

ENGLISH PROJECT

BEHIND BARS: THE ROAD TO REDEMPTION

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION



STUDENT BOOKLET

NAME: _____

“HOPE IS A GOOD THING,
MAYBE THE BEST OF THINGS,
AND NO GOOD THING EVER DIES.”

- ANDY DUFRESNE

HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET



As we watch *The Shawshank Redemption*, your job is to collect evidence about three key themes:



FEAR

How do people react when they are frightened, uncertain or powerless?



HOPE

What gives people hope during difficult times?



DETERMINATION

How do people continue moving forward when life is challenging?

You will take notes in this booklet while watching the film. These notes will help you with class discussions and with your final five-paragraph essay.

DIVIDING THE FILM



We will divide the film into three parts:

1

BEGINNING

The introduction of Shawshank Prison, the main characters and their lives before Andy arrives, his first time at Shawshank.

2

MIDDLE

Life inside Shawshank and the relationships that develop between the characters.

3

TURNING POINT / ENDING

Important events that change the direction of the story and lead towards the conclusion.



REMEMBER:

Look for examples of the themes through all characters and through the plot. Use short, clear notes when you watch!



BEGINNING

(Andy's arrival at Shawshank)



IMPORTANT EVENTS

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



FEAR

What examples of fear can you find?
Think about Andy, Red, other prisoners, the guards and prison life.

- _____
- _____
- _____



HOPE

What examples of hope can you find?
Think about friendship, the library, dreams, and moments of freedom.

- _____
- _____
- _____



DETERMINATION

What examples of determination can you find?
Think about perseverance, problem-solving, and trying to give up.

- _____
- _____
- _____

BEGINNING REFLECTION

Which emotion (Fear, Hope or Determination) was the strongest in this part of the film? Why?



2

MIDDLE

(Life at Shawshank)



IMPORTANT EVENTS

-
-
-
-
-
-



FEAR

What examples of fear can you find?

Think about Andy, Red, other prisoners, the guards and prison life.

-
-
-
-



HOPE

What examples of hope can you find?

Think about friendship, the library, dreams, and moments of freedom.

-
-
-
-



DETERMINATION

What examples of determination can you find?

Think about perseverance, problem-solving, and finding a way to go on.

-
-
-
-

MIDDLE REFLECTION

How is life at Shawshank Prison changing during this part of the story?



3

TURNING POINT / ENDING

(Events leading to the conclusion)



IMPORTANT EVENTS

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



FEAR

What examples of fear can you find?

Think about Andy, Red, other prisoners, the guards and prison life.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



HOPE

What examples of hope can you find?

Think about friendship, the library, dreams, and moments of freedom.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



DETERMINATION

What examples of determination can you find?

Think about perseverance, problem-solving, and refusing to give up.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

TURNING POINT / ENDING REFLECTION

Which character changed the most during the film? Why?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



FINAL REFLECTION



Use the space below to think about the film as a whole.



1

WHICH THEME IS MOST IMPORTANT IN THE FILM?

(Fear, Hope or Determination?) Why?

2

HOW DOES ANDY CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE STORY?

3

HOW DOES SHAWSHANK (THE PRISON) CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE STORY?

4

WHICH SCENES OR MOMENTS WOULD YOU USE AS EVIDENCE IN AN ESSAY? Why are they important?

**“GET BUSY LIVING,
OR GET BUSY DYING.”**

- ANDY DUFRESNE



NOTES / EVIDENCE TRACKER

Use this page while watching the film to collect short notes and examples for your essay.



FEAR

EXAMPLES / SCENES

WHAT HAPPENED?

IDEAS / NOTES

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |



HOPE

EXAMPLES / SCENES

WHAT HAPPENED?

IDEAS / NOTES

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |



DETERMINATION

EXAMPLES / SCENES

WHAT HAPPENED?

IDEAS / NOTES

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

REMEMBER WHILE WATCHING:



Stay focused on the film.



Look for examples of the themes.



Take short notes (not full sentences).



Enjoy the story!

ESSAY EVIDENCE

Key scenes or moments to use in my essay:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

