Stage 1 English Communications
Text Response: Film Study

The Shawshank Redemption
Hope, optimism & future-mindedness

You expect the best in the future, and you work to achieve it. You believe that the future is something that you can control.

Even though he was an innocent man, convicted of double murder and sentenced to two life terms, Andy maintains hope and encourages others to do the same:

- He frequently tells Red, “Get busy living, or get busy dying”.
- He remains optimistic and often discusses his dream of living on a beach in Mexico
- He shows the other prisoners that if you hope for something it will eventually happen. For an example, for ten years, Andy writes letters to government departments and charities to obtain books for the library.
- He expects the best in the future and works to achieve it.
No. 2 CHARACTER STRENGTH: Andy Dufresne

Appreciation of beauty and excellence

You notice and appreciate beauty, excellence, and/or skilled performance in all domains of life, from nature to art to mathematics to science to everyday experience.

Despite the brutality of Shawshank Prison and the horrific things that happen to him, Andy uses his appreciation of beauty and excellence to help him cope:

• He carves delicate chess pieces from the rocks he finds.
• He is prepared to endure two months in the “hole” in order to play the Mozart aria through the prison’s loudspeakers, later telling Red: “That's the beauty of music. You need it so you don't forget... there are places in this world that aren't made out of stone.”
• He is highly educated and tutors the other prisoners so that they can achieve excellence.
Self-control and self-regulation

You self-consciously regulate what you feel and what you do. You are a disciplined person. You are in control of your appetites and your emotions, not vice versa.

Andy shows both self-control and self-regulation throughout the film with his reserved personality.

• In the opening scenes, Red observes that Andy “had a quiet way about him (and) strolled, like a man in a park without a care or a worry in the world, like he had on an invisible coat that would shield him from this place.”

• When laundering the money the corrupt Warden Norton brought into the prison, Andy never took any risks. He tells Red, “If they ever try to trace any of those accounts, they're gonna end up chasing a figment of my imagination.” Red replies, “Shit, you're a Rembrandt!”

No. 3 CHARACTER STRENGTH: Andy Dufresne
Andy Dufresne

Creativity, ingenuity and originality

Thinking of new ways to do things is a crucial part of who you are. You are never content with doing something the conventional way if a better way is possible.

Although prison life is tightly-controlled and the men are treated like cattle, Andy still manages to be original, creative and ingenius:

- He uses his spare time creatively by making chess pieces during the day time and tunnelling out of the prison during the night.
- His escape plan was extremely original. As Red observes, “Andy crawled to freedom through five hundred yards of shit smelling foulness”.
- Andy’s use of the posters to cover his tunnel and the methods he used to get rid of the dirt were ingenius.
You are a careful person, and your choices are consistently prudent ones. You do not say or do things that you might later regret.

Andy is very discreet in his actions, careful not to draw attention to himself.

- He never boasts about how smart or successful he was in the outside world.
- He gains the trust of Warden Norton and the prison guards by dealing discreetly with their financial matters.
- He doesn’t even reveal to his closest friends that he is planning his escape from Shawshank Prison.
- Despite the close proximity of other prisoners, no-one ever hears or suspects that Andy is digging his way out of his cell.
The resilience of the human spirit

Andy Dufresne showed a lot of determination, courage and human spirit throughout *The Shawshank Redemption*. Once he found out that the cell walls were fragile and that he could dig an escape hole with his rock hammer, even though he knew it would take decades he never gave up and succeeded his goal of freedom.
The resilience of the human spirit

Andy’s spirit is resilient because although he has had everything taken away from him by being sent to prison he didn’t stop doing things that he loved and was good at. When he offered to do the taxes for all of the guards it showed that Andy could still continue his job. He also organizes for a rock hammer so that he can pursue his hobby by making chess pieces out of stone.
The resilience of the human spirit

In *The Shawshank Redemption* the resilience of the human spirit is very clear. This is shown when Andy always looks on the positive side of everything. He doesn’t allow the prison to take away his personality. He likes to do things to help to make him still feel normal and free. Red, and some of the other cell mates, don’t have the same perspective as Andy though. Some of them have been in prison so long they can no longer face the outside world.
as beautiful as the night sky
a tunnel of light leading through the
darkness
curiosity draws me along the road,
towards the light
nothing is impossible for someone who
believes
standing up for what you believe in
a road to somewhere important
the embodiment of bravery
flowing colours, searching for freedom
sparkling shades, defying darkness
hopeful that my life will soon be colourful
epic colours fill the sky
rainbow swirls of epic colours fill the sky
after the storm, a rainbow
late afternoon light
incredible colours filling the sky
there is no limit
I'll be with you forever
light at the end of the tunnel
the world is a big place
every single thing is beautiful
you are my world
nothing is impossible
a sky full of magic
rainbow-coloured
facing your fears
light as a feather
in the spotlight
follow your own path
on top of a mountain
stronger together
believe in yourself
as free as yourself
free as the wind
with his heart on his sleeve, he carried on
like nothing was impossible
strong life-force, like the earth's heart
as bright as life
her eyes were like searchlights, looking
for land
as wild as a lion on Sunday
blurry life, like a kaleidoscope
as beautiful as a night sky
as magical as a fairy
as spectacular as an all-powerful
supernova
as fluid as the sparkling ocean
as mysterious as a cat, alone in the
shadows
as beautiful as late afternoon light
as swirly as a sky full of magic
shining like a diamond
as bright as a handful of balloons
lonely, like little raindrops
his free-spirited nature is like an armful of
ehelium balloons
as fast as a GM rabbit
the seemingly never-ending expanse of
desert feels almost as hot as the sun itself
as crazy as a curly-haired hippy
as sad as a dead woman's ghost
The only rules:

- it has to have an optimistic feel...
- it has to be at least 8 lines in length
- it’s not allowed to rhyme
- you have to choose THE BEST WORDS possible
Possible structure:

Line 1: a feeling
Line 2: a simile or metaphor
Line 3: description of one of the five senses
Line 4: a simile or metaphor
Line 5: more description
Line 6: a simile or metaphor
Line 7: more description
Line 8: more description
Line 9: a philosophical observation
"Memories" by Lauren Grant

These memories follow me everywhere.
    They are as beautiful as a night sky,
    Also as terrifying as what lies within.
    As I walk into the night,
I feel as mysterious as a cat in the shadows,
    But as wild as an untamed lion.
    This world is a big place,
But I am no longer hiding in the shadows.
My life is now filled with beautiful colours.

Artist: Kate Tucker
There is a way by Calvin Summersides

Standing up for what you believe in is the way you know that you are an individual. When you stand up for yourself you always have a sense of pride. You have a feeling that nothing can touch you, Nothing is impossible. Life is an adventure, Live every day like it is your last. Sometimes life gets turned upside-down, But there is always a way you can fix it. Life can get you down, But there are people that can pick you up. From the darkness there is always light.

Artist: Tahlia Eidam
I am very excited about what’s going to happen today,
Tomorrow, next week,
next month, next year,
even next decade.
I may be as clueless as a spider
about what’s going to happen in the future,
but I never let it bother me.
Even my eyes can see that the future is bright.
As mysterious as the future is, it is just as exciting.
Who knows what sort of hobby I might have
in a few decades’ time?
To some people, the future is as scary as a tiger,
But I always stay optimistic no matter what the future may hold.
The more I think about the future, the more excited I get.
Life is a rollercoaster,
Only more unpredictable
And more enjoyable for everyone.
DETOX YOUR LIFE

Get rid of the daily grind

By DIANA KELLY

Don’t you hate it when...

Catching your sleeve on a door handle

You pull your sleeve too hard, you feel a bit of the fabric slip off the end of your arm, so you try to pull it back on, and you pull your sleeve right up over your hand. It’s no good doing it. You just have to let your sleeve go back down to its normal position and hope for the best next time.

Looking for your street address

You’ve been looking in all the wrong places. You’ve been behind your belt, in your purse, and in the back of your jacket. You’ve even checked your jacket pocket, but you still can’t find your street address. You’ll have to wear your name tag next time.

Looking for your keys

You’ve been looking in all the wrong places. You’ve been behind your belt, in your purse, and in the back of your jacket. You’ve even checked your jacket pocket, but you still can’t find your street address. You’ll have to wear your name tag next time.

Looking for your wallet

You’ve been looking in all the wrong places. You’ve been behind your belt, in your purse, and in the back of your jacket. You’ve even checked your jacket pocket, but you still can’t find your street address. You’ll have to wear your name tag next time.

Looking for your phone

You’ve been looking in all the wrong places. You’ve been behind your belt, in your purse, and in the back of your jacket. You’ve even checked your jacket pocket, but you still can’t find your street address. You’ll have to wear your name tag next time.

Looking for your glasses

You’ve been looking in all the wrong places. You’ve been behind your belt, in your purse, and in the back of your jacket. You’ve even checked your jacket pocket, but you still can’t find your street address. You’ll have to wear your name tag next time.

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Don’t you LOVE it when...

... there’s been a run of 40 degree days and suddenly the heavens open and rain pours down?

Courtney
Don’t you LOVE it when...

... the crazy hot northerly wind is playing havoc with your hay-fever and you suddenly realise you’re not wearing makeup and can rub your eyes? Bliss!

Ashleigh
Don’t you LOVE it when…

your team wins??!!

*Your team is behind on goals and it’s the final but you have a final push and score two goals to win the game.*

Chloe
Don’t you LOVE it when...

...your crush notices you?

You’re walking home from school lost in a daydream, when your crush rides by. Amazingly, he stops to talk, tells you he is on the way to football training, then ends up being late because the two of you were having so much fun.

Sarah
Don’t you LOVE it when...

...you stop at traffic lights and pull faces at the annoying kids in the next car when their parents aren’t looking?

_Ella_
Don’t you LOVE it when...

...you get home from school, absolutely starving, and for once, there’s lots of good stuff to eat?

Peter
Don’t you LOVE it when...

YOU’RE FEELING DOWN BUT THERE IS THAT ONE FRIEND WHO IS THERE TO HELP.

You’re having a horrible day and that friend says/does the one thing which makes almost everything better.

John
Don’t you LOVE it when...

You get home from school feeling tired and grumpy and instead of your mum nagging you to clean your room or do your homework, she suggests you make pancakes together then go to the movies!

Erin
Don’t you LOVE it when...

...you haven't done your homework and the teacher decides not to check it?

You spent all night having fun and forgot to finish your homework. The next day you’re sitting in class scared and the teacher forgets all about it.

Franz
Don’t you LOVE it when...

you correct a teacher?

The teacher’s sure she has the right answer but you prove her wrong.

John
When I dream of the future, I dream of...

“Dream” homework

Over the next week, you need to give this sentence beginning plenty of consideration and write your most thoughtful sentence ending. Then, you need to ask three other people to do the same – a friend, a family member and the oldest person you know.
Year Eights’ ideas:

When I dream of the future, I dream of...
my life being full of music and everything involving music.
TC

When I dream of the future I dream of...
a world without bullying for everyone, for everyone to be happy and to know they won’t be judged on their appearance, or picked on for any other reason.
Bree Davis

When I dream of the future, I dream of...
becoming a professional photographer.
Emily Baker
More Year Eight ideas:

When I dream of the future, I dream that cancer will no longer exist.

Raisa

When I dream of the future, I dream of...

ponies, rainbows and lollipops.

Casey

When I dream of the future I dream of....

a world made of candy and chocolate.

Niki
When I dream of the future, I dream of monkeys flying cars.

Raisa’s friend, Chloe Noble

When I dream of the future I dream of... everything being chocolate and you can eat and eat and never get fat.

Kelsey’s friend, Rebecca

When I dream of the future I dream of... a world where Minecraft is EVERYTHING and every part of every day is a competition.

Josh Norris’ friend, Matt
When I dream of the future, I dream of being a graphic designer or designing guitars.

Ashleigh’s friend, Alannah Danielse

When I dream of the future, I dream of being a carpenter and having a happy family.

Marcus’ friend, Joe Wynne-Williams

When I dream of the future, I dream of... a world with no wars and no violence

Andrew, TC’s friend
Their family members’ ideas...

When I dream of the future, I dream of....
the world being a safer place for everyone, and for there to be no violence.

Bree’s grandma

When I dream of the future, I dream of......
palm trees, lagoons and sunny days on my dream island.

Emily Baker’s grandmother Meredith

When I dream of the future, I dream about being happy and having good health.

Marcus’s Nana Irene
When I dream of the future, I dream of…
no more wars and that we are equal whether we are male or female, gay or straight. I also dream that no man, woman or child ever has to deal with cancer.

Selina’s mum

When I dream of the future I dream of…
...peace, happiness and a place where animals are treated well.

Riley’s grandpa

When I dream of the future I dream of…
...happiness for my children.

Raisa’s dad
Gratitude
You are aware of the good things that happen to you, and you never take them for granted. Your friends and family members know that you are a grateful person because you always take the time to express your thanks.
On behalf of all the Year 8s, and to celebrate Harmony Day, Htoo and Jack would like to thank Mrs Williams.

"If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can't, you're right."

Mary Kay Ash

We know organising the camp was lots of work for you (and we know you didn’t get much sleep) but we had a great time and the camp was lots of fun. So, thanks a lot.
On behalf of the Year 8s, and to celebrate Harmony Day, Ryan would like to thank Brian Pearce.

You are a nice friendly bus driver who always says hello. You brighten up our day in the most thoughtful ways. I’d like to thank you for always being friendly and driving safely.

“To believe in yourself and to follow your dreams, to have goals in life and a drive to succeed, and to surround yourself with the things and the people that make you happy - this is success!”

Sasha Azevedo
On behalf of all the year 8s, and to celebrate Harmony Day, Scott would like to thank Mrs Toome & Mrs Cummins for having the library open at lunchtime and keeping it in full order the whole time for everyone.

“Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you will land amongst the stars.”

Jill McLemore
On behalf of all the year 8s and to celebrate Harmony Day, Liam Knotts and Bradley Bateman we world like to thank

Mrs Steele and Mr Kerley

Thank you for all the work you do to make our school look good and to fix things when they break.

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

Mahatma Gandhi
On behalf of the year 8s, and to celebrate Harmony Day, Joseph and Dylan would like to thank Mr Clements.

Thank you for being such a fantastic teacher and showing us areas around the school when we couldn't find them in the very first week. I personally would also like to thank you for not sending me to BP for going on the roof to get the soccer ball down for the year 9s. We would also like to thank you for being such a great helper and more importantly for doing your job so well. If we could afford it, we would buy you a car like this.

“Be careful eating fruits and nuts; you are what you eat”