**Film Review: The Shawshank Redemption**

**Human Rights Violated**

* A court found protagonist Andy Dufresne guilty of the murder of his wife and her new partner. Andy was sentenced to two life sentences in Shawshank Prison, even though he was not guilty of the back to back murders (Article #9 Violated)
* Captain Hadley (captain of the prison guards) verbally and physically abused a prisoner who simply asked, “When do we eat?” Hedley referred to him as a “Mother F\*\*\*\*\*,” and took a swift blow to his stomach. (Article # 5, #1, #19 violated)
* A new prisoner at Shawshank began weeping in his cell in the middle of the night. Captain Hadley opened his cell and beat him with his baton until he couldn’t move. (Article #5 Violated)
* A group of three prisoners known as “The Sisters,” beat and raped Andy. Even though Andy attempted to fight back, he was beaten, and then they raped him. They raped him on a regular basis. (Article #5 violated)
* As the prisoners were working outside, Andy asked Captain Hadley if he trusted his wife. Hadley took his question offensively and attempted to kill Dufresne by throwing him off a rooftop. Andy spoke his way out and survived (Article # 3 #1 violated)
* The Sisters captured Andy once again, and they pinned him down and attempted to rape him. Andy refused, so they beat him with an inch of his life. Andy spent a whole week in the infirmary. (Article #5 violated)
* The leader of the sisters spent one month in solitary confinement. The day he was released, he walked back to his cell and saw Captain Hadley waiting in his cell. Hadley beat him so bad, that the Sisters never laid a finger on Andy again, and he was left with two broken legs and one broken arm (Article #5 violated)
* Andy Dufresne speaks with Warden Norton regarding the story that Tommy told him, where he had a cell mate who was guilty of killing his wife and her lover. Norton ignores his story and sends him to solitary for one month (Article # 18 #19 violated)
* Warden Norton speaks with Tommy alone and asks him to swear if his story was the truth, and he did. Later he had prison guards shoot him. (Article #5 violated)
* Prison Warden Samuel Norton used Andy’s banking knowledge and financial intelligence to start a money laundering scheme (Article # 4 violated)

**Effect of Abuse (Characters/ Society)**

1. Brooks Hatlen: Brooks was an elder gentleman who lived in Shawshank prison since the 1910’s, so approximately 50 years. He adapted to the six wardens that had taken position in the prison and adapted to their unfair treatment, especially the current Warden Samuel Norton and his assistant Captain Hadley. After several years of being imprisoned, Hatlen grew to be institutionalized, because he learned to appreciate his surroundings in the prison, people respected him, and he was the librarian. Hatlen seemed to disregard how prisoners were often beaten for asking questions, or if Hadley sensed the slightest bit of backtalk because he was used to seeing it often. When Brooks was released out of prison, he couldn’t live with himself because inside the prison everyone respected him, but outside of prison he felt like nobody. Brooks commit suicide in his apartment after being released from Shawshank Prison.
2. Andy Dufresne (Protagonist): Andy was shocked and dismayed that he was convicted 2 life sentences in prison for killing his wife and another man, even though he wasn’t guilty. One of his first experiences at Shawshank prison was when he met Warden Norton and Captain Hadley with other prisoners. Andy appeared shocked to Hadley viciously assaulted a prisoner verbally and physically when he simply asked “When do we eat?” It took Andy two months until he started speaking with other prisoners. Andy was confused with his first encounter with “The Sisters” because he wasn’t sure what they were trying to do. The first time Andy was raped; he attempted to fight back but failed. Andy became used to the Sisters, and sometimes he was able to fight them off with weapons such as rakes or shovels, but he usually was raped and got used to it until Hadley nearly beat one member of the gang till he was paralyzed. Andy Spoke with Warden Norton when he discovered Tommy’s story; that he had a cell mate who pleaded guilty of the crime Andy received two life sentences for. Warden Norton disregarded Andy’s story and didn’t give him a chance because he knew if he did, his money laundering scheme would be finished. Andy grew very upset when Norton called Hadley to throw him into solitary for one month, and this is when Andy began to come up with his plan to escape Shawshank prison. Andy recognized for how twisted Shawshank Prison really was, until Norton had him thrown into solitary.
3. Society: The prisoners of Shawshank were terrified because several of their rights have been stripped, and they are intimidated by the prison guards, especially Captain Hadley who was known for beating prisoners until they were brutally injured. One night a newcomer at Shawshank began to weep in his cell, so Hadley ordered him to stop crying. He didn’t, so he opened his cell and beat him until he couldn’t move. Even though many of the prisoners were unaware of how twisted Norton’s money laundering scheme was, they instantly picked up on how nasty Hadley was, which is why nobody dared to speak to the prison guards, or even look at them.

**Catharsis**

Frank Darabont intelligently demonstrated Catharsis throughout the film by using music to truly capture the character’s emotion and feeling. One of the first ways Darabont demonstrated this in the film was when Brooks Hatlen was released from prison had his very own home and a job for the first time in 50 years. The camera is capturing scenes of Brooks at his job where he is visually uncomfortable with the people around him, or at home by himself when he was depressed. While the camera is capturing these scenes, brooks is speaking his suicide note were he states; “The world is better off without having an old crook like me.” While Brooks speaks, in the background there is soft piano playing that really helps you connect with the way he is feeling. The music develops a prediction, and makes you wonder if he really will kill himself before he actually does. The scene were the piano is playing and you see Brooks hanging from the rope makes you feel like; “He shouldn’t have killed himself. There was still hope.” The second scene in the movie where Frank demonstrates excellent catharsis is when Red is rejected from his parole, and he’s been in prison for thirty years. Red speaks with Andy, and the two began discussing their dreams if they were ever released from Shawshank. Soft piano is playing in the background, which really helps you put yourself in Andy’s shoes and makes your wonder how you would feel if you were imprisoned for years due to a crime you didn’t commit. The final way Darabont demonstrates Catharsis in the Film is when Andy escapes Shawshank Prison. The scene where Andy is standing out in the rain with his hands up in the air with a huge smile resembles hope and freedom. In the background there is victory music that really pleases the watcher, and makes them think; “Yes! He finally made it out! Frank Darabont did a brilliant job by demonstrating Catharsis through music in the movie “Shawshank Redemption.”