

Dear Mitch Albom,

Tuesdays with Morrie does not look like the kind of book that can change your life. After my dad died, I dove into schoolwork... I was so busy that I did not have time to think about the death, and the awful feelings would be ignored and disappear... or so I hoped. Tuesdays with Morrie led me through Morrie's "project" of exploring death with you, Mitch. This person was my guide to understanding the questions I had. Morrie answered my questions, and gave them peace.

*What is the purpose of life if it leads to death? Why did I need to live if death was a surety? It seemed a hopeless cause... you died regardless of anything in life, so what was the point? Morrie answered that. "The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning."* Helping others gives us true satisfaction not self-accomplishment. The purpose of life was to make the world a better place, and to help others. After this book, I volunteered at a local hospital and felt better than when receiving any award... I felt that I was doing something to help others, that I was needed by others. That was meaningful... not some award in my attic, forgotten amid dust and cobwebs.

*Why do we love, if it eventually brings hurt when they leave us?* I was scared to let anyone know my innermost thoughts and worries, because if they died, I would get hurt. Morrie said, *"Love one another, or perish."* Humans were made to need one another. If we do not love, then we are not happy, and we do not have a good life. He also said, *"Love is how we stay alive, once we are gone."* I want to be remembered as my dad is by all his family and friends. Their love for him is what keeps him alive. If you do not love, no one will remember you. Now, I am not scared to tell people my thoughts, because I know love is a beautiful emotion, and without it, life just would not be vibrant.

Mitch, the student in Morrie's class on Life, was just like me. Whenever he got hurt, he buried himself in his work. He thought that if he could jam in every accomplishment possible before he died, he would have had a meaningful, happy life. He was smart and full of dreams, but he gave them up without even realizing it and became too involved with materialistic ideas. He figured out he was wrong just like I did, when he listened to Morrie's wisdom. He began to open up to people, spend more time at home, and value his family and friends. I followed the same journey as he did... and I am a more caring person today than I was before I read this book.

As Morrie explained life and death, I began to understand that I wouldn't trade the time I spent with my dad for anything, even though I was hurting. I began to understand that it isn't material things that make life beautiful, it is the emotion we share with other people. I made peace with the untimely death of my dad, because I finally understood that what he had accomplished during his life would keep him alive forever.

Sincerely,  
Natasha Kumar