

Southfield Public Library

Time keeper by Mitch Albom

Discussion questions used at SPL January 13 & 14, 2015

1. Early in the book, Albom asks the reader to imagine a life without timekeeping... we have our watches and our clocks and our phones and our computers and our tvs telling us the time... what do you think life would be like without all those reminders?
2. Do you think we are paralyzed by worrying about time running out? What is the solution to that paralysis?
3. Like many other books, this story was told in alternate voices... Dor's, Sarah's and Victor's. Does this work well for this particular story? Was it too choppy? Smooth?
4. What did you think of the phrases that were bolded throughout the book... what did they mean to you as a reader?
5. This was a little book... was it enough of a story for you? Would you like it to have been longer?
6. What was the lesson Albom was trying to get across?
7. Why was Dor punished for "discovering" time? Or for trying to grab power? Or for daring to confront God?
8. P. 79.. there is a plan... do you think there is? Or do we have choices? Did you accept the plan once it was revealed?
9. P 80.. reason God limits man's days... what do you think it is? Were you surprised at Albom's answer? Do you agree? Do we see them as precious?
10. What did you think about cryonics? Is it a viable choice? Why would people do it?
11. How well did he do with Sarah ... were her actions and emotions believable? How would you describe her relationship with her mother?
12. What about Victor? Could a wealthy man do the things he did?
13. Would you choose to be frozen? What do you think life would be like if you came back to life even 50 years later?
14. Was Albom's voice even to you or was he a bit judgy to you?
15. Were there similarities between Dor and Victor? Were both intent on one thing to the exclusion of other things?
16. Were they happy in their lives?
17. Did this make you think about how you look at the time in your life? Do you rush through things to get to the next without enjoying what's in front of you?
18. How do you make yourself slow down?
19. Does changing two people's lives change the world?
20. What would you change if you controlled time?
21. Was this a bit like the movie It's a Wonderful Life... or maybe Dickens' A Christmas Carol? Is that a good thing or a bad thing or just a thing?

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General discussion questions

- For the person who chose the book – What made you want to read it? What made you pick it for the book club? Did it live up to your expectations?
- How is the book structured? First person? Third person? Flashbacks? Narrative devices? Do you think the author did a good job with it?
- How would you describe the author’s writing style? Concise? Flowery? How is language used in this book? Read aloud a passage that really struck you. How does that passage relate to the book as a whole?
- How effective is the author’s use of plot twists? Were you able to predict certain things before they happened? Did the author keep you guessing until the end?
- Did the book hold your interest?
- How important is the setting to the story? Did you feel like you were somewhere else? Did the time setting make a difference in the story? Did the author provide enough background information for you to understand the setting and time placement?
- Which is stronger in the book – the characters or the plots?
- Would you recommend this book to someone else? Why? And to whom?

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website address:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/13/mitch-albom-the-time-keeper-book_n_1881981.html

Tower of babel

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nimrod>



<http://www.alcor.org/> - cryonics