

Comprehension-2

Answer Key

A. Read the following passage Carefully.

Mitch Albom, the book's narrator, recalls his graduation from Brandeis University in the spring of 1979. After he has received his diploma, Mitch approaches his favourite professor, Morrie Schwartz, and presents him with a monogrammed briefcase. While at Brandeis, Mitch takes almost all of the sociology courses Morrie had teaches. He promises Morrie, who is crying, that he will keep in touch, though he does not fulfil his promise. Years after Mitch's graduation from Brandeis, Morrie is forced to forfeit dancing, his favourite hobby, because he has been diagnosed with ALS, a debilitating disease that leaves his "soul, perfectly awake, imprisoned inside a limp husk" of a body. Morrie's wife, Charlotte, cares for Morrie, though at his insistence, keeps her job as a professor at M.I.T.

Sixteen years after his graduation from Brandeis, Mitch is feeling frustrated with the life he has chosen to live. After his uncle dies of pancreatic cancer, Mitch abandons his failing career as a musician to become a well-paid journalist for a Detroit newspaper. Mitch promises his wife Janine that they will have children eventually, though he spends all of his time at work, away on reporting assignments. One night, Mitch is flipping the channels on his television and recognizes Morrie's voice. Morrie is being featured on the television program "Nightline" in the first of three interviews with Ted Koppel, whom he quickly befriends. Before consenting to be interviewed, Morrie surprises and softens the famed newscaster when he asks Koppel what is "close to his heart." Mitch is stunned to see his former professor on television.

Following Morrie's television appearance, Mitch contacts his beloved professor and travels from his home in Detroit to Morrie's home in West Newton, Massachusetts to visit with him. When Mitch drives up to Morrie's house, he delays greeting his professor because he is speaking on the phone with his producer, a decision he later regrets.

Shortly after his reunion with Morrie, Mitch works himself nearly to death reporting on the Wimbledon tennis tournament in London. There, he spends much time thinking about Morrie and forfeits reading the tabloids, as he now seeks more meaning in his life and knows that he will not gain this meaning from reading about celebrities and gossip. He is knocked over by a swarm of reporters chasing celebrities Andre Agassi and Brooke Shields, and it is then that Mitch realizes he is chasing after the wrong thing. When he returns to his home in Detroit, Mitch learns that the article he has worked so hard to write will not even be published, as the union he belongs to is striking against the newspaper he works for. Once more, Mitch travels to Boston to visit Morrie.

Following their first Tuesday together, Mitch returns regularly every Tuesday to listen to Morrie's lessons on "The Meaning of Life." Each week, Mitch brings Morrie food to eat, though as Morrie's condition worsens, he is no longer able to enjoy solid food. In his first of three interviews with Koppel for "Nightline," Morrie admits

that the thing he dreads most about his worsening condition is that someday, he will not be able to wipe himself after using the bathroom. Eventually, this fear comes true.

Interspersed throughout Mitch's visits to Morrie are flashbacks to their days together at Brandeis. Mitch describes himself as a student who had acted tough, but had sought the tenderness he recognized in Morrie. At Brandeis, Mitch and Morrie shared a relationship more like that between father and son than teacher and student. Soon before Morrie's death, when his condition has deteriorated so much that he can no longer breathe or move on his own, he confides that if he could have another son, he would choose Mitch.

On the basis of your understanding answer the following questions.

1. What motivates Mitch to reconnect with Morrie after so many years?

- A) A sense of guilt for not staying in touch.
- B) Seeing Morrie's interview on television.
- C) An invitation from Morrie to visit him.
- D) A letter from Morrie asking for help.

2. Why does Mitch regret delaying his entrance when he arrives at Morrie's house?

- A) He was worried about being late.
- B) He prioritized a phone call over greeting Morrie.
- C) He forgot to bring a gift for Morrie.
- D) He was nervous about seeing Morrie after so many years.

3. What does Mitch bring to Morrie during his weekly visits?

- A) Books for Morrie to read.
- B) Food for Morrie to eat.
- C) Letters from Morrie's students.
- D) Gifts from Mitch's travels.

4. How does Mitch's career change after his uncle's death?

- A) He quits his job and becomes a musician.
- B) He becomes more focused on earning money.
- C) He transitions from music to journalism.
- D) He takes a break from work to grieve.

5. What does Mitch realize about his life while covering the Wimbledon tournament?

- A) He is chasing after the wrong goals.
- B) He enjoys the fast-paced life of journalism.
- C) He misses the simplicity of his past.
- D) He has achieved everything he wanted.

6. Why does Morrie value the relationship he has with Mitch?

- A) Mitch was his favourite student.

- B) They share a bond similar to that of a father and son.

- C) Morrie sees Mitch as a successful example.

- D) They both have a love for the same hobbies.

7. What was Morrie's favourite hobby before his illness?

- A) Reading books.

- B) Writing letters.

- C) Dancing.

- D) Gardening.

8. What is the synonym of the word "debilitating" as used in the passage?

- A) Weakening

- B) Strengthening

- C) Energizing

- D) Improving

9. Which of the following is the antonym of the word "dread" as implied in the passage?

- A) Anticipate

- B) Fear

- C) Abhor

- D) Resent