

Jack Ryan
English 2XL
Section 4
PV Movie CM #2

The Shawshank Redemption

The Shawshank Redemption is the story of a genius. Anybody who says Andy Dufresne is not a genius has issues, because he managed to break out of a prison using a miniature pickax with hundreds of thousands of dollars waiting for him on the other side of prison walls and a plan to get across the border. Along the way, he built a library, got books for the library, did everybody's taxes, helped many prisoners get their high school diplomas, and battled a corrupt warden and won. In other words, Andy is not a selfish guy; rather, he is selfless and makes the most out of being falsely accused of murder.

Andy Dufresne lives a poetic life because he still does good and still seems to have faith in humanity even though he has been falsely accused of double murder and the only witness that could possibly get him out of jail has been killed...by the warden of the prison. He knows that people can be bad, for he is at a prison after all, but people can also change and be good, like Red.

Red from *Shawshank Redemption* goes through one of the biggest transformations I've ever seen in a character before. For all of his life, he has sarcastically sat in front of a parole board and said the exact same thing every single time, sort of as an act of defiance saying "you will never change me." But when Andy escapes, Red transforms completely. He has an instantaneous newfound respect for how smart Andy is, and his view of humanity changes. The next time he goes in front of the parole board, he speaks from his heart, still defiantly, but it is genuine, true, and speaks out to the members of the board. He is granted his parole, and eventually meets back up with Andy in Mexico.