

Shawshank Redemption Film Critique

1. Consider the significance of the title *Shawshank Redemption*. “Redemption” is defined as “the action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.” Some synonyms are “forgiveness”, “rebirth”, or “salvation.” Which character(s) is the title intended for? Who was finding redemption at Shawshank? Explain.
2. Why is hope so important in the film? Andy and Red’s ideas on hope differed.
Red: *“Hope? Let me tell you something, my friend. Hope is a dangerous thing. Hope can drive a man insane. It’s got no use on the inside. You’d better get used to that idea.”*
Andy: *“Fear can hold you prisoner. Hope can set you free.”*

Who do you think was right given their context/setting?

3. The movie revolves around several different themes or life lessons, including:

- Life isn’t always fair
- The value of persistence & perseverance
- The value of taking the moral high ground
- Sometimes you need to think outside the box to solve a problem
- In helping others, you often help & feel better about yourself
- Being respectful earns you respect
- What comes around goes around
- Value of friendship

Choose ONE of these themes/life lessons and reflect on:

- a. Where do you see that theme/lesson in the film? (Provide 2 specific examples from the film)
 - b. What lesson or message did you take away from the film about this theme?
4. Thoughts on the film:
 - a. **Give the movie a star rating.** Now that you've done some active viewing and thinking about the movie, how many stars would you give it (on a 5-star scale)? Explain your answer in 2-3 sentences. (Your response could explain whether you thought the movie was good, what was memorable about it, what character or scene stood out to you and why, etc.)

