

哈佛  蓝星双语名著导读

Today's Most Popular Study Guides


Tuesdays with Morrie

# 相约星期二

原著 Mitch Albom〔美〕

导读 Sparknotes

翻译 王欣

 天津科技翻译出版公司



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哈佛蓝星双语名著导读

**Today's Most Popular Study Guides**

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# 相约星期二

## Tuesdays with Morrie

[美] Mitch Albom 原著

Sparknotes 导读

王欣 翻译

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亲爱的读者，在这个多元文化的世界里，渴望知识、钟情文学、热爱英语的你是否希望站在巨人的肩膀上摘星呢？

“哈佛蓝星双语名著导读”系列是全美最风行的经典名著导读笔记，由哈佛学生们融会名著阅读和文学学习精华，亲笔撰写而成。蓝星系列精选了来自世界各国的杰出经典著作，以经典性和流行性并重的名著为素材，以明晰的风格和地道的语言，解读名著精华和具有时代性的主题和思想。每一分册都包括名著的创作背景、人物分析、主题解析、篇章讲解、重要引文释义、作品档案，并且附有相关的思考题、推荐论题、小测验以及延伸阅读篇目。

如今“蓝星”漂洋过海，轻轻落在了国内英语学习读者的掌中，读者不需走出国门，即可轻松掌握哈佛课堂上的知识。蓝星系列丰富的内容编排，使我们不仅仅停留于对名著内容的了解，而且对著作的精华和内涵有更全面、深入的掌握，进而对英语语言和文化做更进一步的了解和研究。蓝星精辟、明晰的编写风格让“半天阅读一本名著”成为现实，使我们在有限的闲暇时间内阅读更多的书，同时迅速增强英语水平，提高文学修养，增加谈资。

天津科技翻译出版公司之前推出的“蓝星”系列78册，多为古典及经典题材，在图书市场上收到了很好的反响。本次推出的新品种20册均以现代及当代畅销书为首选，流行性和可读性更强，进一步丰富了该系列的内容。本次出版仍由天津外国语学院张滨江教授和青年教师负责翻译和审校，并严格按照原作的风格，提供原汁原味的英语环境，让读者自由地阅读、想象和发挥。

蓝星闪耀，伴你前行！

## CONTEXT

**M**itch Albom was born in New Jersey in 1958, though he spent the greater part of his youth in Philadelphia. In 1979, he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, where met and studied under his beloved professor, Morrie Schwartz, the title character of *Tuesdays with Morrie*. In 1982, Albom was awarded a Masters degree from Columbia University in New York. After failed stints as an amateur boxer and nightclub musician, Albom began his career as a sports journalist, writing articles for newspapers such as the *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *The Detroit Free Press* where he was employed from 1985 until his reunion with Morrie in 1995. Albom also has his own nationally syndicated radio show, *Monday Sports Albom*. In 1995, Albom began gathering notes for his book, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, which documents his and Morrie's discussions on the meaning of life which they hold each Tuesday of every week in Morrie's home. Albom claims to have written the book to offset Morrie's severe medical expenses, and has said in interviews that the profits from the two-year bestseller are divided between himself and the Schwartz family.

Morrie Schwartz was born in 1916. He graduated from New York's City College, and went on to win a fellowship to the University of Chicago where he was awarded a Ph.D. in sociology. In 1959, he began teaching sociology at Brandeis, a nonsectarian Jewish-sponsored university, established in 1948.

## 来龙·去脉

米奇·阿尔博姆 1958 年生于美国新泽西州，并在费城度过了大部分青年时代。1979 年，他毕业于美国马萨诸塞州沃尔瑟姆市的布兰戴斯大学，获得了文学学士学位。在学期间，阿尔博姆有幸师从莫瑞·斯瓦茨先生，即《相约星期二》一书的主角。1982 年，阿尔博姆从纽约州的哥伦比亚大学获得硕士学位。他曾经是名业余拳击手，还想到夜总会当个音乐家，但都没能如愿。此后他成了体育记者，专门为《费城观察家报》和《底特律自由报》此类媒体执笔。《底特律自由报》从 1985 年开始聘用他，直到 1995 年阿尔博姆与莫瑞重逢。阿尔博姆也有自己的广播节目，在全美联播，叫《阿尔博姆周一体育》。1995 年，他开始为《相约星期二》一书收集资料，该书记录了每周的星期二两人在莫瑞家里关于生命意义的种种讨论。阿尔博姆希望该书的稿酬能用来支付莫瑞高昂的医药费。在接受访问时，他也表示，这本热销两年的畅销书的稿酬要与斯瓦茨先生的家人平分。

莫瑞·斯瓦茨生于 1916 年。毕业于纽约市立大学后，他申请到了芝加哥大学的奖学金，并取得了该校的社会学博士学位。1959 年起，莫瑞在布兰戴斯大学教授社会学。这所犹太人资助的无教派大学建校于



It was not until 1995, when he was dying from ALS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, that Morrie ended his career as a professor. A fatal neuromuscular disease, ALS is characterized by progressive muscle debilitation that ultimately results in paralysis. ALS is commonly known as Lou Gherig's disease, after the famous baseball player who died of the disease in 1941 at the age of forty.

Albom begins his visits to Morrie in mid-1995, during the climax of the O.J. Simpson murder trial. Simpson, an acclaimed star football player, had been on trial for the June 1994 murders of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her acquaintance, Ronald Goldman. Simpson had pleaded "absolutely not guilty" to the double murder, although he had been known for violence against his ex-wife and had led the police in a car chase. Major controversy surrounded jury members, who were said to have been racially biased in Simpson's favor. When in October of 1995, the jury acquitted Simpson of the murder charges, the nation suffered a severe racial division, white against black, evidenced in *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Connie's horror at the announcement of the "not guilty" verdict.

In *Tuesdays with Morrie*, Mitch recalls how the political controversies of the 1970's affected his and Morrie's years at Brandeis University. Following the nation's withdrawal from the Vietnam War in 1973, and former President Nixon's resignation from office in 1974, the Brandeis campus, like many college campuses nation-wide, was a hot bed for political debate and protest. Continuing the thread of racial tension in *Tuesdays with Morrie*, is a story Morrie tells about an incident in which he had acted as the negotiator between the university

1948年。莫瑞教授一直工作到1995年生命垂危之际，此时他已经罹患ALS症，即“肌萎缩侧索硬化症”。这种病是肌肉神经方面的绝症，症状是肌肉逐渐萎缩，最终导致病人瘫痪。ALS通常也被称为“卢·伽雷氏症”，得名于1941年因该病去世的年仅40岁的著名棒球运动员卢·伽雷。

阿尔博姆从1995年中期开始连续拜访莫瑞教授，当时正是O·J·辛普森谋杀案审理的关键时刻。辛普森是美国大名鼎鼎的橄榄球球星，他被指控在1994年6月杀害了前妻妮科尔·布朗·辛普森和她的朋友罗纳德·高曼。辛普森对双重命案矢口否认，辩称自己“绝对清白”；案发前他曾暴力虐妻，被起诉后又与警方飞车追逐。有很多的争论围绕着陪审团人员，全部争议都是其以人种优势偏袒辛普森的。1995年10月，陪审团宣布针对辛普森的杀人指控无效，引发了美国国内严重的种族分歧，白人敌视黑人。由此，《相约星期二》一书中的康妮对陪审团“无罪”宣判感到深深忧虑。

在《相约星期二》中，米奇回顾了20世纪70年代的政治风云，他和莫瑞教授当时都在布兰戴斯大学，生活深受政治所扰。1973年越战结束后，美国从越南撤军；1974年前总统尼克松引咎辞职，于是全国的大学校园都迅速成为政治辩论和抗议活动的温床，布兰戴斯当然也不例外。《相约星期二》一书也谈到了对种族紧张局势的担忧。书中莫瑞教授讲了一个故事：一

president and a group of black students who felt that they were being oppressed by the school administration. The students had established their protesting grounds in one of the university's science buildings, and hung a banner from a window that read: "Malcolm X University." The banner paid homage to Malcolm X, a premier black leader and militant advocate of black nationalism who was assassinated in 1965. 🌿

这些事件引起了美国黑人青年 2001 年 10 月 10 日在芝加哥大学校园内举行示威游行，抗议校方在 1973 年 10 月 10 日对黑人学生进行种族歧视。示威者在校园内悬挂了“马尔科姆 X 大学”的横幅，向这位黑人领袖致敬。马尔科姆 X 是 20 世纪 60 年代美国黑人运动的重要人物，他主张黑人应该建立自己的国家，并实行武装斗争。他在 1965 年 2 月 21 日被刺杀。这些事件反映了当时美国黑人青年对种族歧视的强烈不满和反抗精神。

1973 年 10 月 10 日，芝加哥大学黑人学生在校内举行示威游行，抗议校方在 1973 年 10 月 10 日对黑人学生进行种族歧视。示威者在校园内悬挂了“马尔科姆 X 大学”的横幅，向这位黑人领袖致敬。马尔科姆 X 是 20 世纪 60 年代美国黑人运动的重要人物，他主张黑人应该建立自己的国家，并实行武装斗争。他在 1965 年 2 月 21 日被刺杀。这些事件反映了当时美国黑人青年对种族歧视的强烈不满和反抗精神。

群黑人学生认为被校方压制，莫瑞则扮演了校长和学生间调解人的角色。那些学生们将学校的一所科研楼当成了抗议地点，并从一扇窗子里挂出这样的横幅：“马尔科姆·艾克斯大学”。横幅是为了向马尔科姆·艾克斯致敬的——他是著名的黑人领袖和黑人独立运动的积极倡导者，1965年被人暗杀。

## PLOT OVERVIEW

**M**itch 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 favorite professor, Morrie Schwartz, and presents him with a monogrammed briefcase. While at Brandeis, Mitch takes almost all of the sociology courses Morrie had taught. He promises Morrie, who is crying, that he will keep in touch, though he does not fulfill his promise. Years after Mitch's graduation from Brandeis, Morrie is forced to forfeit dancing, his favorite 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 inter-

## 情节·览

米奇·阿尔博姆在书中采用第一人称独白的方式，回忆了1979年春天他在布兰戴斯大学毕业时的情景。一拿到毕业证书，米奇就去找他最喜欢的教授——莫瑞·斯瓦茨，还送给教授一个印有交织字母的皮包。在布兰戴斯上学时，米奇在莫瑞教授的社会学课程上几乎节节必到。面对喜极而泣的莫瑞教授，米奇许诺要跟他保持联系，但是后来米奇食言了。米奇从布兰戴斯毕业后几年，莫瑞教授被诊断患上了ASL症，不得不放弃了最热衷的爱好——跳舞。这种病让人逐渐无力，使其“灵魂清醒无比，却被禁锢在脆弱的躯壳里”。莫瑞的妻子夏洛特也是大学教授，对丈夫关怀备至，然而在莫瑞的坚持下，她还是继续在麻省理工大学教书。

从布兰戴斯大学毕业后的第16个年头，米奇感觉很沮丧，觉得自己选择的生活了无生趣。在叔父因患胰腺癌去世后，米奇放弃了做音乐家的梦想，受雇于底特律的一家报社，收入颇丰。他答应妻子珍妮他们总会有自己的孩子的，但是报导任务繁忙，终日劳顿不已。一天晚上，米奇正在电视前翻台，无意间听到了莫瑞教授的声音。莫瑞正参加一档名为“夜线”的电视节目，接受泰德·科佩尔的三场访谈，那天正好是第一场。莫瑞和科佩尔很快成为了朋友。在同意接受访谈前，莫瑞教授就让这位著名的新闻评论员大受震撼

viewed, 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

并深深触动，因为他问了科佩尔“什么离你的心最近”。在电视上见到昔日师长，米奇一时不知所措。

看过莫瑞的电视访谈，米奇跟这位自己最崇敬的教授联系上了，并且专门从底特律来到马萨诸塞州西纽顿市，准备登门拜访。可是去教授家的路上，米奇接到了制片人的电话，于是不得不推迟会面，这个决定令他日后后悔不已。

与教授重逢后又过了些日子，米奇到伦敦去采访温布尔登网球公开赛，忙得身心交瘁。工作间隙，他把通俗小报都丢在一边，细细咀嚼着莫瑞的话，发现自己找到了更多人生的意义，而那是无法从名人行踪和小道消息中悟到的。成群的记者疯狂地追踪着阿加西及其女友波姬·小丝，米奇差点被撞倒，这时他发觉自己真是舍本逐末，人生找错了方向。温网结束后他回到了底特律的家中，却得知连日来苦心经营的文章甚至不能发表，因为他所在的工会正在抵制这家报社。于是，米奇又一次前往波士顿拜见莫瑞。

与莫瑞共同度过了第一个星期二后，米奇每周的星期二都去聆听教授关于“人生意义”的课程。每次米奇都给莫瑞买吃的，然而莫瑞的身体每况愈下，已经不能吃固体食品了。在科佩尔三期“夜线”访谈的首次亮相中，莫瑞说面对日渐衰弱的身体，他最担心的是不知哪天上完洗手间，自己都无法弄干净身体。最终，这种担心变成了现实。



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.

In his childhood, Morrie had been very poor. His father, Charlie had been cold and dispassionate, and had neglected to provide for Morrie and his younger brother emotionally and financially. At the age of eight, Morrie must read the telegram that brings news of his mother's death, as he is the only one in his family who can read English. Charlie marries Eva, a kind woman who gives Morrie and his brother the love and affection they need. Eva also instills in Morrie his love of books and his desire for education. However, Charlie insists that Morrie keep his mother's death a secret, as he wants Morrie's younger brother to believe that Eva is his biological mother. This demand to keep his mother's death a secret proves a terrible emotional burden for young Morrie; he keeps the telegram all of his life as proof that his mother had existed. Because he was starved of love and affection during his childhood, Morrie seeks it out in his old age from his family and friends. Now that he is nearing his death, Morrie says that he has reverted to a figurative infancy, and tries in earnest "enjoy being a baby again." He and Mitch often hold hands throughout their sessions together.