**Love, the Only Rational Act**

**Nothing in life can substitute for love. This is one of the great lessons taught in “Tuesdays with Morrie” by Mitch Albom. Morrie develops a fatal disease that slowly deteriorates his body. During his last weeks, he speaks his mind to an old student of his. He tells him that life means nothing if you haven’t loved and cared for anyone. He says, “Love is so supremely important” (Page 91).**

**As a child Morrie did not have the best life and live in poverty, though he remained optimistic and grateful. He did this because his step mother showed him love and compassion. “You can’t substitute material things for love or for gentleness or for tenderness or for a sense of comradeship” (Page 125). Morrie says this even as an adult. He knows that wealth wouldn’t have made him happy as a child if he had no love.**

**Another piece of evidence showing that love has no substitute is Morrie’s story about when he worked in a mental hospital. He mentioned that all of the people there came for well-off families, however, they weren’t happy. They weren’t shown love in the hospital, treated as if there weren’t real people. Morrie said, “Love each other or die” (Page 163). Without love you can’t actually feel alive, even if you have all the money in the world, just like a ghost who no one sees.**

**The last indication that comes to your attention that love is irreplaceable is Morrie’s hours. Everything he owned was old and worn down, he hadn’t bought anything new in years. Despite this he was always happy, and felt very wealthy because he was loved y so many people whom he loved back. “We are too involved in materialistic things, and they don’t satisfy us” (Page 84). Morrie was grateful and happy even in his time of death because of the love he felt from his family and close friends.**

**Morrie believed people focused too much on jobs, money, and possessions when all they really needed was love. People who have wealth but no love are not happy. People with careers and nic things but do not know love, are still lonely and sad at heart. Love is really all that one needs to find true happiness, and there’s no substitute for it. “Love is the only rational act.” ~Morrie Schwartz.**