# UNIVERZITA PALACKÉHO V OLOMOUCI PEDAGOGICKÁ FAKULTA

Ústav cizích jazyků

# BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE

Pianista – komparace knihy a filmové adaptace

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Čestné prohlášení			
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		podpis	



# Abstrakt

The comparison between Władysław Szpilman's book "The Pianist" and its Roman Polanski film adaptation is the subject of this bachelor's thesis. It looks at how the protagonist overcomes tremendous obstacles in life with the help of music and how this theme is understood and conveyed in the two mediums. The analytical framework contrasts the book with the movie "The Pianist" by analyzing narrative, aesthetic, and thematic aspects in detail while including theoretical ideas from the field of literary work adaptation to cinema. The findings indicate that music, the main character's deeply held passion, is essential to keeping humanity and hope alive at the worst of times and strengthens his fortitude in the face of severe pain. Finally, the thesis considers the significance of artistic passion and dedication in conquering life's challenges and makes recommendations on the study's implications for comprehending human tenacity and fortitude in the face of hardship. This thesis brings up a discussion of larger topics of the human spirit and perseverance in the face of adversity, in addition to offering a greater knowledge of the process of converting a literary work to cinematic form.

# Annotation

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Název práce:	Pianista – komparace knihy a filmové adaptace	
Název v angličtině:	The Pianist - comparsion of the book and film adaption	
Zvolený typ práce:	Baklářská práce	
Anotace práce:	Hlavním tématem této bakalářské práce je srovnání knihy Władysława Szpilmana "Pianista" a její filmové adaptace Romana Polanského. Výzkum zkoumá, jak se tato tematická nit táhne napříč oběma médii, a soustředí se na význam hudby, která pomáhá hlavnímu hrdinovi překonat extrémní utrpení války a holocaustu. Práce porovnává knihu s filmem Pianista, přičemž podrobně analyzuje narativní, estetické a tematické rysy a zároveň zahrnuje akademické rámce týkající se literárních děl adaptovaných do filmu. Zjištění naznačují, že hudba, hluboce zakořeněná vášeň hlavního hrdiny, podporuje lidstvo a dodává mu odvahu a odolnost tváří v tvář nejhorším okolnostem. S cílem vysvětlit lidskou houževnatost a odolnost tváří v tvář těžké bolesti práce končí zdůrazněním hodnoty nadšení a oddanosti umění při překonávání životních výzev. Přináší také některé teoretické návrhy. Tento výzkum vrhá světlo na obecnější otázky týkající se houževnatosti a lidského ducha a zároveň nabízí lepší pochopení procesu převodu literárních děl na velké plátno.	
Klíčová slova:	pianista, film, literatua, adaptace, historie, Ghetto, válka, přežití, hudba	
Anotace v angličtině:	The comparison of Władysław Szpilman's book "The Pianist" and its Roman Polanski film adaptation is the main topic of this bachelor's thesis. The research explores how this subject thread extends across the two mediums and centers on the significance of music in helping the main protagonist overcome the extreme sufferings of war and the Holocaust. The thesis compares the book with the movie "The Pianist" by analyzing narrative, aesthetic, and thematic features in detail while including academic frameworks related to literary works adapted to film. The findings indicate that music, the main character's deeply	

	held passion, sustains mankind and gives courage and resilience in the face of the worst circumstances. In order to explain human tenacity and resilience in the face of severe pain, the thesis finishes by emphasizing the value of enthusiasm and dedication to the arts in overcoming life's challenges. It also makes some theoretical suggestions. This research sheds light on more general questions about the resilience and human spirit while offering a greater understanding of the process of transferring literary works to the big screen.	
Klíčová slova v angličtině:	pianist, film, literature, adaptation, history, Ghetto, war, survival, music	
Přílohy vázané v práci:	Appendix 1 - The portrayal of Władysław Szpilman Appendix 2 - The Pianist Movie Poster Appendix 3 - The portrayal of Adrien Brody Appendix 4 - The scene from the movie "The Pianist" Appendix 5 - The portrayal of Roman Polanski Appendix 6 - The scene from the movie "The Pianist" of Adrien Brody and Thomas Kretschmann	
Rozsah práce:	43	
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# Introduction

One of the horrific events that took place during the Second World War, which deeply affected our collective consciousness, was the Jewish ghetto. In this time of great loss and suffering, the Jews had to persevere not only in physical hardship, but also in spiritual courage and hope. Art and music played an important role in providing people with spiritual strength and optimism during this dark time.

This work depicts the Jewish pianist Władysław Szpilman, who experienced the Jewish ghetto in occupied Warsaw during the war. It explores how the creative aspects and music in these works represent the Jewish pianist in literature and film.

I made the decision to contrast The Pianist's cinematic and book adaptations. My academic goals and personal interests came together to inspire this notion. It is ideal for my topic of study, which is focused on education English. This research is significant, in my opinion, because it directly addresses how students perceive the world in addition to concentrating on the analysis of literature and movies.

The ability of the things we love, like movies and books, to propel us ahead and support us throughout trying times, is the central idea of this study. The concept of music serving as a character's source of strength in the face of difficult circumstances is depicted in the film "The Pianist" in an extremely moving fashion, emphasizing the issues the lead character experiences.

This thesis seeks to analyze in detail how music helps the main protagonist in the movie "The Pianist" survive throughout a difficult historical period. We pay particular attention to how music served as a potent motivating factor, giving the main character the fortitude and resolve to confront difficult situations and triumph over the horrors of war in addition to offering emotional support.

The purpose of the study is to look at how music helps the protagonist get over psychological issues that come with battle in addition to the physical challenges that come with war. We also want to know how the things we love—music in particular—can give us the strength to persevere, stay devoted, and face the most difficult situations.

This study aims to answer the following research questions. To what extent does the portrayal of music in both the novel and the film "The Pianist" contribute to the main character's resilience and survival during World War II? In what ways does the adaptation of "The Pianist" from novel to film enhance or alter the portrayal of music as a means of survival and resilience for the main character? How does the symbolism and imagery

associated with music in "The Pianist" contribute to its thematic exploration of hope, memory, and the preservation of humanity in the face of dehumanizing atrocities?

The analytical approaches address questions of adaptation, historical background, music, and comparisons between the film and the novel "The Pianist" and attempt to provide a comprehensive research study of the work.

Through a methodical examination of the essential components of both mediums, with a particular emphasis on narrative structure, character characterisation, thematic aspects, and aesthetic features, I will compare the approaches used in the literary work "The Pianist" with its cinematic version. To have a greater knowledge of the book's substance and interpretation,

I will start by reading the book cover to cover and seeing the movie. Afterwards, I'll compare and contrast how the tale, characters, themes, and important events are presented in the book and the movie version, noting their parallels and discrepancies.

Afterward, in order to have a deeper understanding of how these aspects are translated between various mediums and how they impact the way the story is seen and interpreted, I will employ a technique that compares significant moments. Using the results of this study as a basis, I will be able to talk about how the movie version of the book captures important elements of the original work and what the potential effects of these variations could be on how the tale is viewed and assessed. By taking this method, I would like to have an in-depth understanding of the process of turning a literary work into a film and pinpoint important elements that affect how both media are interpreted and perceived.

With respect to artistic, historical and musical aspects, a textual study of "The Pianist" in both book and film formats will be undertaken to identify differences in the interpretation of important scenes and characters and to assess.

# 2 Biography of Władysław Szpilman

# 2.1 General information

A pianist, a Jewish man who survived the horrors of World War II. This is how we could describe Władysław Szpilman. He considered himself "a man in whom music lives" (SZPILMAN, 2000, p. 7). But he is not just a pianist, but also a composer. He wrote an autobiographical work called "The Pianist", in which he describes his life of hardship during the Nazi rule in Poland. Music gave him the strength to survive the Holocaust and to return to it again after 1945.

Life before the war

Władysław Szpilman, known as a Polish musician, was born in 1911 on 5 December in Poland. Targowa 18 was the street where the house was located where he was born and then lived with his mother, father and his siblings. There is a memorial plaque on the house that reminds passers-by of all this (Szpilman Year inaugurated, 2011).

Szpilman continued his piano studies at the Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw and at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin. Later he performed in concerts with well-known violinists and collaborated on compositions with Franz Schreker. From 1939 until the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939, Szpilman was employed as a musician and performed piano pieces on Polish radio. The last piece Szpilman performed on the radio was the famous Nokrutna in C sharp minor. His work has earned him great acclaim and admiration. (ANDERSON, 2000)

Given his emotional state and his instinct for self-preservation, Władysław Szpilman chose to play the Nocturne in C minor on the piano. After an interrupted conversation, which was crucial for his survival, the piece comes across as an act of satisfaction. The piece ends with a dramatic transition from minor to major, signifying the next phase of a life that is still in progress. It recalls Szpilman's perseverance and bravery in the face of adversity. (STEIN, 2004, p. 764)

# 2.2 Life during the war

In November 1940, Władysław and his entire family faced a situation in the ghetto involving food shortages, illness and potential transport by train. In 1942, Szpilman's relatives were separated from him due to deportations, which he managed to avoid by

obtaining a work permit for temporary residence in Treblinka. (SZPILMAN, 2000, pp. 61-107)

Wadyslaw Szpilman was discovered in Warsaw in 1944 by German commander Captain Wilm Hosenfeld. Their mutual appreciation was ignited by the pianist's piano performance, which created a link between them. While ignoring the police, the captain gave vital support including food, clothes, and shelter. In the hope of peace, they delighted in talking about books and music. When Soviet soldiers seized Warsaw in the year 1945, they detained Szpilman, who was discovered to be destitute and was treated. They hoped for ultimate peace and a resolution to the conflict. (SZPILMAN, 2000, pp.177 - 187)

### 2.3 Life after the war

After the liberation of Poland by the Red Army, Szpilman returned home, where he continued his pre-war career as a pianist and composed a number of songs and countless orchestral pieces, many of which were intended for young audiences and used as musical accompaniment for plays and films. Among them were respected members of the Organisation of Polish Musicians and the Polish Musicians' Union. In 1963 he was the head of the entertainment music department of the Polish Radio. He left his job to play in the Warsaw Quintet, an ensemble of instrumental music consisting of Bronisaw Gimpel, Tadeusz Wroski and Szpilman. Their collaboration and shared love of music was essential to the development of music and provided joy and fulfilment to music enthusiasts. (SZPILMAN, 2005)

During the time of the Communist regime, Szpilman struggled with many difficulties, such as the strong restrictions on his career as a pianist and composer because he refused to become a member of the Communist Party. The author's book "The Pianist" has gained global attention after the fall of communism, which moved readers all over the world. (APPLEBAUM, 1999)

An autobiography describing Szpilman's life during World War II was written in 1945, and the following year the first version of the book was published, containing censorship in the form of crossed-out words. This act, according to his son, helped him return to his normal life. Beginning in the 1960s, various publishers tried to give readers access to this work, but without success. The German edition, which was published for more than fifty years, became a key war document. (STOFFMAN, 2003)

The Polish edition was updated and expanded with an afterword by Wolf Biermann. New characters and excerpts from the diary of Wehrmacht Captain Wilm Hosenfeld have been added to add to the suspense. The text challenges the belief that German society was unaware of Nazi atrocities in Poland and other countries, highlights the bravery of Wilm Hosenfeld, and demonstrates effective ways of fighting Nazi rule. The Polish edition contains excerpts that preserve Hosenfeld's contribution. (RISING and LANE, 2019)

Szpilman's music and activities in support of the memory of the victims of the Holocaust have earned him numerous awards and honours. Let this work be an eternal cry of despair as a warning to humanity, for people must not forget what happened, because it is the only way to prevent anything like it from happening again.

# 3 Basic information about the book and film

### 3.1 The book

"The Pianist" is a memoir-style autobiographical book that tells the story of the author's experiences during World War II, including the Holocaust and the Nazi occupation of Poland. With an emphasis on different life events, experiences, and situations, the book, written in ich-form, divides what the writer has experienced into manageable chunks. The Szpilman Report, which was first released in Germany in 1997, was a comprehensive informational document that was issued in Poland in 1946. Germany is where the first edition was released. (Goodreads, 2007)

### 3.2 Movie

A good example of the intermingling of cultures in the modern world is the film The Pianist. Polanski, who is often considered a cosmopolitan, the director of this international co-production. Adrian Brody, who plays Szpilman's main character, is American, although most of the major players are English. Actors from Germany and Poland contribute to the film's multinational character. These elements are not exclusive to The Pianist; rather, they can be found in comparable international productions throughout Europe. (KABALEK, 2007, p. 61)

Being the youngest Oscar winner, Adrien Brody took home the Best Actor Oscar for his performance as Roman Polanski's Wladislaw Szpilman in The Pianist. In addition, he received nominations for the BAFTA, Golden Globe, and Screen Actors Guild Awards for his portrayal, as well as Best Actor awards from the Boston and National Societies of Cinema Critics. (KAYE, 2012, p. 6)

A cinematic version of Wladyslaw Szpilman's autobiography, The Pianist, is based on his experiences. With a structured and chronological storyline, director Roman Polanski's picture is emotionally connected to his personal experiences. (QUART, 2003, p.42) Polish-Jewish immigrant Polanski was born in Paris in 1933 and returned to his own country with the advent of Nazism. Roman was raised primarily in rural Poland following his detainment in prison camps. After WWII, he reconnected with his father and began his studies at the Kraków School of Art. His acting career started with radio shows and plays. (LEAL, 2021, p. 4–5)

The director was transported to the camps as a child, although he managed to escape the Krakow ghetto at an early age. Thanks to the event itself, which was experienced by both the director of the film and the author of the book, a film version of this book was created by combining these two personalities. (SHRESTHA, 2013, p. 39)

A Story of surviving, in which the ensemble, including Polański, highlights optimism and individual qualities as elements in surviving, confirms that The Pianist is an upbeat movie. Szpilman's ambition to produce art is also highlighted in the documentary, which may be interpreted as a duty for the countless number of Jews that died in the Holocaust. Some people disagree with elevating self-preservation to the status of a moral virtue, but Polanski's statements are seen as a sort of self-defense from a guy who was falsely accused of being alive. (MAZIERSKA, 2005, p. 43)

# 4 Historical context

# 4.1 The beginning of the Second World War in Poland

The Second World War, which had its origins in the First World War, began in 1939 with the invasion of Poland. Germany was unhappy with the outcome and tried to make amends for the "Versailles insult," Italy was not satisfied with its great power ambitions, Japan wanted to increase its control over China, Hungary had suffered heavy losses in Slovakia and Subcarpathian Rus, and the USSR felt compelled to propagate communism across the globe. Another contributing element was the emergence of authoritarian regimes, which was brought on by the financial crisis brought on by the crash of the New York Stock Exchange. (KUČEROVÁ, 2016, p. 9.)

Hitler's army entered Poland on January 1, 1939, and the invasion severely damaged Poland. The primary cause was the Polish army's defeat in France and Britain, which took over German land and kept the army engaged for several months. February 19 marked the conclusion of the conflict, with a heavy loss for the Polish army. (KUČEROVÁ, 2016, pp. 11-12)

There were weeks of terror and months of boredom in Warsaw between September 1939 and January 1945, when events happened quickly. There were numerous mass shootings, organized looting by occupation forces, and looting incidents. Polish bravery and humor, in spite of everything, reduced the fear. The capital became accustomed to months of nothingness and ceaseless waiting, as well as everyday horror. Events of everyday life had a greater impact on the arts and sciences than on other domains. (LEWAK, 1962, p. 3)

### 4.2 The Warsaw Ghetto

The densely populated Warsaw Ghetto, a Polish concentration camp, was off-limits to Jews in 1940. A wall and barbed wire, standing two and a half meters high, encircled the ghetto. The Jews were told of the ghetto's closing and were not permitted to enter the Aryan side starting in November 1940, which marked the beginning of the second crucial phase. Starting in July 1942, the Jews were isolated and sealed. The Great Deportation had place during the third period, killing 265,000 Jews. The last phase included the 1943 Ghetto Uprising that took place in April and May along with the ghetto's evacuation and demolition. (COURPASSON, 2019, p. 861.)

Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto had to deal with malnourishment, illness, destitution, congestion, and deportation on a daily basis. Amidst heinous inhumanity, they battled to preserve their honor, regularity, and optimism. Within the confines of the ghetto, the community battled to preserve social services, political structure, religious life, and governance. The larger battle against historical and cultural erasure, as well as communal destruction, posed a tremendous obstacle. (CLARKE, 2017, p. 68.)

Living conditions were terrible in Warsaw; there was a dearth of medical supplies, soap, and disinfectant, and there was inadequate sanitation. Overcrowding and unclean living conditions contributed to the spread of illnesses and pests. Improper waste disposal and inconsistent bathing were caused by a shortage of plumbing and sanitary services. As the Nazis overcrowded the ghettos, survival prospects were more poor. Jews endured physical and psychological abuse, were made to work as forced laborers, and were treated like animals. (PARRAZ, 2014, pp. 73-74.)

# 4.3 The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Due to the impending destruction of the Jews living in the Warsaw Ghetto if they did not take action survival necessities and growing Zionism were the main forces behind the uprising. Mass evictions from the Ghetto served as the main catalyst for the rebellion. (RUMINSKI, 2019, p. 7.)

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943 was a military resistance by two factions in the Warsaw Ghetto, Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa (ŻOB) and Żydowski Związek Wojskowy (ŻZW). Hashomer Hatzair and Dror were among the left-wing Zionist factions that formed the ŻOB, which coordinated their resistance efforts with the High Command of the Armia Krajowa (AK). They hoped to survive the battle but die honorably, giving the German forces a difficult time. During the 28-day rebellion, 110 Germans lost their lives, and 56,065 Jews were either slaughtered in the Ghetto rebellion or sent to concentration camps like Treblinka. The exact number of casualties remains unknown. (RUMINSKI, 2019, p. 2.)

# 5 Adaptation of a literary work into a film

Writing and art are used to convey experiences, emotions, and perceptions of social reality in literary works, which mirror human existence. Many literary works have been turned into films in the modern period, as the film industry continues to grow both inside and outside of the public. Adaptations of films offer a fresh perspective on the arts and satisfy a variety of societal demands. (ASTIANTIH, 2017, p. 659)

The adaptation serves as an end result and a process of creation and reception, indicating the necessity for a theoretical approach that considers both positive and negative features and acknowledges that various media and genres are not merely formal entities. (HUTCHEON, 2006, p. XIV)

It has been said that the shift from literary to illustrated or televisual forms is a "willfully inferior form of cognition.". (NEWMAN, 1985, p. 129.) The process or final outcome of a certain task or works, which can be done in a variety of methods, can be characterized as "adaptation." It can be considered a formal entity or product that represents a significant transformation of a certain work or works. This "transcoding" may entail switching the medium or genre, as well as the frame and context. (HUTCHEON, 2006, p. 7)

### **5.1** Narrative structure

A structured series of events that elicit particular feelings and viewpoints is known as a structure. Conflict, words, acts, and pictures are the outcome of people affecting events. (MCKEE, 1997, p. 33) Story events significantly impact characters' lives, requiring audience response and significance to convey meaning. (MCKEE, 1997, pp. 33–34)

#### **5.1.1** Setting

The setting of a tale has four dimensions: period, duration, location, and level of conflict. Period designates the chronological position of a story, duration its length through time, location its actual and geographical location, and Level of Conflict its human aspect. The setting is a vertical dimension since it covers both spatial and temporal ranges as well as social components. The story's location on the scale of human conflicts is represented by the amount of conflict (MCKEE, 1997, pp. 68. - 69.).

### **5.1.2** Visual and verbal storytelling

Books and movies both use language, visual images, and temporal effects. With an emphasis on tone, voice, and character look, the writers see books and movies as "images" and movies as "words." It's critical for analytical reasons to comprehend the role that language and visual images play in these forms. (STAM and RAENGO, 2005, p. 3)

#### **5.1.3** Genre

There is no consensus among systems for classifying tales according to shared characteristics and genre; hence, there is disagreement about the number and kind of genres. (MCKEE, 1997, pp. 79–87)

### 5.1.4 Character

Film characters are important in modern media, and their meaning, influence, and interpretation have sparked controversy among critics, practitioners, and cultural theorists. (EDER, 2010, p. 16) Cinema characters are shaped by communication processes; these qualities are produced and perceived to attribute interior lives to these characters. (EDER, 2010, p. 18)

### **5.1.5** Interpretation and meaning

The concept, not the author, determines the meaning of the story; the Controlling concept is incorporated into the climax, conveying meaning and providing a literary moment of great literary importance. Mirror meaning is revealed by the author's inner self, which emerges in the tone of the text. (MCKEE, 1997, p. 118)

### 5.1.6 The use of sound and music

The relationship between music and film is complex since music is the most abstract art form and requires careful timing (MONACO, 2000, p. 54.). The use of sound in movies has returned, with the goal of giving pictures the same weight as sound in cinematic equations. The influence of music in movies is still developing. (MONACO, 2000, p. 60)

Although music is a direct and loud means of communicating ideas, its interpretation is general and abstract, leaving out particular details. Thanks to its ability to elicit strong emotions, ideas, and rhythms of movement, it works well as a background music for silent films and dance. (ARNHEIM, 2006, p. 216)

While there are many different feelings that music may convey, it is usually only deemed expressive when there is some consensus among listeners. The reason for this is that various listeners have similar reactions to the music. It is doubtful which a single listener would pick up on every emotion in a composition, and there are fewer feelings that a musician can consistently convey to a listener. (JUSLIN, 2001, p. 6)

Szpilman uses music as a way to cope for his sorrow, and the film takes on a gloomy and sardonic tone. The film's concentration on Szpilman's connection to music, on the other hand, narrows its implications and makes it challenging. (WATERHOUSE-WATSON, 2015, p. 5)

It is controversial to discuss if music reflects anything or is in tune with emotions when discussing the connection between affect and music. The Pianist, directed by Polanski, is examined by Lawrence Kramer, who emphasizes the importance of Szpilman's love of the piano as a coping strategy and the problematic portrayal of music as a savior in the film. (STEIN, 2004, pp. 757-758)

Szpilman has come under fire for his narcissistic assessment of his artistic ability; some have called him a narcissist devoid of soul or will. The tightness and narrowing of attention that occur with intense stress are highlighted by this ignorance. Szpilman's dependence on his idealized self reflects his bond with his deceased musicians and Polish ancestry, and it also symbolizes a retreat to the shielding illusion of the ego ideal. (DIAMOND, 2007, p. 433)

The instance of Szpilman emphasizes the function of melody in overcoming hardship and piercing trauma patients' protection systems. During German assaults on Warsaw, he performed Chopin's posthumous Nocturne on a radio transmission. Stein proposes that Szpilman performed this piece upon restoring the broadcast service following the war, viewing it as a "reparative act". But his music was too intensely sentimental for the Jews at the ghetto café. (SWART, 2014, p. 393)

Music was an important weapon for Nazi prisoners to preserve morale and deal with terrible situations. Granted, the experience was not always apparent, especially in prisoner orchestras, but in certain circumstances, performing music may even extend life. Their ability to survive the Holocaust was greatly aided by music. (WATERHOUSE-WATSON, 2015, p. 13)

It ends where it started, the music breathing out like it was taking a breath. It is amazing how the minor to major modulation allows us to visualize taking another breath. As Władysław Szpilman surely experienced, it is not the last breath of life, but rather an additional breath that enters a life being lived. (STEIN, 2004, p. 764)

# 6 From words to images: The Pianist in Literature and Film

The main points that will be examined and contrasted in the practical section are the historical background, the differences and similarities in the narrative structure, the use of sound and music, the main character's point of view, the comparison of characters, and understanding and meaning. Finding out how music aids the main character in overcoming the psychological and physical effects of war, as well as how our favorite things—especially music—can increase our fortitude and perseverance under the most trying circumstances—are the major goals of this comparison.

Therefore, the goal of this research is to investigate how much the way music is portrayed in the book and the movie "The Pianist" helps the main character survive and be resilient throughout World War II. We will also examine how the novel's film version either supports or modifies the main character's use of music as a tool for resiliency and survival. We will also talk about how The Pianist's use of musical symbolism and imagery supports the book's thematic examination of hope, remembrance, and the survival of humanity in the face of horrific acts.

In order to better understand how these elements transfer between various media and how they impact how a story is seen and understood, my research approach to these topics will involve comparing and contrasting various elements from the book and the movie. I'll use this method to analyze how key passages from the book are portrayed in the film adaptation, as well as any possible effects these changes may have on how the narrative is interpreted and assessed. I'll apply this technique to key moments in both versions of the work. Using this approach, I hope to get a thorough understanding of the process involved in adapting a literary work for the big screen and to emphasize key components.

### 6.1 The context of the time

When the two works, The Pianist by Władysław Szpilman and Roman Polanski, are compared, it is evident how differently they address the theme of tragedy, human spirit, and resiliency during World War II. The analysis focuses on three primary subjects—the treatment of the German occupiers, the representation of the Warsaw Ghetto and the details of the Warsaw Uprising —each of which provides a unique perspective on the historical context of both works.

# 6.1.1 The setting in the book "The Pianist"

The Warsaw Ghetto's congestion, lack of food, and unending death toll are all highlighted in this book's realistic portrayal of daily living there. Through depictions of individuals begging for food or being ejected by force, Szpilman eloquently captures the everyday agony and hopelessness of the Jewish community. Throughout the conflict, Szpilman's life revolves around music. Not only is it his career, but it also serves as a psychological buffer from the horrors of his line of work. He finds solace in music, which he uses to communicate his sentiments and emotions. Music also serves as a source of strength and hope for him.

"No one paid any attention to my music in the Nowoczesna. The louder I played, the louder the company eating and drinking talked, and every day my audience and I competed to see which of us could drown out the other. On one occasion a guest even sent a waiter over to tell me to stop playing for a few moments, because the music made it impossible for him to test the gold twenty-dollar coins he had just acquired from a fellow guest." (SZPILMAN, 2000, p.14)

The writer narrates Szpilman's hiding spots throughout the war, emphasizing the environment's vital role in making him survive. He was greatly affected psychologically by the physical circumstances of these locations, which included makeshift basements and half-ruined structures.

Szpilman's meticulous depictions of the rubble, deserted streets, and absence of life arouse strong emotions in readers as the book closes with a striking portrayal of a destroyed Warsaw, underscoring the great loss and devastation brought about by the conflict.

### 6.1.2 The setting in the movie "The Pianist"

A vivid and direct depiction of the conditions in the ghetto is provided by the film, which skillfully captures life in the Warsaw Ghetto through vivid images, such as the disorderly cramming of small rooms, the ghettos contained by walls, and the everyday brutality.

The film uses suspense and drama to illustrate Szpilman's frantic hunt for safety or a place to hide from German forces. The actor's portrayal and the visual depictions of possible hiding locations help to create a sense of loneliness, terror, and continual threat.

The aesthetically spectacular video footage depicting the post-uprising devastation of Warsaw captures the terrible devastation of a once-live-filled city, eliciting a strong emotional response and emphasizing the scope of the tragedy of World War II.

# 6.1.3 German occupiers' treatment

Szpilman's work presents a variety of encounters with German soldiers, from brutality to unanticipated kindness, underscoring the intricacy of warfare and the persistence of humanity, as portrayed in his depictions.

The Nazi authorities suppressed music and artists, limiting the musical life in the ghettos. As a result, several musical compositions and genres were outlawed, access to musical instruments was restricted, and the freedom of expression via music was curtailed.

#### **6.1.4** Illustration of the Ghetto in Warsaw

In-depth details on the Warsaw Ghetto's daily struggles for existence, as well as hunger, fear, and illness, are provided in Władysław Szpilman's book. In addition to highlighting the cramped small-unit apartment living and lack of food, he also highlights the musical evenings as a brief escape from the harsh reality of everyday life.

"The poor were already severely debilitated by hunger and had no protection from the cold, since they could not possibly afford fuel. They were also infested with vermin. The ghetto swarmed with vermin, and nothing could be done about it. The clothing of people you passed in the street was infested by lice, and so were the interiors of trams and shops." (SZPILMAN, 2000, p.16)

Polanski's visual story "The Pianist" emphasizes the sensation of confinement and hopelessness felt by the inhabitants of the Warsaw Ghetto by using striking visuals. Without requiring the audience to read between the lines, the video conveys the helplessness and isolation of the individuals imprisoned in the ghetto via meticulous attention to detail and powerful emotional effect.

### 6.1.5 Details of Warsaw the Uprising

Szpilman's remarkable account of the Warsaw Uprising provides an insider's perspective of the true scope of the destruction and human suffering caused by artillery strikes, fires, and mayhem on the streets of Warsaw. In addition, the book explores the hope and despair that followed the terrible defeat of the rebellion.

The film presents the Warsaw Uprising as a pivotal historical moment, capturing the turmoil, death, and devastation with dramatic shots and editing. Polanski's depiction of this pivotal historical moment is striking and enduring because it emphasizes the effects on the city and its citizens, especially Szpilman.

#### 6.1.6 Outcome

The World War II historical background of Władysław Szpilman's life is examined in both "The Pianist" and the Roman Polanski picture. It's vital to note how historical events influence music. For instance, music may initially be a sign of pleasure and calm during a conflict, but over time it develops to represent a way of resiliency and survival during periods of extreme stress and peril. The atmosphere of conflict has an impact on how people hear and interpret music. Music can sometimes be connected to pain and loss, and other times it can be connected to resiliency and hope. knowledge the underlying implications of musical themes at different points in the tale requires a knowledge of this contextual effect.

# **6.2** Deviations and parallels in the narrative structure

Because every media has benefits and disadvantages, an examination of The Pianist by Władysław Szpilman and the film by Roman Polanski provides insight into the many methods to recreate the same narrative. The primary focus of the analysis will be on the differences and similarities between the two works' narratives, structures, tempo and speed, visual and verbal narrative and emotional impact.

### **6.2.1** The Narrative Perspective

The book is presented in the first person and gives readers a comprehensive grasp of Szpilman's inner world by reflecting on his thoughts, feelings, and experiences throughout the war. It is very subjective and introspective.

Unlike books, films combine audiovisual elements to convey stories. Although the novel lacks an internal monologue, Polanski overcomes this by using visual symbolism, actor performances, and the musical soundtrack to portray Szpilman's thoughts and emotions.

## **6.2.2** Chronology and Structure

The book is structured as a linear narrative that describes Szpilman's experiences from the beginning of the war to its conclusion. This gives readers a chance to see the protagonist's life and the city of Warsaw, which helps them better understand the magnitude of the tragedy.

"The German artillery began shelling Warsaw again, first the suburbs, then the city centre too. More and more buildings lost their window panes, there were round holes in the walls where they suffered a hit, and corners of masonry were knocked off. By night the sky was red with the glow of firelight and the air full of the smell of burning. "(SZPILMAN, 2000, pp.35-36)

A few events are cut or simplified because of the film's runtime, but otherwise, the story is told in a sequential fashion. Polanski skips over unnecessary details like hiding or living in a ghetto in favour of concentrating on the most important parts of Szpilman's tale. A quicker tempo and greater visual attention are the outcomes of this.

### 6.2.3 Tempo and speed

Both the book and the movie have a slower-paced storyline, with the book emphasizing the author's experiences as well as themes such as human tenacity, grief, and optimism. Readers may delve into Szpilman's past and emotions through the book's indepth descriptions, while the movie use visual storytelling to convey information quickly.

The film concentrates on important emotional moments, which are frequently presented in a dramatic and condensed manner, leading to climaxes that speed the rhythm. The filmmaker must choose which scenes and events to depict because of timing constraints, which frequently means hastening the transitions between important moments. The quick changes between scenes and occurrences are left up to the audience's attention.

#### 6.2.4 Visual and verbal narrative

Visual symbolism is essential to Roman Polanski's film's visual story because it conveys the feelings and moods of the people and circumstances. Scenes of Warsaw's devastation or Szpilman's flight from German forces effectively capture dramatic situations with the least amount of words. In order to effectively communicate emotion and dramatic tension as well as to bring the viewer inside the characters' heads, the camera and editing are crucial tools.

However, readers are able to enter Szpilman's head and comprehend his emotions and ideas because to the book's vocal narrative, which is written in the first person. The narrative gains depth and complexity from the author's detailed account of Szpilman's experiences and observations.

#### **6.2.5** Emotional Impact

Deeper knowledge of Szpilman's inner world is possible thanks to the book's thorough insight into his feelings and ideas. It illustrates his emotional experience by going into depth about his dread, hope, and resolve. With thorough descriptions of the events and exchanges, the narrative also offers a comprehensive backdrop that helps readers understand the intricacy of the situation and how it affects Szpilman.

"I lay down on the sofa again. Why let myself be burnt alive when I could avoid it by taking the sleeping tablets? How much easier my death would be than the deaths of my parents, sisters and brother, gassed in Treblinka! At these last moments I tried to think only of them." (SZPILMAN, 2000, p.159)

Strong emotional reactions are evoked in viewers by films through the use of visual components such as body language, facial expressions, and cinematography to subtly show emotion. In visual storytelling, music is essential because it sets the mood and expresses the characters' emotions. The film's storyline benefits from the emotional resonance of the music, which enhances the visual storytelling in a distinctive way.

### 6.2.6 Outcome

The book's narrative allows for deeper empathy with the character's emotions, while the film's audiovisual elements immerse the audience in the events and situations. The book version offers a linear narrative of Warsaw's tragedy, while the film adaptation abbreviates events for a faster pace and greater audience attention due to limited time frame. The book and film narratives differ, with the book enhancing emotional depth and understanding, and the film focusing on dramatic moments and climax for intensity. The book and film adaptations enhance the story's experience by enhancing empathy with the main character's emotions through visuals and music.

# **6.3** Implementation of sound and music

The perceptual effect and narrative structure of literary works and cinematic adaptations are greatly influenced by sound and music. In the book and movie versions, "The Pianist" use music as a metaphor for optimism and fortitude, a means of communicating feelings and helping the protagonist, Władysław Szpilman, escape Holocaust and Nazi occupation.

Władysław Szpilman's "The Pianist" examines the place of music in a society plagued by pain and devastation. Music serves as both a symbol of power and resistance and a means of escape for the protagonist from the terrible events of the invasion. He can discover beauty and art when he plays the piano, which brings him peace and keeps his dignity and humanity intact in the middle of the tempest.

Roman Polanski's film adaption emphasizes the importance of music in times of conflict, showing how it can transcend tragedies and serve as a final hope for human creativity and civilization. This emphasizes the significance of melody in the wake. Music is a tool for survival and an expression of the frailty of life and the human spirit.

The Ballade No. 1 in G minor, Op. 23 by Fryderyk Chopin, which is included in The Pianist, has deep symbolic value and is essential to conveying Władysław Szpilman's feelings and intentions.

Szpilman symbolizes his love and enthusiasm for music at the start of the narrative by performing Ballade No. 1 on the radio. Furthermore, it suggests a pre-war period when he was free to showcase his abilities. Szpilman performs the song once more in the conclusion, signifying his survival and optimism, and it then becomes a symbol of victory over the horrors of war once he is freed from the concentration camp.

Ballade No. 1 is a representation of Szpilman's creative ability, tenacity, and forbearance in the face of war trials. It also serves as a link to his heritage and culture, giving him identification and strength in his darkest moments.

There are differences in how music is portrayed in the book and film versions of "The Pianist". Through Szpilman's internal monologue and poignant descriptions, the author of the novel more clearly reveals the emotional meaning of melody for the main

protagonist. Music is used in the film adaption to accentuate poignant moments and express the characters' intense emotions. The use of music by filmmaker Roman Polanski heightens the viewer's emotional experience and intensity. One of the most important parts of "The Pianist" is Ballade No. 1, which emphasizes the themes of survival, which is hope, and the enduring power of the human being in the face of adversity.

With its ability to instill optimism during trying circumstances, music inspires and motivates both Szpilman and readers. It shows us that the arts and culture have the power to motivate us to struggle for a brighter future. The narrative of "The Pianist" highlights how one may rise above the most trying circumstances in life by trusting in the majesty and strength of music.

"I played Chopin's Nocturne in C sharp minor. The glassy, tinkling sound of the untuned strings rang through the empty flat and the stairway, floated through the ruins of the villa on the other side of the street and returned as a muted, melancholy echo. When I had finished, the silence seemed even gloomier and more eerie than before. A cat mewed in a street somewhere. I heard a shot down below outside the building - a harsh, loud German noise." (SZPILMAN, 2000, p.178)

#### 6.3.1 Outcome

The soundtrack of "The Pianist" (novel and movie) represents human perseverance, bravery, and optimism amidst extreme pain. Music, no matter what form it takes, is a metaphor for human hope and the capacity to overcome great obstacles. The story of "The Pianist" persuades us that culture and the arts have the ability to inspire us to strive for a brighter future and that believing in the transcendence of music may bolster our resilience in the face of adversity. Fryderyk Chopin's Ballade No. 1 in particular, serves as a symbol of hope and triumph over the horrors of war, showing us that art can provide solace and light even in the most dire circumstances.

# **6.4** The main character's point of view

The protagonist, Władysław Szpilman, provides a distinct viewpoint on World War II and the Holocaust in both the novel "The Pianist" and Roman Polanski's film adaptation of the same name. Both the story and the audience's interpretation of the events are shaped by this point of view. Comparisons between the protagonist's point of view presentations in the two works may be made by looking at personal experience, interactions with other characters, and perceptions of war.

## **6.4.1 Personal Experience**

There is a chance to go into further length and depth about the main character's inner issues, thoughts, and feelings throughout the novel. The author is able to elaborate further on the psychology and feelings of the character. The main heroine in the novel uses music to help her deal with both her inner emotions and the external repercussions of war. It is possible to characterize certain musical moments or recollections of music as having inspired and reinforced the primary character.

Through Szpilman's first-person narrative, the book offers a comprehensive knowledge of his inner struggles and ideas. Giving rich background and a fuller understanding of his predicament, it describes the atrocities he experienced in the Warsaw Ghetto as well as his hiding spots.

"I would have felt quite happy in my new hiding place if my health had not been going downhill so rapidly. My liver was giving me a great deal of trouble, and finally, in early December, I suffered such an attack of pain that it cost me a huge effort not to scream out loud." (SZPILMAN, 2000, p.147)

Adrien Brody's emotive performance heightens the emotional experience as the film effectively conveys Szpilman's personal experience through visual and emotional mediation. Additionally, it employs indirect communication, leaving room for the viewer's interpretation as it combines body language, music, and cinematography to portray Szpilman's feelings and ideas without using words.

Personal experiences are mostly told through visual and aural media in the movie. Here, the presentation of emotional events and the audience's perception of the main character's inner world are greatly influenced by music. A movie's soundtrack may play a crucial role in enabling viewers to relate to characters' feelings and share their own experiences with them. Music has the power to accentuate dramatic moments, convey her anguish or optimism, and draw listeners into her world.

#### **6.4.2** Interaction with other characters

Through conversation and inward reflections, the book explores Szpilman's complicated interactions with a variety of individuals, including friends, family, and German troops. It also explores the moral and ethical conundrums that influence his choices and relationships, giving his character more nuance.

With a focus on significant exchanges and events, the movie portrays Szpilman's connections with other characters graphically. This method makes relationships easier to manage, but it also makes them more intense emotionally. The emotional effect of these sequences is enhanced by significant situations such as leaving his family and meeting Captain Hosenfeld.

### 6.4.3 The Perception of War

A thorough understanding of historical events such as the Warsaw Uprising is given by Szpilman's book, which examines the conflict as a human tragedy and its historical context. His contemplations about the origins and effects of the war give the narrative complexity and ambiguity while providing an all-encompassing viewpoint.

The characters' personal problems, as well as their hopes, fears, and losses related to the war, may be the main emphasis of the novel. These emotional states may be reflected in music, which enables readers to relate to the main character's mental condition.

The movie mostly uses images to depict the devastation and misery of cities and their people. Instead than stressing Szpilman's survival within a broader historical perspective, it showcases the physical effects of combat and his personal experience. Despite certain things being simplified, this method makes his experience more vivid for the spectator.

In a movie, the actors' expressive performances, gestures, and facial expressions may convey the feelings and psychological effects of battle. Here, the music heightens the audience's feelings while balancing the spoken and visual components.

#### 6.4.4 Outcome

All things considered, "The Pianist" and the movie version offer a nuanced and insightful perspective on what happened to people during World War II. By concentrating on the inner experiences of Władysław Szpilman, the primary character, and his

relationships with the other characters, they help us comprehend the dramatic events that were occurring at the time. In all tellings of the tale, music plays a significant part as Szpilman uses it to process his feelings and find courage and hope. The audio and graphics in the movie amplify the emotional moments and let the viewer share in the main character's experience of the historical events. All things considered, the two media work well together and provide us with more depth about a human event that happened at a period of conflict.

# **6.5** Character Comparison

## 6.5.1 Władysław Szpilman

The novel "The Pianist" offers a thorough description of the inner life of Szpilman, a character who struggles with identification throughout the Holocaust. The author gives a thorough knowledge of Szpilman's ideas, sentiments, and emotions, emphasizing his connection to music and its importance in his life. Through his internal monologues, Szpilman describes how music comforts him and helps him get over his pain and dehumanization. Throughout the conflict, Szpilman must weigh his own survival against the needs of others, which presents moral challenges. Szpilman's compassion and character depth are made evident by this internal conflict. Szpilman's character and growth throughout the narrative are fully explained in the book.

"'Listen!' I took his hand and began speaking urgently. 'I never told you my name - you didn't ask me, but I want you to remember it. Who knows what may happen? You have a long way to go home. If I survive, I'll certainly be working for Polish Radio again. I was there before the war. If anything happens to you, if I can help you then in any way, remember my name: Szpilman, Polish Radio.'" (SZPILMAN, 2000, p.181)

Wladyslaw Szpilman's character is shown less in-depth in the Roman Polanski film adaptation of "The Pianist" because it places more emphasis on outside circumstances and occurrences. The action sequences and dramatic events in the movie sometimes overshadow the protagonist's internal feelings and thoughts, which results in a shallow picture of the character and less comprehension of his inner growth. Szpilman's character development may also be impacted by the film's constrained ability to fully depict his relationships and connections with other characters, which may have an impact on the dynamics between him and other characters.

The main ways that the film adaptation presents Szpilman's psychological growth are through visual and aural cues. We follow his path from being a well-known composer and pianist to a guy attempting to survive the war without losing his humanity. Through acting, music, and visual symbolism, the film offers us a close-up glimpse of his inner battle and emotional states, letting the audience share in his fate. We get the chance to learn more about Szpilman's innermost sentiments and ideas throughout the novel. Through first-hand accounts of his feelings, thoughts, and internal turmoil, the author gives us a glimpse into the depths of his character. A more thorough examination of

Szpilman's mind enables us to comprehend his inner self and his responses to external situations, including the ways in which music affects his survival and life decisions.

We witness his will to live and maintain his humanity in both the novel and the movie. It is crucial to remember that, despite some similarities between Szpilman's persona and his connection to music in the novel and the movie, there are certain distinctions in how the character is interpreted and portrayed in both. The book offers a better grasp of his inner world and cognitive processes, but the film adaptation places more emphasis on visual and auditory aspects to communicate emotion.

## 6.5.2 The Szpilman family

The author emphasizes the value of his family's contacts and chats during the conflict by portraying them as a caring and supporting family. Szpilman receives a lot of support and guidance from his father, who is a role model for authority and wisdom, particularly during trying times. Szpilman's father and son's connection is also highlighted in the book, emphasizing its depth and how it shaped Szpilman's personality. In order to stay connected to his heritage and identity, Szpilman needs love, support, and a sense of belonging, which is why their family's customs and rituals are so crucial. Szpilman's emotional universe is emphasized by these moments, which also demonstrate the importance of familial bonds.

Wladyslaw Szpilman's family is shown in the film in a more straightforward manner, with an emphasis on his own survival path. Due to several moments being cut short or removed, it may be difficult to fully appreciate their significance and influence on Szpilman's character, which might result in a shallow representation of his connection with his family. A more surface-level representation of the relationships and emotional ties among family members may also arise from simplifying the dynamics between them owing to time restraints and story requirements. This might result in a less realistic representation of Szpilman's personality and the influence of his loved ones in his entire existence.

Szpilman learned to play the piano from his father, and he also performed it throughout the war. Today, this song represents remembrance, optimism, and fortitude. Through the chaos of war and misery, this music gave him mental stability and a place to hide. He had the bravery and fortitude to overcome obstacles and hold onto hope for a better tomorrow because of his father's memory and their shared musical heritage.

The father's role and impact on Szpilman are more thoroughly examined in the novel, but this section of the narrative is more condensed and suggestive in the movie. However, it is evident that the father's music and influence had a significant impact on the main character's life and were crucial to her ability to survive and maintain her psychological fortitude during the conflict.

Szpilman grew up listening to his father perform music, and he also played it himself. This music formed a vital part of who he was and gave him support during the war. Because of his father's musical background, he possessed not just technical proficiency but also an emotional bond with music, which allowed him to communicate his emotions, aspirations, and goals, even during the most trying circumstances. Szpilman's connection to his father and his musical background proved to be crucial elements in helping him retain his humanity and endure the war.

#### 6.5.3 Wilm Hosenfeld

"The Pianist" looks into the complicated persona of German officer Wilm Hosenfeld, who struggles with moral decisions during the Holocaust. The author presents Hosenfeld as a multifaceted individual who struggles with self-remorse and aspires to do good deeds. One of the most important scenes in the narrative is when Szpilman meets Hosenfeld, who, despite being a German army soldier, exhibits compassion and understanding. Hosenfeld's choice to provide Szpilman a place to stay is indicative of his moral conflict inside. Hosenfeld's significance in Szpilman's narrative and its bearing on his survival are further highlighted by Szpilman's subsequent learning of Hosenfeld's whereabouts and his endeavors to pay tribute to his memory. The book highlights how brave individuals like Hosenfeld can be in situations of crisis.

"'But how will I survive the street fighting?' I asked anxiously.
'If you and I have survived this inferno for over five years,' he replied, 'it's obviously God's will for us to live. Well, we have to believe that, anyway.' "(SZPILMAN, 2000, p.181)

Wilm Hosenfeld is portrayed as a minor character in the film adaption, which centers on Szpilman's battle for survival. Hosenfeld, though, lacks some of the book's detail. Time restrictions force the language and exchanges among Szpilman and Hosenfeld, who in the film to be shortened and simplified, which results in a less thorough depiction of Hosenfeld's interior growth. Furthermore, Hosenfeld's innermost feelings

and ideas could not be given enough room in the movie adaption, which would result in a shallower picture of him.

It is evident from both sources that Hosenfeld's appreciation of music and the arts shaped his understanding of the conflict and people in his immediate vicinity. Hosenfeld and Szpilman's relationship was greatly influenced by music, which they used to communicate and find comfort during their most difficult moments. The bond between Hosenfeld and Szpilman and their love of music demonstrates how music has the power to put a stop to conflict and hatred and bring people together on a human level.

Hosenfeld's crucial part in saving Szpilman is shown in both the novel and the movie. He was able to perceive Szpilman as more than simply an opponent because of his compassion, sensitivity, and understanding of music and art. His support and understanding of Szpilman show that human empathy and connection via music may provide the strength and hope to go through the most difficult situations, including times of conflict and natural disasters.

#### 6.5.4 Dorota

In my opinion Dorota is a young lady who represents hope and human connection in the midst of the Holocaust. A glimmer of hope amid the darkest days of World War II is her meeting with Władysław Szpilman. The role of Dorothy is essential in emphasizing the concepts of bravery. The character's appearance in the movie serves as an illustration of how the original plot has been expanded upon and altered, even though she is absent from the book version. Despite not appearing in the novel, Dorothy's character is critical to communicating the film's theme of interpersonal relationships and optimism.

## 6.5.5 Majorek Andrzej Bogucki

Major Andrei Bogucki is portrayed as a valiant and committed Polish officer who aided Jewish people, notably Wladyslaw Szpilman, and battled against the Nazis. Bogucki's actions throughout the war—such as supplying Szpilman with a safe place to stay and other necessities—show his bravery and humanity in the face of the Holocaust. Because of his assistance and defense against the Nazi authorities, Szpilman was able to avoid being sent to a concentration camp, demonstrating his impact on his survival. Boucki's significance in Szpilman's narrative and his vital role in ensuring his survival are emphasized by the author.

The portrayal of Major Andrei Bogucki in the movie is that of a supporting character with limited narrative significance. In the film, Bogucki mostly plays a supporting part, with Wladyslaw Szpilman serving as the main character. Time constraints may cause Bogucki's motivations and personality to be shown superficially, and their relationship with Szpilman to be shortened or simplified. As a result, viewers may not fully understand their strength and how it contributed to Szpilman's survival. This results in a superficial reading of the novel's primary narrative as well as Bogucki's character.

Both "The Pianist" (book and movie) highlight Major Andrei Bogucki's contribution to Wladyslaw Szpilman's life; however, the movie focuses on the details of Bogucki's personal journey, while the book offers a more in-depth look at Bogucki's connection with Szpilman. With different advantages and disadvantages, each version emphasizes the significance of Bogucki in Szpilman's narrative and his survival throughout the Holocaust.

## **6.5.6 Outcome**

It is clear from both pieces how important music is for conveying feelings, consolation, and hope during difficult times. As the primary character in both formats, Władysław Szpilman demonstrates how music can be an important component in preserving hope and mental health even during the most trying times. There is no denying its positive and healing effects on the characters, the viewer, and the reader.

The bond between Szpilman and his family, friends, and support network serves as an example of how important interpersonal ties and solidarity are throughout difficult periods in the tale. In times of conflict, human empathy and compassion are essential for both survival and optimism. Additionally, compassion and heroism are depicted, with Major Bogucki's bravery and Dorothy's generosity serving as symbols of optimism and hope. These individuals show the complexity of human nature and decision-making in dire circumstances by bringing a variety of viewpoints and moral and ethical dilemmas to the story.

In summary, the book and the movie "The Pianist" present distinct human stories that, although universal in their theme of the human spirit's resiliency and hopefulness in the face of genocide and conflict, are also universal. Władysław Szpilman's and other

characters' fortunes serve as a reminder of both the horrors of the past and the power of human connection to triumph over even the most trying circumstances.

## 6.6 Comparison of understanding and meaning

A comparison between Władysław Szpilman's book "The Pianist" and Roman Polanski's film version illustrates how disparate media may impact how one perceives and interprets the same narrative. The underlying themes of human perseverance, the sorrow of war, and the influence of music and art are present in both forms.

## **6.6.1** Presentation of Key Events

In order to help readers better appreciate the complexity of his circumstances and choices, the book offers a thorough account of significant events, their causes, and their outcomes. In addition, it contains introspective thoughts that offer a more profound comprehension of his mental condition and the affective consequences of these occurrences on his existence.

The movie presents important events using symbolic and visual shortcuts, which reduce some details while enabling the viewer to understand and react emotionally. The movie's running length forces some events to be chosen for watching and may truncate or remove others, which causes the focus to be different from the book on some areas.

#### 6.6.2 Narrative

Readers may progressively follow Szpilman's growth and the slow alterations in his surroundings and society thanks to his chronological story, which provides a thorough overview of the wartime period.

Condensing and narrowing the story to highlight the most dramatic or visually arresting moments in the film can heighten the experience, but it also reduces the amount of background information and specifics that are included in the narrative.

#### 6.6.3 Influence on the Audience

A book requires the reader's imagination to be active, to be emotionally and intellectually engaged, to be able to understand the text for themselves, and to develop a rapport with the author and characters.

"On that final day at the radio station, I was giving a Chopin recital. It was the last live music broadcast from Warsaw. Shells were exploding close to the broadcasting centre all the time I played, and buildings were burning very close to us. I could scarcely hear the sound of my own piano through the noise." (SZPILMAN, 2000, p.38)

The film provides an immediate visual and emotional experience, reinforcing certain aspects of the story and making it more accessible to a wider audience through its visual and auditory elements.

Readers and viewers can more easily relate to the character's predicament because of the powerful emotional mood that the music generates. Dynamic music, on the other hand, might improve tension or action sequences, and mournful tunes can induce grief or nostalgia. In this sense, music contributes to a richer reading and storytelling experience for readers and viewers.

A work's central idea may be supported by the symbolic interpretation of certain musical motifs. For instance, Chopin's music is a representation of hope and fortitude in "The Pianist" despite the atrocities of war. In this method, significant themes and plot points are communicated through the music.

#### 6.6.4 Outcome

One may interpret "The Pianist" in several ways depending on whether they are watching the movie or reading the book. Books provide readers with a greater grasp of Szpilman's thoughts and feelings, whereas films evoke strong emotions via visual narrative and musical accompaniment.

Music is essential to the overall expression of the work in both media. The music of Chopin in "The Pianist" represents fortitude, resiliency, and optimism in the face of the atrocities of war. This is especially true in the movie version, when the music and pictures combine to convey the major ideas and evoke powerful feelings.

## 7 Results

The research findings offer a more profound comprehension of the different components that are contrasted between the novel and the movie "The Pianist". The results imply that, despite the various ways it is delivered, the historical context is crucial to comprehending and interpreting the story. Though the events are presented differently in the book and film adaptations, both offer a thorough understanding of historical events and how they affected the main character.

Both medias make extensive use of sound and music, which serves to heighten the story's emotional impact. Particularly in situations where music is connected to times of perseverance and overcoming misfortune, music functions as a means of survival and hope. It appears from the research that even under the most trying circumstances, music may uplift and soothe people.

The novel and the movie present the main character from distinct points of view, and each gives Szpilman's personality a unique perspective. Although the novel gives readers an insight into his thoughts and emotions, the movie focuses more on the character's emotional reactions and visual storytelling.

Character significance and similarities between the novel and the movie demonstrate the unique qualities and advantages of each medium. The film adaptation successfully conveys the emotional impact of the characters to the audience through acting and visual components, although the book offers a more profound comprehension of the characters and their reasons.

The insights gained by examining the book and the movie "The Pianist" allowed us to better understand how music influences the survival and fortitude of the main character, Władysław Szpilman, amid the atrocities of World War II. As a source of inspiration and emotional support, music is essential in both formats. In the midst of chaos and conflict, Szpilman's relationship to music is shown in both the novel and the movie as a source of hope and calm.

The way that music is used by the protagonist in both the book and the movie to motivate and provide emotional support is similar. In both instances, music is shown as a

crucial component that gives Szpilman solace and hope in the middle of the catastrophic circumstances of chaos and conflict. Through a variety of melodic moments and instrument interactions, its strength and symbolism are portrayed.

Szpilman's bond with music is portrayed as passionate and very personal in the novel. For him, music is a way to get over the emotional and physical challenges of battle in addition to being a source of happiness or amusement. Szpilman's inner world of music is portrayed by the book's author as a place where he might find solace and purpose in life, as well as an escape from the horrors of war.

The way that music is portrayed in the "The Pianist" movie enhances its emotional impact and intensity as a tool of resiliency and survival by combining visual and aural elements. The movie version so emphasizes the value of music and how it affects both the audience and the main character. For the author of the book, Władysław Szpilman, music has a deeper meaning than mere sound. Szpilman's bond with music transcends aesthetics and becomes essential to his survival.

Chopin's Ballade No. 1 becomes a symbol of strength and hope, empowering Szpilman to persevere through adversity and maintain his strength in the face of the horrific suffering caused by war. The book's thematic examination of hope, remembrance, and humanity's survival during the harshest periods in history is supported by this musical motif, which rises above the page to become an important component. Consequently, in order to comprehend the central idea of the book as well as how music helps the protagonist survive and persevere, one must grasp the significance of music in "The Pianist" novel.

With this information, we are able to answer the research questions to what extent does the portrayal of music in both the novel and the film "The Pianist" contribute to the main character's resilience and survival during World War II? In what ways does the adaptation of "The Pianist" from novel to film enhance or alter the portrayal of music as a means of survival and resilience for the main character? How does the symbolism and imagery associated with music in "The Pianist" contribute to its thematic exploration of hope, memory, and the preservation of humanity in the face of dehumanizing atrocities?

The way that music is portrayed in The Pianist, both in the book and the movie, greatly helps Władysław Szpilman, the main character, to persevere and survive the Second World War. It is said that Szpilman uses music as a source of inspiration and emotional support to keep his fortitude and resolve throughout the trying times of battle. Particularly, Szpilman is able to preserve his humanity and individuality even in the most trying circumstances because of the symbolism of music, such as Chopin's Ballade No. 1, which acts as a source of hope and tenacity.

By giving the spectator a more profound experience of music through a fusion of auditory and visual expression, the film version of the novel "The Pianist" enhances the representation of music as a method of survival and resilience for the main character. The piano and the score, two visual symbols connected to music, let the audience and Szpilman comprehend the meaning and emotional effect of the piece better.

The symbolism and visuals linked with the music in "The Pianist" contribute to a thematic examination of hope, remembrance, and the preservation of humanity in the face of inhumane wartime crimes. Music is regarded as a tool of sustaining dignity and identity during tough times. Chopin's Ballade No. 1, in particular, takes on a symbolism of optimism and tenacity that highlights the major themes of the piece, which are remembrance, hope, and human dignity amid the harsh context of war.

Overall, "The Pianist" provides insight into how music may play a significant role in enhancing human resilience and survival in harsh environments, as both the novel and the movie illustrate. Their representation of music as a source of inspiration and emotional support offers a greater comprehension of human nature as well as the capacity to overcome insurmountable obstacles with bravery and tenacity.

# **Conclusion**

The examination of the book and the movie "The Pianist" helped us to comprehend the significance of music in helping the main character, Władysław Szpilman, survive and be resilient during World War II. Szpilman's mental state and his capacity to withstand the harsh realities of war are significantly influenced by music in all of its forms, from unique compositions to symbolic motifs.

The way that music is portrayed in books and movies demonstrates that music is more than just a sound; it is also a visual and symbolic component. Whereas music is presented in the film through sound and visual imagery, allowing the audience to feel its power as intensely as Szpilman does, it is described in the novel through descriptions of the main character's thoughts and emotions.

The audience for whom the novel's film adaptation opens up new insights into the significance of music for Szpilman's survival. The film's portrayal of music, when combined with visual symbols, heightens the audience's emotional experience and helps them comprehend the significance of music in Szpilman's life. However, the adaptation keeps some significant symbolic elements, like Chopin's Ballade No. 1, which comes to represent hope and tenacity in the face of war's horrors.

The main character of "The Pianist" is largely dependent on music for survival and resiliency. Szpilman receives emotional support and encouragement from it to face unfathomable obstacles, and its influence is felt both physically and psychologically. Through its symbolism and imagery, music is depicted in both the novel and the movie, demonstrating how human dignity and hope can be maintained in the midst of the most extreme pain as well as how art can offer consolation and strength in the most trying of circumstances.

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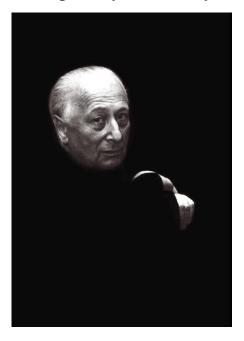
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# **Appendices**

# Appendix 1 - The portrayal of Władysław Szpilman



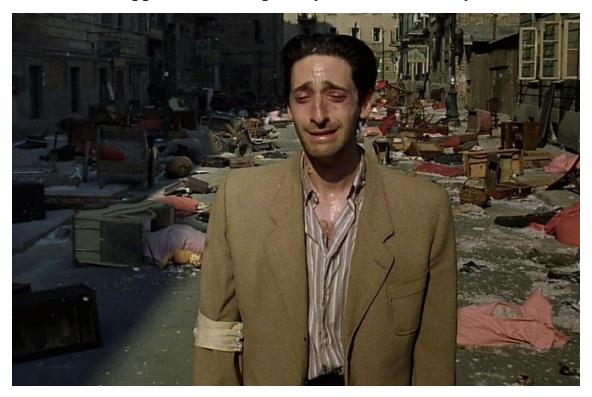
Picture 1. - The portrayal of Władysław Szpilman

# **Appendix 2 - The Pianist Movie Poster**



Picture 2. - The Pianist Movie Poster

# **Appendix 3 - The portrayal of Adrien Brody**



Picture 3. - The portrayal of Adrien Brody

# Appendix 4 - The scene from the movie "The Pianist"



Picture 4. - The scene from the movie "The Pianist"

# Appendix 5 - The portrayal of Roman Polanski



Picture 5. - The portrayal of Roman Polanski

# Appendix 6 - The scene from the movie "The Pianist" of Adrien Brody and Thomas Kretschmann



Picture 6. - The scene from the movie "The Pianist" of Adrien Brody and Thomas Kretschmann