

# SENIOR COLLEGE PREP JCA SUMMER READING PROGRAM

## TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE by Mitch Albom

Although aging and dying are natural parts of the life cycle, we often try to put thought about such subjects out of our minds. Shakespeare's poem, *The Seven Ages of Man*, makes it clear why most their own mortality. The poem traces a gloomy pathway through life. Growing old gracefully does not seem to enter into the equation. With such a hopeless view of the end of the road, who would want to be reminded of aging and death?

Sometimes, certain events – a birthday we do not wish to acknowledge or the death of a friend or relative – make aging and dying harder to ignore. When Detroit sportswriter Mitch Albom read an interview that revealed a favorite professor was dying. Albom made the difficult decision to visit his former teacher, Morrie. Teacher and student quickly rekindled their friendship, despite years of separation. In the remaining weeks of his life, Morrie again assumed the role of teacher. The subject was savoring life and old age, even in the face of death.

### *The Seven Ages of Man*

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players<sup>1</sup>;  
They have their exits and their entrances,  
And one man in his time plays many parts,  
5 His acts being seven ages<sup>2</sup>. At first the infant,  
Mewling<sup>3</sup> and puking in the nurse's arms;  
And then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel  
And shining morning face, creeping like snail  
Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,  
10 Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad **woeful** full of sorrow  
Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,  
Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard<sup>4</sup>,  
Jealous in honor<sup>5</sup>, sudden and quick in quarrel,  
Seeking the bubble reputation  
15 Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice<sup>6</sup>,  
In fair round belly with good capon<sup>7</sup> lined,  
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,  
Full of wise saws and modern instances<sup>8</sup>;  
And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts  
20 Into the lean and slippered pantaloons<sup>9</sup>,  
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;  
His youthful hose<sup>10</sup>, well saved, a world too wide  
For his shrunk shank<sup>11</sup>; and his big manly voice,  
Turning again toward childish treble, pipes **treble** high pitched voice  
25 And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,  
That ends this strange eventful history,  
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,  
Sans<sup>12</sup> teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

1. **Players** actors
2. **Ages** periods of life
3. **Mewling** whimpering; crying weakly
4. **Pard** leopard or panther
5. **Jealous in honor** very concerned about his honor
6. **Justice** judge
7. **Capon** chicken
8. **Wise saws and modern instances** wise sayings and modern examples that show the truth of the sayings
9. **Pantaloons** thin, foolish old man-originally a character in old comedies
10. **Hose** stockings
11. **Shank** leg

12. **Sans** without; lacking

1. How might you apply Morrie's advice on growing older to your own life? State at least three examples from the memoir and comment on how these ideas correspond to your own experience.
2. How might the author's perspective have changed after hearing Morrie's views on aging and death? Discuss at least three possibilities in a detailed response.
3. Compare and contrast the different views on aging presented by *The Seven Ages of Man* and by Morrie. Support your insights using specific lines from both texts. Use a minimum of three citations per work. With which work do agree more? Why?

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Your summer reading this year carries the extra weight of being source work for your required research paper in senior year English. Complete these guides carefully so that you will enter your class with some foundations in place for that very important paper.

***LORD OF THE FLIES* by William Golding**

Some of you may be familiar with movie versions of this work. While these films may be visualizations of the text, they do not take the place of your close reading of the novel for testing and writing purposes.

- Chapter 1 Describe the characters Ralph and Jack.
- Chapter 2 What happened to the fire and why did this outcome occur?
- Chapter 3 Discuss the social and symbolic significance of “home” as it applies in this chapter.
- Chapter 4 Discuss the importance of this statement: “The mask compelled them.”
- Chapter 5 What is Simon referring to when he says, “maybe it’s only us”?
- Chapter 6 Why are the boys afraid of the beast?
- Chapter 7 What did Ralph hit? How did he feel? Why? What are the things Ralph misses?
- Chapter 8 How did the boys react when they saw the beast? Who fell and lost consciousness? Why?
- Chapter 9 Why didn’t Simon go to Jack’s party? Who wanted to be chief and why?
- Chapter 10 Who attacked Ralph and his friends? What did he think they came for?
- Chapter 11 Why did Ralph and Jack fight?
- Chapter 12 Where were the slanting sticks of sunlight lost?

Find at least five symbols in the novel and explain their significance.

Write a paragraph on Ralph and a paragraph on Jack:

Write a well constructed paragraph about each of these boys. Include a good thesis statement, good examples, and a direct quote from the novel that supports your view of the character. The more detailed your observations, the better!

What was your favorite part of the novel?

What part was most difficult to understand?

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**woeful** full of sorrow

**treble** high pitched voice

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14. **Ages** periods of life

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16. **Pard** leopard or panther

17. **Jealous in honor** very concerned about his honor

18. **Justice** judge

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20. **Wise saws and modern instances** wise sayings and modern examples that show the truth of the sayings

21. **Pantaloon**s thin, foolish old man-originally a character in old comedies

22. **Hose** stockings

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Answering each question thoroughly and thoughtfully will assure your success on tests for these works early in the first quarter.

***Frankenstein by Mary Shelley***

**Prologue**

1. The novel begins with a series of letters in which the narrator is writing his thoughts and plans to his sister. Where is the narrator going? Why has he chosen to make this voyage? Of what does the narrator dream? What is his goal?

**Chapters I and II**

2. What plot exposition does Shelley offer the reader in these chapters?
3. How is Elizabeth a “typical” Romantic character?
4. What is foreshadowed at the end of Chapter 2?

**Chapters III and IV**

5. How is the story of Victor’s mother’s death ironic?
6. Why does Victor hesitate to make a creature like man? What traditional tragic flaw is Victor demonstrating?

**Chapters V and VI**

7. How does Frankenstein feel about his creation? What does he feel when the creature reaches out to him?
8. How does Shelley create suspense toward the end of these chapters?

**Chapters VII and VIII**

9. How do the reactions of Victor and his family to William’s murder illustrate Romantic principles?

**Chapters IX and X**

10. How does Victor become a disenfranchised member of society himself?

**Chapters XI and XII**

11. What evidence does Shelley provide of the creature’s innate goodness?

**Chapters XIII and XIV**

12. What paradox does the creature see in humankind through his study of history?

**Chapters XV and XVI**

13. Why doesn’t the creature kill itself after the incident with the cottagers?

**Chapters XVII and XVIII**

14. Follow the lines of reasoning in the debate over the creation of the companion. Whose reasoning is most sound?

**Chapters XIX and XX**

15. What does Victor say about his childhood in Chapter XIX?
16. Why does Victor feel he can’t be with people? What opinion does he express about his creation?

**Chapters XXIII and XXIV**

17. Explain how Victor is similar to a tragic hero? A romantic hero? How does he depart from the typical tragic hero?

## ***A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens**

### **Book The First-Recalled to Life**

- Chapter 1** The first sentence in this novel is one of the most famous first lines in the history of literature. How is it also an example of parallelism?
- Chapter 4** Briefly describe Lucie Manette and list the qualities that might make her Dickens' ideal woman.
- Chapter 5** What do you think the spilled wine symbolizes in the story? Briefly describe Madam DeFarge. What is she doing with her hands?
- Chapter 6** What is the book Dickens uses to entice the reader to the next chapter?

### **Book The Second-The Golden Thread**

- Chapter 1** What is implied by the mud on Jerry Cruncher's boots?
- Chapter 3** Describe Mr. Carton's behavior toward Lucie and Charles Darnay.
- Chapter 9** Why does Darnay plan to abandon the inheritance from his uncle?
- Chapter 13** What secret does Carton ask Lucie to keep as the "last confidence"?
- Chapter 15** What evidence of a horrifying scene of death occurs in this chapter?
- Chapter 17** Cite an event that illustrates the confusion between reality and illusion.
- Chapter 20** What does Lucie ask her husband to do for her regarding Carton?
- Chapter 21** What do Monsieur DeFarge and his wife do on July 14, 1789?
- Chapter 22** Briefly describe The Vengeance.
- Chapter 24** What reasons could Darnay have for deciding to back to France?

### **Book The Third-The Track of a Storm**

- Chapter 1** Why does Darnay compare the aristocrats jailed with him to ghosts?
- Chapter 3** What is the Shadow and how is an example of foreshadowing?
- Chapter 4** List three of the jokes the people made about the guillotine.
- Chapter 8** List three cards Carton holds which force Barsad to help him free Darnay.
- Chapter 9** What document does DeFarge have that condemns Darnay to death?
- Chapter 11** What is the significance of the words Carton murmurs against Lucie's cheek when he kisses her, "A life you love"?
- Chapter 13** How does the plight of the seamstress illustrate one of the main flaws in the revolution?
- Chapter 14** State a theme that gives a reason why Miss Pross is strong enough to defeat Madame DeFarge.
- Chapter 15** The last words of this chapter are some of the most famous ever written: "It is a far, far better thing that I do, that I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I ever known." In what ways is this statement true for Sydney Carton? Why do you suppose this has become such a famous line from a novel?

One of the major themes in this novel is the idea that rebirth is possible through Sacrifice. How does Dickens illustrate the truth of this theme in the lives of Dr. Manette, Sydney Carton, and Charles Darnay?