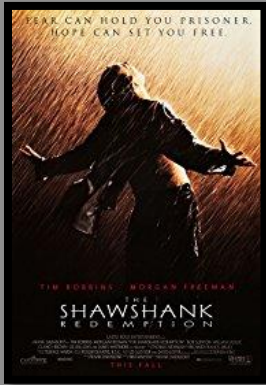


# THE CAREER AUTHOR



Bonus Episode 6 // *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994) // 140 minutes



*Two imprisoned men bond over a number of years, finding solace and eventual redemption through acts of common decency.*

Genre: Crime/Drama

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0111161/>

**Internal:** MORALITY STORY (arch-plot Hero's Journey), REDEMPTION sub-genre

**External:** CRIME, PRISON sub-genre

Progressive Complication (1:38:00) - The Turn right before the Crisis moment when the Warden gives Andy an ultimatum/threat - continue helping or suffer my wrath. This could also be Andy's "All is Lost Moment" after 2 months in solitary.

Crisis (1:45:00) - Does Andy stay in the prison and live comfortably despite being innocent or does he risk breaking out? Illustrated by quote, "You're either busy living or busy dying."

Inciting Incident (6:14) - Although it could be the verdict in the courtroom, it is probably when Andy is entering Shawshank for the first time, passing beneath the massive, stone walls.

Climax (1:50:00) - Andy decides to break out of prison which begins with a clever scene where we *think* Andy is going to hang himself in his cell--a mirror of Brooks' suicide scene.

Resolution (1:51:00) - Andy is gone and Red reveals his escape. Red has his own resolution at 2:05:00 when he is paroled.

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*"Get busy living, or get busy dying."*

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# THE THREE FIVE ACTS?

## **Act I**

Andy is convicted and his life inside the prison is established. He keeps to himself and is focused solely on his own survival.

## **Act II - Approx. 25% mark (00:35:00)**

The second act begins when the Red's crew get to work on the roof. Andy curries favor with the guards and gets Red and men beers. In the years that follow, Andy gets in deeper with the guards which in turn protects his friends. However, he begins to go off the rails beginning with the record player incident.

## **Act III - Approx. 60% mark (01:20:00)**

Tommy's arrival and subsequent revelation (he knows who killed Andy's wife) begin Act III. Andy's Crisis comes at around 01:38:00 when the warden gives him an ultimatum after killing Tommy.

## **Act IV - Approx. 70% mark (01:40:00)**

Act IV begins when Andy and Red are talking against the wall and Andy tells Red about the hayfield. We now know that Andy has chosen an escape attempt. The act ends with Andy's escape.

## **Act V - Approx. 90% mark (02:05:00)**

Although this could be part of Act IV, the second Resolution occurs when Red is paroled in 1966, following him until he is reunited with Andy.

The Protagonist –  
Andy Dufresne

### **Wants?**

To break out of prison.

### **Needs?**

To be recognized as an innocent man.



The Antagonist –  
Warden Norton

### **Wants?**

To increase his personal wealth.

### **Needs?**

To be in control.



# CHARACTER ARCHETYPES

**The  
Mentor -  
Red**

**Threshold  
Guardian -  
Brooks**

**Herald -  
Brooks**

**Shape  
Shifter -  
Hadler (2x)  
Tommy**

**Shadow -  
The warden,  
the prison,  
the guards,  
Bogs & "the  
sisters"**

**The Ally -  
Red, Hadler,  
Randall  
Stevens**

**The  
Trickster -  
Heywood  
Tommy**

\*More on Campbell's archetypes - <https://mythcreants.com/blog/the-eight-character-archetypes-of-the-heros-journey/>

## DOES THE MOVIE WORK? WHY OR WHY NOT?

**J & Zach:** Although not exactly matching a traditional 3-act structure, this movie is as close to perfect as you can get. Engaging, meaningful, and timeless.

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