

Intro: The way in which a character is portrayed can have a significant effect on our understanding of a theme or issue in a text. Compare the extent to which the portrayal of one character in each of at least two texts on your comparative course affected your understanding of the same theme or issue.

Introduction: From my reading of Shawshank and Educated. I believe their central theme or issue is very similar and comparable. In Educated we are introduced to the character Tara Westover, Tara Westover throughout the text changes dramatically from a child. At the beginning Tara Westover was completely trusting of her father. However Tara begins to rethink her life after Tara is exposed to the harm she sees in herself and her family suffering. While in Shawshank Andy Dufresne is framed for the murder of his wife and her new lover. He is wrongfully sent to prison for life. His physical freedom is completely taken away from him.

BP1:

In Educated, Tara Westover recalls her memories from her past, and tells a story of her life with her Mormonist family, full of abuse and exploitations. She is believed to be physically free but truly isn't. The run for the hills bag is a perfect example of this. Her physical freedom is her father's rules. She isn't aware of what true freedom was until she truly felt it with her joining dance classes for the first time. This is where she was outside her father's grasp and truly felt what it was like to be free. However once her father hears of this he is unhappy with this and kicks her out once he sees her uniform.

In Shawshank every inmate in Shawshank prison is locked up metaphorically and physically as well. There are many levels as of isolation in the prison. The prison is a multilayered world completely different from what outside was. Thus prisoners who once finally leaves is unable to function in the outside world. From the large yard to the cell blocks and to the lonely solitary cells. The bars, the guards, the sisters and the schedules highlight the lack of physical freedom these prisoners have.

BP2:

Through the story of Tara, the power of knowledge is highlighted over and over again. From giving Tara true freedom and living a life outside her father's grasp. Tara first hears of this from her brother Tyler, she believes her life would be better if she could gain more knowledge. Tara worked very hard and suffers to gain the knowledge to go to school. After hearing of Tyler, she knows that education is the way to bring more potential to her life. Throughout her life, the more knowledge she gets the more she becomes aware of her horrid past life and manages to finally escape what was once a hole.

In Shawshank The power of hope is what drives Andy to escape, despite Red's warning of hope can be dangerous "hope is a dangerous thing. Hope can drive a man insane." , Andy ignores this and pushes on eventually leading to his physical freedom. "a good, may be the best of things, and no good thing ever dies." These two quotes is the difference between Red and Andy. Where these two views are shown from each other life experiences and perspective. A stark contrast between the two good friends. These two men came from completely different experiences. Where one is guilty the other is completely honest man. Hope to Red is like a fire , a fire that can be quickly extinguished and to Andy hope is like magma; slow but waiting to erupt.

BP3:

Furthermore in Shawshank the world is represented as a corrupt and evil place, Andy is wrongfully framed as a murderer and the judges don't believe his story and sends him to prison for life. In prison Andy encounters corruption everywhere, Andy is forced to adapt to this new environment and wants to gain protection from the sisters who constantly rapes him. So he helps with the guards and the warden to launder money and do their taxes to make sure he gets protection and avoid getting a cellmate. However the warden who's corrupt and only cares for himself embezzles money, and runs illicit businesses. He also uses the prisoners as free labor to blackmail businessmen who he affects, an example of this is where the lumberjack is forced to pay the warden money to make sure the prisoners labor don't force him out of business. Tommy Williams is also unfortunately another victim of the warden's corruption. Tommy tells the warden of the truth about Andy however the warden fatally shoots Tommy to keep Andy in his prison to continue making him launder money. The warden's tyranny finally comes to an end near the end of the film where he commits suicide to avoid going back to prison from Andy releasing all the information about his crimes.

BP4:

Tara Westover is forced to live a life away from her family to pursue college in Utah. She originally struggled with moving away from her family, however she managed to adapt to this change and excel at her education. However it wasn't easy, she had to have multiple jobs to help finance herself and maintain high grades to keep her scholarship. Although when she returned to Buck's Peak, her dad convinced her to help him with his work while Shawn continued

to abuse and mistreat her. She disclosed to a bishop about her life and family and only then realized how truly closed off was she from the rest of the world. She changed to go to Cambridge and her knowledge only expanded from there, but she was still very closed off from her professors and her teachers. Although she struggled to communicate with others, she still managed to overcome and persevere a master's in England. But in all this success her family was growing more and more distant. She eventually managed to finally to obtain a PHD but in return she was essentially exiled from her own family.

Conc:

Tara Westover and Andy can be compared to each other and find similarities in some aspects while they are also very different. They both don't have physical freedom however Tara was born without it and Andy's physical freedom was taken away from him. Throughout Tara's life she was ridiculed with her father's mormonism. She escaped her family's grasp using education and finally earned true freedom. However Andy DuFraene is a bit more of a different story, his freedom id wrongfully taken away from him but his resilience and hope is what keeps him going to escape. He uses hope as his driving factor to survive two decades in Shawshank. Despite Red's warning of hope, he ignores this and with patience and toughness. He digs through the wall to escape to Mexico.