

Date 3 / 8 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle Shawshank RedemptionAuthor / Director / Frank Darabont

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I watched this movie on Amazon Prime videos on my computer at home one night while I was bored and home alone.

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc? )

*Shawshank Redemption* is about a banked named Andy Dufresne, who is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover, and thus sentenced to two consecutive life sentences at the Shawshank State Penitentiary. In prison, he befriends a man called "Red" played by Morgan Freeman, who is known to get people in prison the items they need as long as they compensate him in some way. Thus, Red gets for Andy a rock hammer, which he uses to create small stone chess pieces, as well as a large pictures of female celebrities to decorate his wall with. Soon enough Andy uses his financial skills to attain the interest of one of the guards, known as Byron Hadley, whom he informs about a financial loophole with regard to taxes. Once his abilities are discovered, Andy is transferred from working in the prison laundry to working in the library alongside an elderly inmate named Brooks, a pretext for his job as the financial advisor of the prison itself and the guards that work there. Knowing that he is innocent of the crime, Andy holds onto hope that he will be freed someday despite his instances of solitary confinement and punishment in the prison. About fifteen years after Andy has entered the penitentiary, the warden named Samuel Norton begins exploiting prison labor for public works, profiting by receiving negotiated bribery for his provided labors. He has Andy make the money profited seem like a realistic income by having him launder it under the fake identity of "Randall Stephens." Andy eventually escapes the prison, takes the laundered money, and reports the corruption of the prison to the local newspaper, causing Hadley to be arrested and Norton to commit suicide. Red eventually receives parole, and, filled with hope, visits Andy in Zihuatanejo, the place Andy always dreamed of living.

*Shawshank Redemption* is a movie about hope, optimism, and confinement. Even though Andy was sentenced to two life sentences in prison, a physically impossible punishment, he still maintained hope that he would somehow escape and live in paradise in Mexico, where he wouldn't have to deal with any problems, issues, or worries in his life. He set his mind to escaping and attaining the justice that the rightfully deserved, and thus, by believing in himself, he conquered the seemingly insurmountable barriers that held him back from living, escaping the prison under the motive of beginning a new life. This movie truly encourages the viewer to never lose hope, because, even in the toughest of times, there is still a possibility of success and change for the better. Moreover, Andy's unfair confinement behind bars speaks to much more than just physical walls and barriers that restrict and impede a person in life. His escape proves that no matter what is taken away from a person in life, whether it be family, friends, or practically anything he loves, that places him in a metaphorical prison, it is still always worth trying to push through and to follow one's dreams and aspirations. Even when there is seemingly nothing one can do, it is entirely worth pursuing those sandy beaches, waves, and sunshine, even if it is one step at a time, because when one finally achieves success, he will at last feel clean and free, like he has escaped from prison, and he will realize that that moment alone was definitely worth trying for.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

The Bible and the quote "Salvation lies within" mentioned by Warden Norton are significant symbols in *Shawshank Redemption*. They represent the fact that freedom can only be achieved when one actually believes he is free, mentally leaving behind all of his problems in pursuit of a greater future. Walls and bars are also important and obvious symbols within the movie, as they are inherent aspects of a prison itself and represent those boundaries that inhibit people from achieving their goals. Andy is restricted from achieving the perfect life he has always wanted, but he nevertheless pursues his dreams, with faith in himself and his eventual freedom, resulting in his ultimate success.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

*Shawshank Redemption*, though outwardly one of the most monotonous and repetitive movies I have ever seen, as the majority of the movie takes place in a dry, dreary, and drab penitentiary, is probably one of the movies that I have most come to appreciate throughout this project. The movie is packed with insight and meaning, and, despite the fact that the literalness of the movie will most likely and hopefully not be relevant to my life, the metaphoric implications that it implies definitely are relevant and worthwhile. Firstly, life itself never exists without any speed bumps or barriers that get in the way, and Andy's imprisonment is a great representation of that very truth. Although rather extreme in this case, Andy's escape from prison symbolizes the conquering and defeating of one's personal walls and barriers that either arise physically or mentally, and the first step in succeeding in this process is genuinely believing in oneself and the prospects of the future. If people fail to look forward to end results of their goals and aspirations, then they will never be able to reach them because they lack an inspiration on which to act upon, and that is why hope should never be lost. Personally, I have experienced severe mental blockages with my tennis abilities when I compete in tournaments and competitions, never even thinking about contemplating success because I ultimately do not believe in my skills or talents as a tennis player. Because I never possess any sort of hope or optimism when I am playing this sport, I find myself rarely coming out on top because I mentally let my walls and barriers get in the way. All in all, I find *Shawshank Redemption* to be extraordinarily poetic because it not only encourages the viewer to maintain their hope and faith under all circumstances, but also because it promotes self-determination and proves the extent to which things can be accomplished if a person truly sets his mind to it.

over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)