

FILM REVIEW

Level: INTERMEDIATE

Subject : English

Aids: exercises below READING

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5.4 Speaking and writing

GOALS ■ Write a film review ■ Compare and recommend

Reading & Writing a film review

- a You are going to read a review of the classic American film, *The Shawshank Redemption*, based on a book by Stephen King. What information do you expect to find in the review?
- b Compare your ideas with a–e below.
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| a the writer's opinion | d who stars in the film |
| b the plot/storyline | e whether the book is |
| c the name of the director | better than the film |

Read the review and match the information from the review (a–e) to the paragraph it is in.

Paragraph 1 _____
Paragraph 2 _____
Paragraph 3 _____
Paragraph 4 _____

- 3a Read the information in the Language for writing box about contrast linkers.

LANGUAGE FOR WRITING contrast linkers

We use the following linkers to show that things are different.

Although/Even though

Although I don't like action films, I loved this one.

Despite/In spite of

Despite seeing the film twice, I still didn't understand the ending.

However

However, I loved the rest of the film.

- b Underline the linkers and what follows them in the review.

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TIM ROBBINS MORGAN FREEMAN

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION

The Shawshank Redemption
★★★★★

Director: Frank Darabont
Cast: Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman
Release date: 1994

The Best Film of All Time?

What is your favourite film of all time? We are inviting fans to post reviews this month. Then you can vote for your favourite.

- The Shawshank Redemption* was directed by Frank Darabont and is based on a novel by Stephen King. Starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, the film is surprisingly sad in places, but essentially, it is a positive story about friendship and hope. Despite failing at the box office when it was originally released in 1994, it has now become a modern classic.
- The film is set in the late 1940s in the USA. Tim Robbins plays Andy Dufresne, a banker who is falsely sent to prison for killing his wife. At first, Andy finds prison life difficult. However, he soon makes friends with another prisoner, Ellis 'Red' Redding (Morgan Freeman), who is in for life. Andy gets a job in the prison library and helps with the prison's finances. This changes everything for Andy and allows him to spend years planning the surprising events at the end of the film.
- Darabont makes few changes to King's original novel, and manages to make the end result even more exciting than the book. Thomas Newman's soundtrack creates an exciting atmosphere throughout the film.
- The Shawshank Redemption* is terrific entertainment. Freeman's performance is very moving, and Tim Robbins gives one of his best performances of his career. Although the film is a little slow in places, the end is absolutely brilliant and I highly recommend it to everyone.