Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom Book

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In the book *Tuesdays with Morrie*, Mitch Albom constructs the narrative around a college student and his professor, who is dying with the passage of time after being diagnosed with ALS. Not being a student anymore, Mitch feels guilty for forgetting his promise to meet Morrie occasionally. When Morrie appears on a television show, Mitch is reluctant to waste any more time and decides to visit his teacher. Both Morrie and Mitch agree to meet on Tuesdays, when they talk about various topics ranging from politics and life to love and marriage.

Comparing College Life Across Generations

One aspect that Morrie continually talks about is the life of a carefree college student who wastes his time looking for the meaning of life. The element to be explored while analyzing Mitch's novel is to prove that today's college students have a different experience from the college students of the 1960s.

Technology and Competition in Modern College Life

One clear thing is that the current young generation leads a life that is way different from the life of college students in the 1960s. Technological advancement has turned teenagers into mindless zombies, and their eyes are glued to their gadgets. The amount of time that the young ones spend staring at their screens is more than the time they spend studying or spending time with family. With technological progress, life has become difficult and full of hurdles for people of all ages. College-going students do not have time to spare as they compete against one another to get better grades. The competition has led these students to isolate themselves from their surroundings and to give all their time to their studies. Morrie asserts that the culture that we live in currently is to be blamed for the way the modern generation is treating life. The following lines taken from the text show this assertion by Morrie:

"*Well, for one thing, our culture does not make people feel good about themselves. We're teaching the wrong things. And you have to be strong enough to say if the culture doesn't work, don't buy it. Create your own. Most people can't do it.*" (Albom).

Self-Acceptance and Student Success

To say that a college student's life lacks emotional, cultural, and meaningful experience is true to an extent, as the students are shown to be absorbed in their work and have little to no time to spend with family and friends. The competition for better grades and college standards has deprived the students of any experience that could help them develop. For any student to succeed, he or she needs to believe in his or her capabilities. The following lines assert Morrie's claim regarding capabilities:

"*Accept what you can and what you are not able to do*" (Albom).

Morrie believes that if a person accepts their real strengths, everything immediately becomes easy. He is correct in his assertion because as long as one does not believe in oneself, one cannot change the course of one's life and cannot hope to gain any achievement. College students of the present time are of the view that getting good grades is the only thing that they should worry themselves about. However, that is not true as there is more to life than education. Chasing such goals can make life meaningless as there are so many things a person can involve themselves in besides schooling. The following lines support this point as Morrie says:

"So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things" (Albom).

Finding Meaning Beyond Achievement

It has become common for people in the modern world to search for meaning in their lives. This search leads them to believe that life is meaningless until they find the actual purpose for them to be in this world. However, that is not true as an individual can find meaning in the smallest of things if one so wishes. Having a purpose does not include getting a college degree, going for further studies, or getting a job. On the contrary, it means that a person accepts that his or her life will become meaningful if he or she puts effort into appreciating the things in the surroundings. As Morrie says in the novel:

"'*Part of the problem, Mitch, is that everyone is in such a hurry,' Morrie said. 'People haven't found meaning in their lives, so they're running all the time looking for it.*'" (Albom).

Morrie's Lesson for College Students

In conclusion, it can be said that the complicated routine of college life has kept the students from having a spare moment for themselves. The absorption in books only to achieve the highest GPA has

prevented students from participating in social and cultural events. Students nowadays do not involve themselves in extracurricular activities for fear of wasting time when they could be spending that time studying. They believe their life will be meaningless if they do not achieve their goals, all related to completing their education. Morrie asserts in the novel that it is essential for people to spend as much time appreciating the things around them as they can because once a person finds out that they are going to die, it can weigh down the person and make life difficult.

Works Cited

Albom, Mitch. *Tuesdays with Morrie: An Old Man, a Young Man, and Life's Greatest Lesson*. Hachette UK, 2009.