

WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE FILM LIST

The Shawshank Redemption

Directed by Frank Darabont (1994)

When a successful, young businessman is convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of his wife, his life changes drastically. “The Shawshank Redemption” examines how the love present in the human encounter of friendship breaks through even the strongest of prisons. This film’s unconventional depiction of friendship teaches us that even in the deepest prisons of despair, hope can set us free.

Guide questions for discussion groups

- Recall four moments in the film where the characters were able to express their freedom. What does this tell us about the nature of freedom, hope and redemption?
- Is a person inevitably sensitive to humanity regardless of his or her individual situation?
- Andy and Red discuss the meaning of hope. Red then gets up and walks away. Why do you think he does this?
- Give one example from your own life where hope has fuelled your courage in face of difficulties.
- Compare and contrast the experience of Brooks from the experience of Red, following their release. How does Red’s friendship with Andy inform his decision-making?