

9th Grade Gifted & Honors Literature // 2016-2017

Welcome to Sandy Creek High School! I look forward to meeting and working with each of you. Please read the following and complete the assignments ***over the summer!!!***

****If you have questions over the summer, please email me! I will check my email daily. My email address is at the bottom of the sheet.**

- **Obtain copies of the summer reading books.**

This summer you will read two books: Mitch Albom's *Tuesdays with Morrie* and Sean Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. You are responsible for obtaining copies of the books. If you cannot purchase or check one out, please let me know before May 19 so I can loan you a copy for the summer. Feel free to purchase these titles on your electronic reader. Both books should be readily available at local bookstores.

- **Read the books and complete the assignments.**

The first semester we will focus on people/characters who face adversities and analyze their responses to those adversities. As you read, keep this in mind. In addition to completing the assignments, annotate your texts. Make notes, record thoughts, and define unfamiliar words in the margins of your books or on sticky notes. This helps you engage with your text and will be a skill we continue to work on throughout the course of the class.

You should read both books over the summer, starting with *Tuesdays with Morrie*. An assignment for each book is attached. Both assignments are due Monday, August 15.

Please feel free to contact me via email over the summer should you have any questions. My contact information is below.

Enjoy your summer!

Jenny Ross

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Tuesdays with Morrie Summer Reading Assignment

Standards:

ELACC9-10RI1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

ELACC9-10RI2: Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

Directions: *Annotate* the book as you read. If you don't know what that means, look it up! I'm not looking for anything specific, just that you interact with the book as you read it.

After reading the book--

Answer each of the following discussion questions fully and completely. Each answer should be in paragraph form (yes, at least five sentences) and should include textual support in the form of direct quotes. All quotations should be introduced, integrated, and properly documented according to MLA guidelines to the best of your ability. If you don't know what that means, do your best. Please neatly print your answers in blue or black ink or type and print them.

**A good method to use when answering questions in paragraph form is the RACE format:

R: restate the question

A: while answering the question

C: cite textual evidence

E: explain

1. Explain the duality of media in current culture and justify an opinion about its benefits or detriments. Consider the following: How does Morrie view the media and its importance in society? How does he use it to his advantage? In what ways is it both helpful and harmful to you personally?
2. Explain the development of Morrie's religious beliefs. How does Morrie use religion in his life? What insights do his religious beliefs give us into his character?
3. Explain the tension of opposites that Morrie describes to Mitch. Consider the following: How do you see this theory at play in Morrie's life? In Mitch's? In yours?
4. Discuss the characterization of Mitch as a man who is defined by society's idea of a successful man. Consider the following: Who was Mitch before his Tuesday experiences with Morrie? How does he change?
5. Explain the importance or symbolism of one of the following people/things in the memoir: Ted Koppel, Peter (Mitch's brother), the pink hibiscus plant, or the titles "player" and "coach" Mitch and Morrie use to describe each other.
6. Each reader will come to this text with a different belief about aging and dying. Explain your thoughts about aging, dying, and death before you read the memoir, and then describe how you feel after reading the book.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Summer Reading Assignment

Standards:

ELAGSE9-10W4: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Directions: After reading the book, write a reflection (approximately 2 pages, double-spaced) in which you rank the 7 habits from most important to least important *in your life*. You should include personal anecdotes and textual evidence for support in your discussion of each habit.

*Note: "Most important in your life" will mean different things to different people. Most important to you may be what you need to work on most, or most important to you may be which habit you believe will give you the greatest chance to succeed.