

PV Log: (circle one) Poem / **Movie** / Picture / LyricDate 1/18/14Title The Shawshank RedemptionAuthor / Director / Frank Darabont

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

On the required list for Poetic Vision, watched it at home with my dad

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

Andy Dufresne is a banker who is convicted of murdering his wife and her lover in 1947. He is sentenced to life at Shawshank State Penitentiary, where he doesn't seem to fit in. He makes friends with a man named Red, who is the go-to guy when you need something from outside prison walls. Initially, Andy is assaulted regularly by the same group, but after a while, Andy wins favor in the eyes of the prison guards and the warden for his accounting skills, and they make sure the assaults stop. Andy begins to make a difference in the prison, building a library and teaching prisoners. He also does taxes for every prison guard and the warden. The warden, Norton, starts a program where his inmates do community service, and he starts to receive bribes from local business owners so that they can get the work rather than the prisoners. He has Andy launder the money using an alias. Later, a man named Tommy arrives at Shawshank, and he befriends Andy and Red. Andy helps Tommy receive his high school diploma. When Tommy finds out what Andy is in jail for, he tells a story of the man who actually killed Andy's wife and her lover. Andy takes it to the warden to see if he could get another trial, but the warden puts him in solitary confinement for a month. The warden takes Tommy outside to find out if the story is true, and when Tommy says it is, the warden has Tommy shot and killed. After Andy gets out of confinement, he starts acting strange, and it is revealed that he was given a 6 foot rope. Red is scared for Andy and cannot sleep. The next morning, Andy is not there for roll call, and the warden has no clue where he could've gone. In his anger, he throws a stone at the poster on Andy's wall, ripping it and revealing a tunnel leading to the sewer where Andy escaped. At the end of the movie, Red is released on parole and fulfills a promise to Andy, finding a note from him asking him to join him in Mexico. Red breaks his parole and reunites with Andy in Mexico.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

This is an amazing movie with tons of meaning packed into just a couple hours. As with any major prison movie, a huge theme in Shawshank Redemption is walls and barriers. Being locked behind bars is means being trapped by something, metaphorically something other than bars. Andy locking himself in the warden's office to play music shows Andy temporarily locking everything out and enjoying the moment. Another theme is salvation. The warden says "Salvation lies within," talking about the bible, and Andy certainly uses that quote literally as we see at the end of the movie. Salvation lies within. Within ourselves, within each other, within the bible (which is metaphorical for believe, faith, hope, love, etc), within our minds. Only we can free ourselves from mental burdens. If we believe that we have been saved, then we have.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

This movie is full of symbolism, and much of it is hard to catch if you don't pay attention closely. One of the biggest symbols I see is the symbol of bars/walls as with any prison movie. They prevent us from achieving our goals. Another great symbol is the bible. The bible represents everything that is good such as hope, faith, belief, love. In the case of Shawshank, it even hides inside it a small ax to be used as means of escape. Another symbol is the symbol of the warden's polished shoes. These shoes along with crossing the border into Mexico represent Andy's new life, his new start free from the barriers of prison. They represent his dreams coming to reality.

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

This is a great movie. My dad told me before hand it was probably one of the greatest movies of all time, and he wasn't joking or being sarcastic like he usually is when he says something like that. This movie is great for many reasons. First off, any movie that has Morgan Freeman narrating it is okay in my book. But seriously, this movie had crazy amounts of insight packed into it. There are many dynamic relationships, especially the one between Andy and Red, that give any viewer insight into their own lives. Red changes greatly throughout the movie, particularly shown through his hearings with the parole board. The first few hearings shown in the movie result in Red saying the exact same thing sarcastically every time and Red getting rejected every time. In his final hearing, he actually opens up to reveal how he truly feels, proving he actually is a changed man. This change was catalyzed by Andy and probably wouldn't have occurred without him.

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