

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course Name and Number

Assignment Due Date

The Shawshank Redemption

The Shawshank redemption is regarded by many critics and viewers as the best movie ever made. Unlike other films of its time, it provides a fresh way of telling a story. It was not predictable or mundane. Instead, it left audiences with many questions and deep thoughts. The film was released in 1994 and was directed by Frank Darabont. The movie's resounding themes are friendship and hope. It is a movie about how people can make friendships that endure bad conditions and keep hope alive in the face of adversity. The director portrays these themes through the interesting characters. They all have unique personalities and stories woven together to show friendship, hope, and family.

The movie revolves around Andy Dufresne. In the beginning, he is a banker who is accused of murdering his wife and her lover. He is sentenced to serve consecutive life sentences for this crime at the Shawshank prison. While at Shawshank, he makes friends with Ellis 'Red' Redding. Red helps him procure a rock hammer and a large poster for his cell. Andy faces a lot of challenges at Shawshank. First, he is the victim of sexual assault at the hands of the Sisters. They taunt and torture him for months until their leader is finally transferred to another prison. Andy also starts to help the correctional officers with their taxes (Darabont).

The prison warden, Norton, sets him up to work in the library as a front to help him handle his finances. Andy helps him launder the proceeds of corruption from prison labor. As time goes by, Andy befriends another inmate, Tommy Williams. Andy helps him pass his GED

exams. Tommy tells them about his cellmate in another prison who took credit for the murders Andy had been accused of. Armed with this information, Andy approaches Warden Norton. Norton does not listen to him. Instead, he has Tommy killed and sends Andy to solitary confinement. When he comes out of solitary confinement, he tells Red of his dream of living in Zihuatanejo. He instructs to find a package under a tree in a hayfield. The next day, the guards find Andy's cell empty. Andy had escaped in the night through a hole he had been digging through the wall for 19 years. He takes all the money he had been laundering for the warden and leaves for Zihuatanejo. Red eventually joins him there when he is released, having served 40 years of his sentence (Darabont).

The movie's plot is perfectly set up. It starts dull and sad, then starts to rise with Andy's little triumphs. When he gets the library up and running and gets beer for his friends, the plot begins to rise. The climax comes with Andy's triumphant escape and the eventual reunion with Red. The director makes the best use of the characters and dialogue. Red's narration is central to delivering the story. The characters are unique, and the dialogue leaves the viewer in deep thought. The overarching themes are friendship and hope. These are relevant because all over the world, people go through situations of hopelessness. It is important not to give in to these situations. Instead, we should hang on and be patient, calm, and resilient in the face of adversity.

In my opinion, the filmmaker achieved their goal. The film was a success globally. Audiences related to the themes being portrayed. By making the audience identify with the protagonist, the creators give them an in-depth understanding of the theme. They can also celebrate the triumphs of the protagonists as the plot unfolds. This best exemplifies the theme of friendship. Hope is shown through Andy's resilience and subsequent triumph.

Work Cited

Darabont, Frank, director. *The Shawshank Redemption*. Netflix, 1994,

<https://www.netflix.com/watch/70005379?trackId=14277281&tctx=-97%2C-97%2C%2C%2C%2C%2C>. Accessed 3 Dec. 2021.

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