

English 12

Mr. Monsen

## **Shawshank Redemption**

**Directions:** Complete steps 1-4.

**Step 1: Read** the background passage about the novel below:

We will be reading Stephen King's *Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption* over the next week in class and at home. This story is about a banker that is tried and convicted for the double murder of his wife and her lover and is sent to Shawshank State Penitentiary to serve a double life sentence. In prison, he befriends another inmate named Red and their friendship develops throughout the course of the story. This story takes place from 1948-1975 in Maine.

**Step 2: Research** the following topics below. Write down what you learn about each in your notebook.

1. Go to **stephenking.com** and read about the author and then answer the questions below:

**Where did Stephen King go to college?**

**What was Stephen King's first novel?**

**Before he quit to write full time, what did Stephen King do for work?**

**What is one additional thing you read that you found interesting?**

2. What was daily life like for the average person in Maine in 1948?

3. How much was \$20 worth in 1948?

4. Google "Buxton, Maine" and look at "Images" of the town.

5. Google the following literary terms and write the definition for each in your notebook:

**Theme**

**Conflict** – man vs. man, man vs. himself, man vs. society

**Mood**

**Setting**

**Symbolism**

**Step 3: Read** the novella Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption and answer the following questions as you read:

### **Shawshank Redemption**

Pages 1-30 Key Parts Analysis

**Directions:** Read the two passages below **and** explain what is happening in each passage **and** how it relates to the rest of what happened in pages 1-30.

1. “Convenience aside, it’s a fact that they didn’t find the gun,” Andy responded calmly. “But I would like to point out to both of you and the jury that the Pond Road Bridge is very close to where the Royal River empties in the Bay of Yarmouth. The current is strong.”
2. But I don’t think solitary was the hardship for Andy that is was for some men. He got along with himself.

### **Shawshank Redemption**

Pages 31-60 Key Parts Analysis

**Directions:** Read the four passages below **and** explain what is happening in each passage **and** how it relates to the rest of what happened in pages 31-60.

1. “You’ll need a tax lawyer or a banker to set up the gift for you and that will cost you something,” Andy said. “Or, if you were interested, I’d be glad to set it up for you nearly free of charge. The price would be three beers apiece for my co-workers – “
2. So he laughs and says: “There’s one guy doing time up-Maine for these two people I killed”. It was this guy and the wife of a slob who’s doing the time.”
3. Then he (Andy) said very softly, to (the guard) Hadley: “Do you trust your wife?”
4. The construction businesses in the area were very afraid of Norton’s Inside-Out Program, because prison labor is slave labor, and you can’t compete with that.

## Shawshank Redemption

### Pages 61-113 Key Parts Analysis

**Directions:** Read the four passages below **and** explain what is happening in each passage **and** how it relates to the rest of what happened in pages 61-113.

1. “Peter Stevens is locked inside a safe deposit box at the Casco Bank in Portland and Andy Dufresne is locked in the safe deposit box at Shawshank,” he (Andy) said.
2. Around two o’clock I came to a big field on my left. There was a stone wall at the far end of it, running roughly northwest... Three quarters of the way to the end, I saw a rock. Black glass and smooth as silk. A rock with no earthly business in a Maine hayfield.
3. Watching him glare at it, I remembered what Andy had once said about feeling he could almost step through the picture and be with the girl. In a very real way, that was exactly what he did – as Norton was only seconds from discovering.
4. I had to look at what was underneath (the rock) for a long time. My eyes saw it, but it took a while for my mind to catch up. It was an envelope, carefully wrapped in a plastic bag to keep away the damp. My name was written across the front in Andy’s clear script.

## Shawshank Redemption

### Theme - Hope and Despair

**Directions:** Read the two quotes below and answer the four questions that follow in your notebook.

**“Remember, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies.”** – Andy

**“Let me tell you something my friend. Hope is a dangerous thing. Hope can drive a man insane. It’s got no use on the inside. You better get used to that idea.”** - Red

1. What is Andy trying to say with his quote about hope?
2. The reason why hope is so important to Andy is because...
3. What is Red saying to Andy with his quote about hope being dangerous?
4. I (agree or disagree) with Andy because...

**Step 4:** Take the test on Google Classroom by the due date on the calendar.