

## RECOMMENDED FILM

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|----------|----------------------|
| Courses: | BACCALAUREATE        |
| Skill:   | OPTIMISM             |
| Film:    | SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION |
| Month:   | January              |

**b!Character**

Programme for the development of habits and strengths

### FILM INFO

Title: The Shawsank Redemption

Director: Frank Darabont

Year: 1994

Duration: 142 minutes

Production: USA

Genre: Drama

Music: Thomas Newman

Streaming services where available:



### SYNOPSIS:

In 1947 Andy Dufresne, the Vice-president of a bank in Portland is accused of killing his wife, and his wife's lover, a famous golfer, and he is condemned to two life sentences for each person he has killed. Even though there is no conclusive proof that he committed the crimes, he is sent to Shawshank prison.

Over the years he manages to gain the trust of the prison governor and the respect of his fellow prisoners, especially that of Red (Morgan Freeman), the head of a bribery mafia.

### QUOTES FROM THE FILM

"It's funny, on the outside I was an honest man. Straight as an arrow. I had to come to prison to become a thief."

"Remember Red, hope is a good thing, it could be the best of things and there is nothing good that dies altogether".

"Think what you want. These walls are fun. At first you hate them, then you get used to them, and after enough time you end up depending on them. That's being *institutionalised*".

### QUESTIONS FOR YOUR FILM GROUP

1. How is it possible for oppressed people to remain hopeful in situations like those of Andy or Red? How would you manage with such a dark future ahead of you? Why does Brooks feel more comfortable in prison than outside it?
2. Why did Andy get a red harmonica? What did this mean?
3. Why do Red and Andy not agree on whether or not they should hope for a better life? Do class and race affect their points of view?

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4. One of the most universal stories in literature and film is that of "a stranger comes to town", or to put it another way, someone new in a place with established habits, rules and traditions and who confronts the established order or who questions how things are done. Is this film an example of this type of story? What examples can you think of with respect to films and books in which "a stranger comes to town?"
5. How do the characters in the film demonstrate their integrity and optimism? Why are these qualities important?