Tuesdays with Morrie

*Tuesdays with Morrie*, by Mitch Albom, is a heartwarming and inspiring, nonfictional book about a man with a different outlook on his terminal illness. Morrie Schwartz, a sociology professor at Brandeis University, is unexpectedly diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. This disease slowly deteriorates the body’s muscles, which makes it hard for the infected person to perform simple tasks, such as picking up a glass of water. Morrie was given 2 years to live. When first diagnosed, Morrie wondered why nobody seemed to know or care that he had just been given his death sentence. Eventually, Morrie asked himself, “Am I going to wither and despair, or am I going to make the best of the time I have left?” With the help of an old student, and more than a few regular visits, Morrie shows how in the midst of death, one can still have a positive outlook because of love and companionship.

Nothing can get someone through a tough time better than love. Love is the most powerful feeling in the world. It can drive people mad while at the same time bring people a sense of joy unlike no other. Nobody had more love in their life than Morrie Schwartz. During the first Tuesday meeting between Mitch and Morrie, Morrie tells Mitch, “I can tell you the thing I am learning most with this disease is, the most important thing in life is to learn how to give out love, and to let it come in.” (52) Morrie had many loved ones surrounding him in his last years. Students would come to his house and visit him. Four care takers took did all of the work that he could no longer do. He also had his loving wife who stood by Morrie throughout his entire final days. Morrie even held himself a funeral because he wanted hear the loving things his family and friends would say at his funeral when he could no longer hear. Love is unlike anything else. It can get us through times we never even dreamt would happen to us, and nobody loved and was loved more than Morrie Schwartz.

Who would ever want to be alone in their greatest time of need? Luckily for Morrie Schwartz, he was surrounded by his family and friends from the day he learned of his unfortunate fate. These people would help Morrie with task he could no longer do. Caregivers did most of the work because his wife was unable to do heavy lifting. Students would come over and help feed him, move him, and even help him use the bathroom. Morrie received nothing but support from everyone he was close to. Everyone, except one person. Mitch Albom had neglected to keep his promise he gave to Morrie on graduation day that he would keep in touch. Mitch would’ve completely forgotten about his favorite old professor had it not been for a TV interview with the man himself. After watching that interview, Mitch went and visited Morrie, and the visits continued. Mitch and Morrie met every Tuesday leading up to Morrie’s death. Morrie could always be comforted at the fact that he would never be alone through his fight.

Mitch Albom and Morrie Schwartz prove in *Tuesdays with Morrie* that in the midst of death, one can still have a positive outlook because of love and companionship. Morrie knows that his days left on Earth are few in number, but he knows that people love and care for him. Knowing this, Morrie is able to make the best out of his final days, not by feeling sorry for himself and being sad all the time, but instead making the most he can of a situation that many people would shy away from.