

Student Sample
Oct. 5, 2011
English 11, Per. 8
Literature Report

A Lesson About Dying

Tuesdays With Morrie, by Mitch Albom, is a sad but uplifting story about the author's former college professor, Morrie Schwartz, who is dying from a disease. As Albom describes his professor's sad decline, an important lesson about living is revealed. During his Tuesday visits with his dying professor, Albom comes to realize that like his professor, we are all facing death at some point. Schwartz tells Albom, "Everyone knows they're going to die, but nobody believes it" (81). We deny our mortality by ignoring death or turning away from it in our fear of death. However, as Schwartz reminds Morrie (96), truly realizing one's time on earth is limited can be a reminder not to waste even one day of it. The important lesson Albom learns from his visits is to make every day count as long as one is alive. It's not really the number of days we have left, but, as the professor shows Albom by his example, what is important is the amount of life we put into every day. Because of the time he spends with Schwartz, Albom makes a shift in his professional and personal priorities as he comes to realize that relationships with friends and family are ultimately more important than money or career. The professor's last lesson about dying turns out to be the first lesson about living.