**The Shawshank Redemption is a wonderful prison movie. It features the process how Andy, a man who claims his innocence flees the Shawshank prison and tells us what are friendship, patience, hope, survival and ultimate redemption by the time of the film's finale.**

**Institutionalization is a major theme in Shawshank Redemption. Many prisoners have been in the prison for so long that they have been institutionalized, which means the only life that they know is the one within the prison walls. For example, Brooks lived most of his life in the prison, so when released he does not know how to live in the outside world. Things have changed so much while he was in prison and he even thinks of crimes he could commit in order to be thrown back into prison. He eventually commits suicide because he cannot handle life in the real world.**

**However, Andy is quite different from other people in Shawshank. He has a strong belief that there is always hope. Hope is scattered throughout this excellent film. First, let us see the famous scene-beer on the roof.**

**(9. Beer on the roof. 5 minutes)This is an uplifting scene as we watch the harsh, unbreakable walls of Shawshank dissolve away for the men as they sit in the sun and drink cold bottles of beer. It is significant because Andy has just brought freedom to these people and Andy can do it just because he has hope. In this scene, bright lighting and colour symbolises freedom.The guard’s faces are in shadow while the inmates are working. Grass outside the prison is bright green – this shows a juxtaposition of the two settings – the inside and the outside. Prisoners can see green from the rooftops (hope, freedom) contrasted with the grey walls of the prison walls and grounds (institutionalisation, power corruption). Sun shines on the inmates’ faces while they drink beer – freedom and the guards are in shadow in the distance with the prison walls behind them. We can see lots of blue sky in the background, almost to the horizon, inmates feel a sense of freedom on the rooftops.**

**Next, let us see another scene which symbolises hope. Andy plays music to the prisoners over the loud speaker. He gives the inmates hope and makes them feel like free men again. (19. Time for Mozart. 4 minutes)**

**In this scene there is a mid-shot of Andy who is relaxed with his feet up on the desk. The camera is level with him and there is sunlight shining on his face. The shot reveals Andy has the same look on his face as in the ‘Rooftop Scene’. He is allowing the prisoners to have some freedom again.**

**Hope triumphs gloriously in the end. It only takes 19 years. Andy escapes the hard way. (Andy’s way out 6 minutes)**

**The escape scene is one of the most important scenes in the whole film. In this scene, the dramatic tension reaches a breaking point. There are many factors that add dramatic tension to the story, especially in this scene. One of these is voiceover. The director chose to have narration throughout this film. The sound of Red’s narration tells Andy’s story. The voiceover is important because we can make links and Red points them out. He also gives just cause for Andy’s actions. He is our guide on this journey – the story of Andy’s life in Shawshank. An example of this is in the final scene. When the guards discover that Andy is missing, Red is taken in with them in case he knows what has happened. This adds much tension because the audience is watching from Reds perspective and he does not know anything.**

**The second factor is music. The way that it is built up and speeds up when the warden finds the escape hole that Andy climbed through, adds a scary fell to the scene. This is because it makes the audience feel tense and hooked in the story, and as the music starts to race, so does their heart beat causing them to be on the edge of their seats.**

**The third factor is camera shots. The most effective of all these shots is the worm’s eye. This takes place when the warden has just found the whole, and the camera shoots up the holes. This adds tension because the audience can see the mere size of the hole that Andy climbed through. It is also quite intimidating because it makes the warden seem much bigger than he is, because the camera is looking up at him. This adds tension because it makes the audience feel that he is big and strong and who knows what he is capable of.**