

# City Slickers

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**Directions:** Explain and/or respond to each of the following scenes from the movie City Slickers.

- 1) Mitch: Value this time in your life kids, because this is the time in your life when you still have your choices, and it goes by so quickly. When you're a teenager you think you can do anything, and you do. Your twenties are a blur. Your thirties, you raise your family, you make a little money and you think to yourself, "What happened to my twenties?" Your forties, you grow a little pot belly you grow another chin. The music starts to get too loud and one of your old girlfriends from high school becomes a grandmother. Your fifties you have a minor surgery. You'll call it a procedure, but it's a surgery. Your sixties you have a major surgery, the music is still loud but it doesn't matter because you can't hear it anyway. Seventies, you and the wife retire to Fort Lauderdale, you start eating dinner at two, lunch around ten, breakfast the night before. And you spend most of your time wandering around malls looking for the ultimate in soft yogurt and muttering "how come the kids don't call?" By your eighties, you've had a major stroke, and you end up babbling to some Jamaican nurse who your wife can't stand but who you call mama. Any questions?
  
- 2) Mitch Robbins: Have you ever had that feeling that this is the best I'm ever gonna do, this is the best I'm ever gonna feel... and it ain't that great?  
Station Manager: Happy Birthday.
  
- 3) Mitch Robbins: Alright Ed, your best day, what was it, twins in a trapeze, what?  
Ed Furillo: No, I don't wanna play.  
Mitch Robbins: C'mon, we did it.  
Ed Furillo: I don't feel like it.  
Mitch Robbins: Uh, okay.  
Ed Furillo: I'm 14 and my mother and father are fighting again... y'know, because she caught him again. Caught him... This time the girl drove by the house to pick him up. And I finally realized, he wasn't just cheating on my mother, he was cheating us. So I told him, I said, "You're bad to us. We don't love you. I'll take care of my mother and my sister. We don't need you any more." And he made like he was gonna hit me, but I didn't budge. And he turned around and he left. He never bothered us again. Well, I took care of my mother and my sister from that day on. That's my best day.  
Phil Berquist: What was your worst day?  
Ed Furillo: Same day.
  
- 4) Curly: Do you know what the secret of life is? [holds up one finger]  
Curly: This.  
Mitch: Your finger?  
Curly: One thing. Just one thing. You stick to that and the rest don't mean shit.  
Mitch: But, what is the "one thing?"  
Curly: [smiles] That's what you have to find out.

5) Why do the main characters look for different types of “experiences”?

Do these experiences give them what they were looking for?

In what ways do these experiences improve their lives?

In what ways do these experiences hurt and/or not improve their lives?

6) What does the movie/Mitch/Curly suggest you should do in your life to be happy, content, productive, etc. ?

7) One the most common mid-career changes is to .....TEACHING.

Why is this? Why is this “good”?

Why might this be unnecessary?