

## Theme Analysis Compare-Contrast Paper: Shakespeare and Albom

In literature and the arts, different authors and artists deal with similar themes in a different manner. A theme is defined in your book as a message about life that the author is trying to get across through his or her poetry or prose. The theme is the philosophical point of view that is coming across in a work. Both the selection from Mitch Albom's Tuesdays with Morrie (page 950) and William Shakespeare's "The Seven Ages of Man" (page 945) deal with aging and dying. They deal with the subject of aging differently.

In a short typed paper, write about how both deal with this topic. We have discussed the poem in depth in class, and we have talked some about Tuesdays with Morrie. Remember that the perspective in the poem does not necessarily have to be Shakespeare's and the perspective presented in the Albom's selection does not have to be Albom's. In Shakespeare's poem it is the speaker's perspective. And in Tuesdays, it is Morrie's perspective.

Note: we listed the seven ages in class. 1. Crying, puking infant; 2. Whining schoolboy; 3. Over-emotional lover; 4. quick-tempered soldier; 5. severely judgmental judge; 6. decaying old man; 7. 2<sup>nd</sup> childishness and then into oblivion.

One can interpret a perspective that the speaker has about the act of living, aging, and dying. This perspective is in somewhat of a contrast to what one may interpret to be Morrie's perspective.

Write a three-paragraph essay contrasting the two pieces.

Paragraph 1: begin this paragraph with an attention-getter. Remember it should be general. It should not refer directly to either the poem or the selection. It can be more than a sentence long. Then provide the necessary information, the names of the works and the authors and a brief summary of both. Stay organized. Begin with Shakespeare and then move onto Albom. End the paragraph with a thesis statement. Example: In both of these works the theme of aging is dealt with in very different ways.

Paragraph 2: follow TIQA and analyze how the speaker in Shakespeare's poem views aging. Remember to have a topic sentence. Remember to tie quotes into your own words. When quoting poetry, it looks like this "All the world's a stage, / And all the men and women merely players" (line 1 – 2). Include the slash (/) to indicate line break. Remember, you can start and end a quote anywhere. So if all you want is "the world's a stage," then only include those words.

Paragraph 3: follow TIQA and analyze what Morrie's perspective of aging is. For the topic sentence, write something that indicates that the paragraph is contrasting with the one before it. For instance: This may be a popular opinion of aging, but Morrie, the dying professor from Tuesdays with Morrie, presents Albom's readers with a different perspective. And then after a similar topic sentence, analyze Morrie's perspective.