

TechBoston Lower Academy Grade 9 - Summer Reading 2010

Welcome to TechBoston Academy!! We're extremely excited about the incoming 9th grade class. You will be new to TBA, but much will be expected of you as the oldest students in the Lower Academy. This assignment sheet outlines your summer reading responsibilities for your English class.

You are required to read ***Tuesdays With Morrie*** by Mitch Albom, in its entirety. You must keep a Reading Journal that you will submit at the beginning of the new school year for a test grade. In addition, you will be expected to write about this book in your first Writing Prompt.

Completing this summer reading assignment is not an option – **it is mandatory!**

To ensure that you actually read the novel (and not a summary online), **you are required to complete a Reading Journal**. This journal can be typed or kept in a notebook and must include **five entries**. You may choose any five of the following questions to answer, but each entry must consist of at least **two well-developed paragraphs made up of 5 or more thoughtful and thorough sentences**. Capturing your ideas on **sticky notes** as you read will help prepare you to write your entries.

1. How does Mitch change or evolve throughout the course of the story? What events trigger such changes?
2. Do you agree or disagree with the decision that Morrie made to discuss his personal illness on national TV? Why or why not?
3. Mitch and Morrie discussed many topics. Which topic did you find the most interesting? Why?
4. What is your favorite Morrie aphorism? What does that aphorism mean to you?
5. Does this book remind you of any other books you've read? In what ways are the stories similar and/or different?
6. What bothers you about this book? What bothers you about certain characters?
7. How has reading this book changed your opinion of a certain person or topic?
8. Do the characters seem real and believable? Do you know anyone like them?
9. At what point in the book did you decide if you liked it or not? What helped make this decision?
10. Would you recommend this book to others? Explain why or why not.
11. What do you consider to be the three most memorable moments in the book? Explain what made these moments so memorable.

Extra credit will be awarded to students who read and respond to additional books from the reading list. In order to receive credit, you must **complete 5 journal entries** for each additional book that you choose. (Select from Questions 5 – 11 above for these additional books.)

Grade 9

Mandatory	<i>Tuesdays With Morrie</i>	Albom
	<i>Warriors Don't Cry</i>	Beals
	<i>April and the Dragon Lady</i>	Namioka
	<i>A Separate Peace</i>	Knowles
	<i>When I Was Puerto Rican</i>	Santiago
	<i>Kaffir Boy</i>	Mathabane
	<i>Harry Potter series</i>	J.K. Rowling
	<i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i>	Smith