

Name:
Period:

Date:

Romans (& The Shawshank Redemption)

To make the connection between Paul and the film, you'll need to see the film as an allegory or parable (this is intentional, by the way, but more on that later), with the following parallels:

Prison The "powers of this world," or life under Roman rule for Paul. The warden and prison guards are oppressive rulers.

Zihuatanejo, (and the Pacific Ocean) Salvation, or the Kingdom of God, where God "forgets" our sins.

Andy Dufresne The film's Christ-figure. More on this later. For now, notice that the movie opens with the question of his guilt or innocence. Be on the lookout for scenes that parallel Jesus' baptism, death, empty tomb (It's a miracle!), and resurrection.

Red Redding The film's Paul figure (note that he's the one telling the story). Notice how Red's attitude towards prison and the possibility of escape or parole are changed by knowing Andy.

230. Like the Bible, Shawshank opens with a story involving the violation of a commandment from God and "forbidden fruit," which causes everything that happens afterwards. What is this sin, and who committed it?

231. What is life like for Andy and the other prisoners in Shawshank? How are they treated by the guards?

232. How does Andy become useful to the guards, and how is he able to turn this into opportunities to improve the lives of the other prisoners? Notice that everything Andy does for the prisoners is directed towards a specific goal. What is it?

233. What does it mean to be "institutionalized"? How does Brooks represent this?

234. What does Red think about hope, and why?

235. What does Andy think about hope, and why?

236. Was Andy guilty or innocent of his wife's murder? Why do you think so? (Think carefully on that one)

237. In what way is Andy changed by his suffering in prison? Is it in any way redemptive?

238. Why does the parole board finally release Red?

239. What do the gun and the compass in the pawn shop window represent? Why are they appropriate symbols?

240. Ultimately, why was Andy able to survive in prison without being "institutionalized"? What is the connection between this and his efforts to help the other prisoners?

241. At various points in the film, Andy makes choices that he knows will bring him more suffering. Why does he make these choices, why do these choices look crazy from the perspective of the other prisoners?