

## English III Summer Enrichment - 2009

For your summer reading, you will read *the five people you meet in heaven* by Mitch Albom. Both the reading and written responses give you the opportunity to reflect upon the unique individual you are becoming.

Please purchase a spiral notebook (8 ½ by 11) for your responses. You will then use this journal in English III throughout the year.

I ask that you respond to the nine journal prompts below in your spiral notebook. Title and date each entry. Each journal entry should be approximately 1 to 1 ½ pages in length, but always feel free to write more. In your responses refer to the characters and the themes that you find in the novel, in addition to using examples from your own life.

1. Do you tend to believe in the idea of fate or destiny; in other words, that “there are no random acts?”(48), or do you believe in free will and the power to decide your path? Explain.
2. Consider the following quote: “Sacrifice is a part of life...It’s not something to regret. It’s something to aspire to” (93). Do you agree? Explain. Discuss a time in your life when you made a sacrifice for someone else OR when someone else made a sacrifice to benefit you.
3. Consider the following quote: “Holding anger is a poison. It eats you from inside. We think that hating is a weapon that attacks the person who harmed us. But hatred is a curved blade. And the harm we do, we do to ourselves” (141). Write a short narrative detailing an experience when you were able to let go of your anger and reconcile with someone in order to mend a broken relationship.
4. Consider the following quote: “Lost love is still love...Life has to end. Love doesn’t” (173). Do you agree? Why or why not? Discuss a time in your life when you lost or were separated from a loved one. What emotions were you feeling and how did you cope?
5. What ten goals do you hope to accomplish during your lifetime? Challenge yourself to think beyond goals concerning marriage and children. Include specific details concerning your dreams. In other words, don’t just say, “I want to travel.” Tell me where and what you hope to see and do while you are visiting.
6. Eddie carries many burdens at the time of his death. What burdens are you carrying right now?

7. Albom suggests that when we die, we select our own personal heaven. Describe what your heaven would be like. Invoke all the senses (sights, sounds, smells, taste, touch). It can certainly be a place you have visited in the past combined with certain idealistic qualities. Be creative!
8. After Eddie dies, he meets five people in heaven and each has an important lesson to share. Name five people you have encountered and what they have taught you. Some you may know very well (i.e. parent, teacher, best friend). However, you don't need to know the person well to have learned an important lesson from him/her (i.e. the freshman whose locker is next to yours; a customer you waited on; an elderly neighbor).
9. Describe a choice that left you feeling guilty. How did you deal with the shame?

Please follow these directions when completing journal #10. This essay should be word-processed using Times New Roman, 12-point font. Double-space, using 1-inch margins. Include a standard heading (Name, Instructor Name, Course Name, and Date) in the upper left corner. All assignments are due on the first day of school. Bring the novel, typed journal, and spiral notebook with you to class and expect to be assessed on your reading.

10. Albom moves from past to present by detailing fifteen of Eddie's birthdays throughout the story. Analyze how this stylistic technique helps convey his theme that "All endings are also beginnings" (1).

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [klodc@queenofpeacehs.org](mailto:klodc@queenofpeacehs.org).

