

Tuesdays with Morrie

Chapters 18–27

by Mitch Albom

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: accost, contagious, disillusioned, engender, estranged, inconsequential, shortsightedness, smokescreen, stoic, whimsical

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–7 · Mitch reconnects with his old professor

Section 2 · Chapters 8–17 · The Tuesday lessons begin

Section 3 · Chapters 18–27 · Continuing the weekly Tuesday lessons

***Bold = this section.** Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.*



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Strangers sometimes **accost** tourists near the busy market.

- A. boldly confront
- B. quietly follow
- C. loudly call to

2. Measles is highly **contagious**, so doctors urge everyone to get vaccinated.

- A. dangerous to babies
- B. easily spread to others
- C. painful and severe

3. After years of broken promises, the voters grew **disillusioned** with the mayor.

- A. let down after losing faith
- B. angry and wanting revenge
- C. anxious about the future

4. Kind words can **engender** trust between strangers.

- A. to demand or expect
- B. to reveal or show
- C. to bring into being

5. After the bitter argument, the two brothers became **estranged**.

- A. openly hostile
- B. no longer close
- C. secretly envious

6. We argued for an hour over an **inconsequential** detail.

- A. awkward or embarrassing
- B. confusing or unclear
- C. unimportant or trivial

7. Spending the entire budget at once showed real **shortsightedness**.

- A. selfish greed
- B. poor self-control
- C. failure to plan ahead

8. His apology was just a **smokescreen**.

- A. a plea for sympathy
- B. a trick to hide the truth
- C. a clever insult

9. Even as the storm wrecked his boat, the captain stayed **stoic**.

- A. calm and unemotional
- B. proud and confident
- C. alert and watchful

10. He told a **whimsical** story about a cat who ruled a kingdom.

- A. playfully fanciful
- B. tender and heartfelt
- C. boastful and grand

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

invest in the human family — devote your time, energy, and care to other people and the community rather than focusing only on money

death ends a life, not a relationship — Morrie's belief that love and emotional bonds continue through memory even after a person dies

the wave and the ocean — a metaphor for Morrie's belief that each person is part of something larger, like a wave is part of the ocean and should not fear crashing

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	C
7	C
8	B
9	A
10	A

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “And it leads to very disillusioned lives.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “disillusioned” most nearly describes people who feel...

- A. confused about what they value
- B. let down after hopes prove empty
- C. resentful of wealthier people

2 “This was a smokescreen.”

It can reasonably be inferred that, by calling his reasoning a “smokescreen,” the narrator admits he had been...

- A. blaming athletes for his habits
- B. hiding the truth from himself
- C. genuinely modest in his needs

3 “A few blocks from home, he was accosted by two robbers.”

Which statement about Charlie is best supported by the passage?

- A. Charlie knew the two robbers.
- B. Charlie provoked the robbers.
- C. Robbers confronted him aggressively.

4 “Every birth must therefore engender a death, and every death bring forth another birth.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “engender” most nearly suggests that each birth...

- A. brings a death into being
- B. holds off a coming death
- C. repays an earlier death

5 “A few months earlier, it might have disgusted me; it was inconsequential now.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the catheter bag seems “inconsequential” to the narrator now because...

- A. caring for Morrie makes it unimportant
- B. it now holds very little fluid
- C. he is too tired to notice it

6 “Look, no matter where you live, the biggest defect we human beings have is our shortsightedness.”

Morrie’s claim that our “biggest defect” is “shortsightedness” primarily functions to...

- A. praise living for the moment
- B. excuse people’s honest mistakes
- C. fault people for not looking ahead

7 “And then the normally stoic anchor added this: ‘If you don’t want to do it, Morrie, it’s okay.’”

In the passage, describing Koppel as “normally stoic” characterizes him as usually...

- A. harsh and impatient
- B. reserved and unemotional
- C. dramatic and showy

8 “... he calls for his estranged son so that he can make peace before he goes.”

It can reasonably be inferred that an “estranged” son is one who has...

- A. grown distant from his father
- B. moved far from the family home
- C. been disowned over money

9 “Even in bronze, he had a whimsical look, and I thought this friend had sculpted a little spirit as well.”

The word “whimsical” characterizes the look on the bronze Morrie’s face as...

- A. playful and lightly amused
- B. stern and dignified
- C. weary and sorrowful

10 “People act as if death is contagious.”

Morrie most likely says people act “as if death is contagious” in order to...

- A. praise hospitals for quick work
- B. warn that the dying spread illness
- C. mock the fear of catching death

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	B	
2	B	Character comprehension.
3	C	
4	A	
5	A	Character comprehension.
6	C	
7	B	
8	A	
9	A	
10	C	Theme comprehension.

Teacher Context: Chapters 18–27

The final seven Tuesday lessons -- money, how love goes on, marriage, our culture, forgiveness, and the perfect day -- followed by the last goodbye, Morrie's death in Graduation, and Mitch's concluding reflections. Section runs to the end of the book.