaslow and David Niven, creator of “Sesame Street” Jon Stone, television producer Scott Brazil, boxing champion Ezzard Charles, NBA Hall of Fame basketball player George Yardley, pro football player Glenn Montgomery, golfer Jeff Julian, golf caddie Bruce Edwards, British soccer player Jimmy Johnstone, musician Lead Belly (Huddie Ledbetter), photographer Eddie Adams, entertainer Dennis Day, jazz musician Charles Mingus, composer Dimitri Shostakovich, former vice president of the United States Henry A. Wallace, and U.S. Army General Maxwell Taylor.

ALS is a neurodegenerative disease that usually attacks both upper and lower motor neurons and causes degeneration throughout the brain and spinal cord. A common first symptom is a painless weakness in a hand, foot, arm or leg, which occurs in more than half of all cases. Other early symptoms include difficulty in speaking, swallowing, and/or walking.

The biological mechanisms that cause ALS are only partially understood. The only known cause of ALS is a mutation of a specific gene: the SOD1 gene. This mutation is believed to make a defective protein that is toxic to motor nerve cells. The SOD1 mutation, however, accounts for only 1 or 2 percent of ALS cases, or 20 percent of the familial (inherited) cases.

Familial ALS represents between five to 10 percent of all cases. The rest arise spontaneously and mysteriously, making seemingly random attacks on previously healthy adults. ALS can strike anyone, anytime.

Physicians have limited choices for treating ALS, and the options that do exist have come into use within the last 10 years. Studies suggest that patients’ length of survival and quality of life are enhanced by night-time breathing assistance early in the course of the disease and by aggressive application of alternate feeding options to assure good nutrition once swallowing becomes difficult. At this time, Riluzole® (Rilutek) is the only drug that has been approved by the FDA for treatment of ALS. In clinical trials, Riluzole® has shown a slight benefit in modestly increasing survival time.

Stem cell and gene therapy are promising areas of research. In a variety of studies, ALS mouse models are being used to develop treatments that may someday lead to similar human clinical trials. Gene therapy is one field of research where the ALS Association is concentrating support for more study. More significant advances of research into ALS have occurred in the last decade than all of the time since Charcot identified the disease. Advances in technology and the genetic revolution are aiding researchers in unlocking the ALS mystery. As more scientists focus on this perplexing disease, the outlook for new understanding brightens each day.

—ALS Association

# STANDARDS ALIGNMENT GUIDE

We recognize that teachers aim to align their lesson plans with standards and that it is important to be able to align your experience at IRT with curriculum standards. Streaming IRT's production of *Tuesdays with Morrie* is a great way to help make connections for students and facilitate their understanding of the text and key elements of classic literature. Some standards to consider for this show would be:

## READING - LITERATURE

- RL.1 – Read and comprehend a variety of literature independently and proficiently
- RL.2 – Build comprehension and appreciation of literature by analyzing, inferring, and drawing conclusions about literary elements, themes, and central ideas
  - Sample: 9-10.RL.2.2: Analyze in detail the development of two or more themes or central ideas over the course of a work of literature, including how they emerge and are shaped and refined by specific details.
- RL.3 – Build comprehension and appreciation of literature, using knowledge of literary structure and point of view
  - Sample: 11-12.RL.3.2: Analyze a work of literature in which the reader must distinguish between what is directly stated and what is intended (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement) in order to understand the point of view.
- RL.4 – Build comprehension and appreciation of literature by connecting various literary works and analyzing how medium and interpretation impact meaning

## READING - VOCABULARY

- RV.3 – Build comprehension and appreciation of literature and nonfiction texts by determining or clarifying figurative, connotative, and technical meanings
  - Sample: 9-10.RV.3.3: Interpret figures of speech (e.g., euphemism, oxymoron) in context and analyze their role in the text.

## SPEAKING AND LISTENING

- SL.2 – Refine and apply reciprocal communication skills by participating in a range of collaborative discussions.
  - Sample 7.SL.2.2: Investigate and reflect on ideas under discussion by identifying specific evidence from materials under study and other resources.

## MEDIA LITERACY

- ML.1 – Develop and enhance understanding of the roles of media and techniques and strategies used to achieve various purposes.
- MS.2 – Analyze the purposes of media and the ways in which media can have influences.
  - Sample 7.ML.2.1: Interpret the various ways in which events are presented and information is communicated by visual image-makers to influence the public.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## BEFORE SEEING THE PLAY

Who has been your favorite teacher over all your years of school? Why? What did you learn from them beyond the school subjects they taught? Have you kept in touch since? What have you gained from this relationship over the years?

What does an individual gain by giving? In what ways does giving enrich our society locally and nationally? How can you as a young person give to your community? How can giving help you feel like you're living your best life?

## AFTER SEEING THE PLAY

Are you at peace with yourself? What do we do to maintain or capture that peace?

What do you think Morrie means by, "Are you trying to be as human as you can be?"

"The culture we have does not make people feel good about themselves. We're teaching the wrong things." Discuss whether you agree with Morrie's statement or not. Support your position with examples.

"The world today is for the young." What does this mean to you? What are the advantages and disadvantages of both youth and age?

"As you age you grow. As you grow, you learn. A tree's leaves are most colorful before they die." Discuss Morrie's aphorism. Cite instances from your own life where this metaphor applies.

Morrie was a man comfortable with touching. In the play he talks about the human need to be held. How might that need express itself? Today, with the COVID pandemic, we are rarely able to touch each other. Some epidemiologists have suggested that the handshake is now a thing of the past. Do you agree? Why or why not?

How do loving relationships maintain us?

Why is it difficult to ask for forgiveness and to forgive others and yourself?

Morrie was a man comfortable with showing emotion. Why is there a social stigma about men crying? When are men given permission to cry? When are tears healthy?

Who is more free: The person who loves or the person who doesn't love? How?

How did watching *Tuesdays with Morrie* streaming on screen affect your experience of the play? Compare it to a play you have seen in the theatre. How was it different? How was it the same?

# WRITING PROMPTS

Many books have been adapted into stage plays, musicals, and screenplays. In groups, try taking a chapter or two of the book your class is currently reading and adapting it into dialogue. Or look at the first 40 pages of the memoir *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom. Ask yourself, what characters do you need to keep the story moving forward and clear to the audience? What story do you want to tell? How might you change necessary exposition and character description into active and interesting dialogue?

As a journal entry, write about a teacher, a family member, or some other mentor who has inspired you. Describe that person. Why is that person special to you? What makes communicating with that person easy? What is the “light” that person encourages you not to hide? What changes have you made in yourself because of what that person has shared?

Morrie Schwartz showed us that living the life we have been given to its fullest is our true legacy. Even his epitaph, “A Teacher to the Last” embodied his beliefs. Write about how you are living your life now and how you envision living your future. What above all do you want others to remember most about you when you graduate? When you leave this earth?

Write a review of the play. A well-rounded review includes your opinion of the theatrical aspects—scenery, lights, costumes, sound, direction, acting— as well as your impressions of the script and the impact of the story and/or themes and the overall production. What moments made an impression? How do the elements of scenery, costumes, lighting, and sound work with the actors’ performance of the text to tell the story? What ideas or themes did the play make you think about? How did it make you feel? How did watching this play streaming rather than live affect your experience? Did you notice the reactions of any others who watched with you? Would you recommend this play to others? Why or why not? To share your reviews with others, send to: [education.irt@gmail.com](mailto:education.irt@gmail.com)



# ACTIVITIES

According to a 1990 survey, speaking about death is our second greatest fear. To address this fear, Crown Hill Cemetery located in Indianapolis has a good website which answers some commonly asked questions and gives some wonderful history about who is buried there and about the cemetery itself. Visit [www.crownhill.org/education/index.html](http://www.crownhill.org/education/index.html)

While Mitch Albom continued to visit Morrie, he began to read about death, and how different cultures view this final passage. Divide your class into small groups and research the funeral customs of various religions and cultures around the world. One group should do funeral customs of the United States and Britain. You may be surprised to find that much of our current practices stem from the Victorian period. Some interesting pictures and exhibits can be viewed on the website for the Museum of Funeral Customs in Springfield, Illinois. Go to [www.funeralmuseum.org](http://www.funeralmuseum.org) and click on museum online. Share what you have learned with the class. What are the commonalities? What differences did you find most intriguing?

After seeing the play and/or reading the book, compare Morrie's life teachings with Sean Covey's teachings in his book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. What is the similarity in their styles of delivery and their messages? What makes us want to listen?

An aphorism is a brief saying embodying a moral, or a concise statement of a principle or precept given in pointed words. Read some of the aphorisms at [www.aphorisms-galore.info](http://www.aphorisms-galore.info) or read the ones left to us by Morrie Schwartz in his book *Morrie: In His Own Words*. In groups, create an aphorism for students your age. It can be on any topic from everyday things such as food, happiness, or bathing to world topics of war, education, or power.

Transform your life into art. Create a collage of those things that "give you purpose and meaning," that show relationships that are important to you, or that in some other way feed your soul. Both Morrie and Mitch love music. It revived them and gave them an escape. Create a sound track of emotions you have experienced.

## DRAMA CLASS ACTIVITY

Have your students research the physical and mental manifestations of a specific illness. Using Viola Spolin's book *Improvisation for the Theater*, incorporate this research into a variety of acting exercises.

You might want to explore scene work using plays in which a character's journey includes experiencing a major illness or dealing with a friend or relative with a life-threatening disease. Here are some titles of plays and books to investigate. (*Note: Some of these plays have strong language.*) Look for these plays on Amazon.com or from Samuel French, Dramatist Play Service, Inc., or Dramatic Publishing.

*Marvin's Room* by Scott McPherson

*Before It Hits Home* by Cheryl L. West

*Wit* by Margaret Edson

*Whose Life Is It Anyway?* by Brian Clark

*The Shadow Box* by Michael Cristofer

*Approaching Zanzibar* by Tina Howe

*Angels in America, Parts 1 & 2* by Tony Kushner

*Brian's Song* by William Blinn

*Ryan White: My Own Story* by Ryan White

*Reviving Ophelia* adapted by Cherie Bennett from the book by Dr. Mary Pipher.

*Cold Sweat* by Neal Bell

*The Lady from Dubuque* by Edward Albee

*Marisol* by Jose Rivera

## ACTIVITY: READING AND WRITING POETRY

One of Morrie Schwartz's favorite poets was W. H. Auden. He quoted to Mitch the line, "We must love one another or die," from "September 1, 1939." Read aloud the two Auden poems provided here, "**September 1, 1939**" written at the outbreak of World War II, and "**Funeral Blues**" written in 1936, or investigate more poems on the subject of love and death on the following websites: [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org) or [www.npr.org/programs/death](http://www.npr.org/programs/death). What is the imagery in these poems? How do the ideas presented in these poems contrast with or complement each other? Why do you suppose these poems are still widely read today? From what you know about Morrie's life, why do you suppose he identified so closely with the poem "September 1, 1939"? Look for other poems that offer a message for your life, or write a poem that speaks to the challenges or joys of your experience.

### "FUNERAL BLUES"

by W.H. AUDEN

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,  
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,  
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum  
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead  
Scribbling on the sky the message He is Dead.  
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,  
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,  
My working week and my Sunday rest,  
My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;  
I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now; put out every one,  
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,  
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the woods;  
For nothing now can ever come to any good.



# “SEPTEMBER 1, 1939”

by W. H. AUDEN

I sit in one of the dives  
On Fifty-second Street  
Uncertain and afraid  
As the clever hopes expire  
Of a low dishonest decade:  
Waves of anger and fear  
Circulate over the bright  
And darkened lands of the earth,  
Obsessing our private lives;  
The unmentionable odour of death  
Offends the September night.

Accurate scholarship can  
Unearth the whole offence  
From Luther until now  
That has driven a culture mad,  
Find what occurred at Linz,  
What huge imago made  
A psychopathic god:  
I and the public know  
What all schoolchildren learn,  
Those to whom evil is done  
Do evil in return.

Exiled Thucydides knew  
All that a speech can say  
About Democracy,  
And what dictators do,  
The elderly rubbish they talk  
To an apathetic grave;  
Analysed all in his book,  
The enlightenment driven away,  
The habit-forming pain,  
Mismanagement and grief:  
We must suffer them all again.

Into this neutral air  
Where blind skyscrapers use  
Their full height to proclaim  
The strength of Collective Man,  
Each language pours its vain  
Competitive excuse:  
But who can live for long  
In an euphoric dream;  
Out of the mirror they stare,  
Imperialism's face  
And the international wrong.

Faces along the bar  
Cling to their average day:  
The lights must never go out,  
The music must always play,  
All the conventions conspire  
To make this fort assume  
The furniture of home;  
Lest we should see where we are,

Lost in a haunted wood,  
Children afraid of the night  
Who have never been happy or good.  
windiest militant trash  
Important Persons shout  
Is not so crude as our wish:  
What mad Nijinsky wrote  
About Diaghilev  
Is true of the normal heart;  
For the error bred in the bone  
Of each woman and each man  
Craves what it cannot have,  
Not universal love  
But to be loved alone.

From the conservative dark  
Into the ethical life  
The dense commuters come,  
Repeating their morning vow;  
"I will be true to the wife,  
I'll concentrate more on my work,"  
And helpless governors wake  
To resume their compulsory game:  
Who can release them now,  
Who can reach the deaf,  
Who can speak for the dumb?

All I have is a voice  
To undo the folded lie,  
The romantic lie in the brain  
Of the sensual man-in-the-street  
And the lie of Authority  
Whose buildings grope the sky:  
There is no such thing as the State  
And no one exists alone;  
Hunger allows no choice  
To the citizen or the police;  
We must love one another or die.

Defenceless under the night  
Our world in stupor lies;  
Yet, dotted everywhere,  
Ironic points of light  
Flash out wherever the Just  
Exchange their messages:  
May I, composed like them  
Of Eros and of dust,  
Beleaguered by the same  
Negation and despair,  
Show an affirming flame.

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# ACROSTIC

Create an acrostic that explores what these words mean both to the individual and society as a whole. For example, if you did an acrostic for the word “school,” you might write something like:

- S**udy regularly
- C**all for help when you need it
- H**ighlight main points
- O**ffer suggestions
- O**bserve deadlines
- L**earn as much as you can

**L**  
**I**  
**F**  
**E**

**G**  
**I**  
**V**  
**I**  
**N**  
**G**

**L**  
**O**  
**V**  
**E**

# RESOURCES

## BOOKS

*Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom (Knopf Publishing Group, 1997)

Mitch Albom visits his old professor, Morrie Schwartz, every Tuesday, just as they did back in college. Mitch shares their time together, and Morrie's lasting gift to the world.

*Letting Go* by Morrie Schwartz (Walker & Company, 1996)

re-published in 1999 as *Morrie: In His Own Words*

After discovering that he has Lou Gehrig's disease, Morrie Schwartz shares his knowledge of living and dying.

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom (Hyperion, 2003)

Eddie, a war veteran, dies by accident on his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday. When he wakes up in the afterlife he discovers that heaven is a place where his life is explained to him by five people he affected in his lifetime.

*For One More Day* by Mitch Albom (Hyperion, 2006.)

This is the story of the relationship between a mother and a son. The broken son gets to spend one last day with his lost loved one, his mother. He discovers things that he never knew about her, such as the sacrifices she had made for him.

*Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis: A Guide for Patients and Families*

by Hiroshi Mitsumoto, M.D., and Theodore L. Munsat, M.D.

(Demos Medical Publishing, 2001)

A comprehensive guide covering the management of ALS.

*The Basics of Sociology* by Kathy S. Stolley

(Greenwood Publishing Group, Incorporated, 2005)

An applied sociologist addresses the basic questions of sociology and tells of its importance to individuals and society as a whole.

## WEBSITES

<http://www.albom.com/>

Mitch Albom's official website, with information about his books, plays, and other writing, as well as video and audio clips.

[www.randomhouse.com/features/morrie/](http://www.randomhouse.com/features/morrie/)

Random House's website for *Tuesdays with Morrie*, including an excerpt from the book, a Reading Group Guide, and comments from critics and readers.

[my.brandeis.edu/news/item?news\\_item\\_id=104200&show\\_release\\_date=1](http://my.brandeis.edu/news/item?news_item_id=104200&show_release_date=1)

Colleagues and friends of Morrie Schwartz share their personal memories of him.

[www.alsa.org](http://www.alsa.org)

The ALS Association is a not-for-profit organization devoted to fighting the disease. Its website includes information about ALS, updates on public policy and opportunities for advocacy, and special sections devoted to health care professionals as well as patients, family, and caregivers.

[www.asanet.org](http://www.asanet.org)

The website of the American Sociological Organization, a non-profit membership association dedicated to advancing sociology as a scientific discipline and profession serving the public good. Founded in 1905, the ASA has more than 14,000 members, including college and university faculty, researchers, students, and practitioners of the science of sociology. About 20 percent of the members work in government, business, or not-for-profit organizations.

[www.socioweb.com](http://www.socioweb.com)

"Your independent guide to sociological resources on the Internet," with links to articles and essays, websites devoted to leading figures in the science of sociology, universities and departments, and much more.

## VIDEO

*ABC News presents Morrie Schwartz - Lessons on Living* (1999)

Ted Koppel's original interviews with Morrie on "Nightline"

*Tuesdays with Morrie* (1999)

An Emmy-winning TV movie based on the book, starring Jack Lemmon and Hank Azaria.

# GLOSSARY

## Page

### 1 hibiscus

Hibiscus, or rosemallow, is a tropical plant with large trumpet-shaped flowers.

### 1 “Tiko Tiko”

“Tico-Tico no Fubá” is a popular Brazilian song composed by Zequinha de Abreu in 1917. The song was an international hit for Carmen Miranda in the 1940s. In Portuguese, tico-tico is the name of a bird.

### 1 tango

a ballroom dance originating in Buenos Aires, characterized by marked rhythms and postures and abrupt pauses

### 1 “Cheek to Cheek”

“Cheek to Cheek” is a song written by Irving Berlin and first performed by Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers in the movie *Top Hat* (1935). The song is perhaps better known by its opening line: “Heaven, I’m in heaven....”

### 1 foxtrot

a ballroom dance having an uneven rhythm with alternation of slow and quick steps

### 1 “Fiddler on the Roof”

*Fiddler on the Roof* premiered in 1964 with music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, and book by Joseph Stein. Set in a Jewish village in Tsarist Russia, it is based on *Tevye and his Daughters* and other Yiddish tales by Sholem Aleichem, published in 1894.

### 1 “Sing Sing”

“Sing, Sing, Sing (with a Swing)” is a 1936 song, written by Louis Prima, that has become one of the definitive songs of the big band and swing era, particularly the recording by Benny Goodman.

### 2 “The Very Thought of You”

“The Very Thought of You” is a pop standard published in 1934, with music and lyrics by Ray Noble. It has been recorded by singers from Bing Crosby to Paul McCartney.

### 2 Harvard Square

Harvard Square is a large triangular area in the center of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Adjacent to the Harvard Yard, it functions as a commercial center for Harvard students as well as local residents.

### 2 Dance Free

Dance Freedom is, according to its website, “a joyous celebration of life’s energies expressed every Wednesday in an evening of dance and music. People dance creatively, alone, with a partner, or with many others, sharing a feeling of ecstasy and liberation.” The Dance Free movement began on Cambridge Commons during the spontaneous summer of love celebrations of 1967 and 1968.

### 2 Waltham, Massachusetts

Waltham, Massachusetts, is a western suburb of Boston. The population was 59,226 at the 2000 census. Founded in 1636, Waltham was one of the early centers of the Industrial Revolution in America. The name of the city is pronounced “*Wall*-tham” to rhyme with *tall*-ham, and not “*Wall*-thumb” with a schwa, as might be expected.

### 2 Brandeis University

Brandeis University is a private university located in Waltham, Massachusetts, nine miles west of Boston. In 2018, the university had 5,800 students. It is ranked #42 among U.S. universities by *U.S. News and World Report*. (Trivia: The campus coffee house, Chums, is considered to be the inspiration for Central Perk, the coffeehouse featured on *Friends*.)

## 2 sociology

Sociology is the systematic and scientific study of society, including patterns of social relationships, social action, and culture. Areas studied in sociology can range from the analysis of brief contacts between anonymous individuals on the street to the study of global social processes.

## 3 Mercury Cougar

The Mercury Cougar was sold under the Mercury division of the Ford Motor Company from 1967 to 2002. The original Cougar was based on the Mustang, but with a more “European” flavor. It evolved into an affordable, compact, highly styled car with a sporty or performance-oriented image.

## 5 Jerry Rubin

Jerry Rubin (1938-1994) was an anti-war organizer and a co-founder of the Youth International Party (Yippie). He turned to holistic healing, led workshops at Esalen (1973–4), and became a therapist. Eventually repudiating activism, he became a stockbroker and eventually sold vitamins in major newspapers.

## 5 Angela Davis

Angela Davis (born 1944) is a professor emerita at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Ideologically a Marxist, she was a member of the Communist Party USA and is a founding member of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism. She is the author of more than ten books on class, feminism, race, and the US prison system.

## 5 Vietnam

The Vietnam War was fought from 1959 to 1975 between North Vietnam and the US-supported South Vietnam. By the end of 1967, a majority of Americans were opposed the war. The war ended with American withdrawal, the defeat of the South Vietnamese forces, and unification of Vietnam under the communist government of the North.

## 5 any student who wasn't passing with at least a C average could lose his deferment and be drafted

During the Vietnam War, thousands of young American men chose exile in Canada or Sweden rather than risk the draft. Many men obtained student deferments by attending college, although they would have to remain in college until their 26th birthday to be certain of avoiding the draft. The United States discontinued the draft in 1973.

## 5 Shana cup

Yiddish: good mind (see *Yiddish* below, p. 31)

## 5 “All the Things You Are”

“All the Things You Are” is a song composed by Jerome Kern, with lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, for the musical *Very Warm for May* (1939).

## 6 “Identity: Youth and Crisis”

Erik Erikson (1902-1994) was a Jewish German developmental psychologist and psychoanalyst known for his theory on social development of human beings, and for coining the phrase “identity crisis.” Published in 1968, his book *Identity: Youth and Crisis* collects his major essays on topics originating in the concept of the adolescent identity crisis.

## 6 “I and Thou”

Martin Buber (1878-1965) wrote *Ich und Du, (I and Thou)* in 1923. Buber’s main proposition is that we may address existence in two ways: that of the “I” towards an “IT,” towards an object that is separate in itself, which we either use or experience; and that of the “I” towards “THOU,” in which we move into existence in a relationship without bounds.

## 6 “The Divided Self”

Ronald David Laing (1927-1989) was noted for taking the communications of the patient as representing valid descriptions of lived experience rather than as symptoms of some underlying disorder. In *The Divided Self* (1960), Laing equates normality with ontological security. (Ontology is the study of conceptions of reality and the nature of being.)

**6 angst**

An acute but unspecific feeling of anxiety; usually used for philosophical anxiety about the world or about personal freedom. From the German *angst*, “neurotic fear, anxiety, guilt, remorse.”

**7 “Body & Soul”**

“Body and Soul” is a popular song written in 1930 by Edward Heyman, Robert Sour, Frank Eyton, and Johnny Green. It became a jazz standard, with hundreds of recordings, the most famous by Coleman Hawkins and His Orchestra, one of the first non-swing jazz records to become a commercial hit.

**9 Pancreatic cancer**

Pancreatic cancer is a malignant tumor within the pancreatic gland. Depending on the extent of the tumor at the time of diagnosis, the prognosis is generally regarded as poor, with few victims still alive five years after diagnosis, and complete remission still extremely rare.

**9 chemo**

Chemotherapy is the use of chemical substances to treat disease. Common side-effects can include hair loss, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea or constipation, anemia, malnutrition, memory loss, and/or depression of the immune system (which can allow potentially lethal infections).

**9 “Fascinating Rhythm”**

“Fascinating Rhythm” is a popular song written by George Gershwin in 1924 with lyrics by Ira Gershwin. It was first introduced by Fred and Adele Astaire in the Broadway musical *Lady Be Good*.

**10 Columbia**

Columbia University is a private university located in the Morningside Heights neighborhood of Manhattan, in New York City. Literary and artistic movements as varied as the Harlem Renaissance, the Beat movement, and post-colonialism all took shape within Columbia’s gates.

**10 Ted Koppel**

Ted Koppel covered the Vietnam War, becoming ABC’s chief diplomatic correspondent (1971) and presenter of the *Saturday Night News* (1975). As presenter of *Nightline*, he became known for consistently knowledgeable and sometimes piercing interviews. Today he is a special contributor to *CBS News Sunday Morning*.

**10 “Nightline”**

*Nightline* is a late-night half-hour news program broadcast by ABC. Ted Koppel served as main anchor from 1980 until 2005. During Koppel’s tenure, the program provided a mix of investigative journalism and extended interviews, devoting each episode to a unique subject (science, education, politics, economics, society, and breaking news).

**10 neurologist**

Neurology is a branch of medicine dealing with disorders of the nervous system.

**10 degenerative disease**

a disease which causes deterioration over time

**10 the nervous system**

The nervous system is a highly specialized tissue network that conducts, using electrochemical signals, a great variety of stimuli within the nervous tissue as well as from and towards most of the other tissues. Thus, neurons coordinate multiple functions. The largest parts of the nervous system are the brain and the spinal cord.

**10 Lou Gehrig**

Baseball player (1903-1941), born in New York City, two-time MVP. His career ended when he was afflicted by ALS, which became commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. In 1939 he was elected to baseball’s Hall of Fame.

**12 gig**

a job of short duration; first used by jazz musicians after the turn of the last century; of uncertain origin.

**12 Japanese maple**

*Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maple) is a species of maple native to Japan and South Korea. It is a deciduous shrub or small tree reaching heights of 10-30 feet, often growing as an understory plant in shady woodlands.

**13 hummus**

A dip or spread made of ground chickpeas, sesame tahini, lemon juice, and garlic.

**13 tabouli**

A Lebanese salad dish made of bulgur (parboiled wheat), finely chopped parsley, mint, tomato, scallion, and other herbs, with lemon juice and various seasonings, generally including black pepper and sometimes cinnamon and allspice

**13 the co-op**

A cooperative is a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise. Morrie might be referring to a co-op housing situation where the residents prefer healthy foods, or he might mean a co-op market where organic food is sold.

**14 Sagel**

a fictional name

**14 the movie**

Lou Gehrig's emotional farewell to baseball in 1939, in which he proclaimed himself "the luckiest man on the face of this earth," was portrayed in the 1942 film *Pride of the Yankees* starring Gary Cooper.

**14 Gary Cooper**

Academy Award-winning actor Gary Cooper (1901-1961) built much of his career by playing strong, manly, distinctly American roles. He won Best Actor Oscars for *Sergeant York* (1941) and *High Noon* (1952).

**14 Yankee Stadium**

The original Yankee Stadium was the home of the New York Yankees from 1923 to 2008.

**15 narcissist**

A person in love with himself; from the Greek *Narkissos*, a beautiful youth in mythology (Ovid's *Metamorphosis*) who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool and was turned into the flower *narcissus*.

**17 Detroit, Michigan ... Motor City**

Detroit is the largest city in Michigan. It is known as the world's traditional automotive center— "Detroit" is a metonym for the United States automobile industry. Detroit home to the NBA's Detroit Pistons, the Major League Baseball team the Detroit Tigers, the NFL's Detroit Lions, and the NHL's Detroit Red Wings.

**20 the Derby**

The Kentucky Derby is a race for three-year-old thoroughbred horses, held annually in Louisville, Kentucky, on the first Saturday in May. Inaugurated in 1875, it is the oldest organized sporting event in the South, and the second oldest in the entire nation (only the Travers Stakes at Saratoga is older).

**20 Wimbledon**

Wimbledon is the oldest and most prestigious major championship in tennis. It is held annually in June and July in London, England. Wimbledon is the only Grand Slam event played on grass courts.

**22 West Newton, Massachusetts**

West Newton is about a 10-minute drive from Brandeis University in Waltham.



**25 corn relish**

Corn Relish is a traditional Southern family recipe for cooked canned whole corn kernels, spiced with red and green bell peppers, peppercorns, and equal parts sugar and cider vinegar.

**25 chick peas**

The chickpea is a legume that can be cooked and eaten cold in salads, cooked in stews, ground into flour, ground and shaped in balls and fried as falafel, cooked and ground into hummus, or roasted, spiced, and eaten as a snack.

**30 Buddhists**

Buddhism is a path of practice and spiritual development leading to insight into the nature of life. Buddhist practices such as meditation are means of changing oneself in order to develop the qualities of awareness, kindness, and wisdom. Buddhism is the fourth-largest religion in the world behind Christianity, Islam, and Hinduism.

**30 Agnostic**

Agnosticism is the philosophical view that the truth value of certain metaphysical claims regarding theology, afterlife or the existence of God is inherently unknowable due to the nature of subjective experience. Essentially, an Agnostic is one who doesn't believe you can prove there's a God, but doesn't deny it's possible a God may exist.

**30 Auden**

W. H. Auden (1907-1973) was an Anglo-American poet and essayist, regarded by many as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century. The central themes of his poetry are personal love, politics and citizenship, religion and morals, and the relationship between unique human beings and the anonymous, impersonal world of nature

**31 Yiddish**

Yiddish was once the international language of Ashkenazic Jews (the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe). A hybrid of Hebrew and medieval German, Yiddish takes about 3/4 of its vocabulary from German, but borrows words liberally from Hebrew and many other languages from the many lands where Ashkenazic Jews have lived.

**31 Synagogue**

A synagogue is a Jewish house of worship.

**32 La Boheme**

*La bohème* is an 1896 opera by Giacomo Puccini to an Italian libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, based on the novel *Scènes de la vie de Bohème* by Henri Murger. It is among the top two or three most popular operas today. The 1996 rock musical *Rent* is based on *La bohème*.

**32 Lay-Z-Boy**

La-Z-Boy Incorporated is one of the world's leading producers of residential furniture. Although the company produces many kinds of furniture and accessories, the company is best known for its recliners.

**32 Logan Airport**

Logan International Airport, located in East Boston, about an hour's drive from West Newton, is the 16th busiest airport in the United States, with more than 45 million passengers in 2019.

**34 Ted Turner**

Communications tycoon who developed the Cable News Network (CNN), turning it into a worldwide news network with 24-hour coverage. In the late 1980s he created Turner Broadcasting System, the first new network since the advent of public television in the 1960s, as well as a cable service, Turner Network Television (TNT).

**34 CBS**

CBS Broadcasting, Inc., is one of the largest radio and television networks in the United States. The name is derived from the initials of Columbia Broadcasting System, its former legal name.

**35 Adlai Stevenson**

Adlai Stevenson (1900-1965) was a US government official, governor, and two-time presidential candidate (1952 and 1956), noted for his intellectual demeanor and advocacy of liberal causes in the Democratic party. Greatly admired by liberals, he was never elected as a national political leader.

**38 getting out of Saigon**

"The Fall of Saigon" refers to the capture of Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam, by the forces of North Vietnam on April 30, 1975. With the withdrawal of U.S. troops, many feared that a bloodbath of reprisals would take place. Chaos, unrest, and panic ensued as hysterical South Vietnamese officials and civilians scrambled to leave Saigon.

**43 a real O. Henry story**

O. Henry is the pen name of American writer William Sydney Porter (1862-1910). His 400 short stories are known for their wit, wordplay, characterization and clever twist endings. Read "The Gift of the Magi."

**43 aphorism**

a concise witty remark which contains a general truth

**44 shroud**

a cloth in which a dead body is wrapped before burial

**46 the story of Job**

The Book of Job has been called the most difficult book of the Bible. The numerous interpretations of the *Book of Job* are classic attempts to reconcile the co-existence of evil and God and to address the problem of evil. Scholars are divided as to the origin, intent, and meaning of the book.

**47 "The Flintstones"**

*The Flintstones* was the first prime time cartoon geared for adults, originally airing from 1960 to 1966 on ABC. An allegory of American society in the mid-20th century, the series was set in the Stone Age era, focusing on two working-class families, the Flintstones and the Rubbles.

**48 stickball**

Stickball is a street game related to baseball, usually formed as a pick-up game, in large cities in the Northeastern United States (especially New York City). The equipment consists of a broom handle and a rubber ball, using manhole covers for bases, with cars or buildings for foul lines.

**49 Howard Costell**

Morrie misremembers the name of sports broadcaster Howard Cosell (1918-1995). He became a sportscaster for ABC (1956) and was the boxing announcer throughout Muhammad Ali's career. His distinctive voice, accent, syntax, and cadence, as well as his outspoken opinions, made him a colorful and often controversial figure.

**50 rotary dial**

The rotary dial was the predecessor to the telephone keypad.

**50 Model T**

The Ford Model T was an automobile produced by Henry Ford's Ford Motor Company from 1908 through 1927. It is generally regarded as the first affordable automobile, the car that "put America on wheels."

**50 kerosene**

a flammable hydrocarbon oil used as fuel in lamps before the invention of the electric light bulb

**51 erudite**

having or showing profound knowledge or learning

**51 Puccini**

Opera composer (1858-1924), born in Italy. He is most remembered for *La bohème* (1896), *Tosca* (1900), and *Madame Butterfly* (1904), three operas in which the heroine dies tragically onstage.

**52 gazelle**

a small, swift, graceful antelope of Africa and Asia

**52 spleen**

a large dark-red oval organ on the left side of the body between the stomach and the diaphragm; produces cells involved in immune responses

**54 hospice worker**

Hospice is a form of palliative care (from Latin *palliare*, to cloak), which concentrates on reducing the severity of disease symptoms, rather than providing a cure. The goal is to prevent and relieve suffering and to improve quality of life for people facing serious, complex illness. The majority of hospice care is delivered at home.

**57 “Don’t hide your light under a bushel”**

This proverb is taken from the Sermon on the Mount; Jesus was telling believers not to hide their faith. Today it is often used to mean one should have more self-confidence and be more assertive.