

STAR WARS

Genre: Sci-fi/Adventure/Fantasy

Format: Feature

Nutshell: Flash Gordon meets The Hidden Fortress

Logline: A spirited farm boy joins a rebellion to save a princess from a sinister imperial enforcer – and the galaxy from a planet-destroying weapon.

OVERVIEW

Drawing from the space adventure films of old, medieval fantasies like the story of King Arthur, and the great samurai works of Akira Kurosawa, Star Wars seeks to create a new galaxy full of adventure, romance, swashbuckling, and fantastical creatures. In the center of this galaxy is the mystical energy known as the force, but very few are capable of learning to wield this power. In this classic tale of good versus evil, a young farm boy will set out on an adventure to discover that he's the galaxy's last remaining hope.

CHARACTERS

Luke Skywalker – The young farm boy and hero of this tale. He dreams of being part of something bigger, and when he finally gets that opportunity, he begins to discover a hidden power within himself.

Princess Leia – She may seem like a damsel in distress, but she's truly the galaxy's smartest and fiercest warrior for peace, and a leader in the Rebellion against the evil Empire.

Obi-Wan Kenobi – One of the last of the mystical knights known as the Jedi, and a former general in the rebellion, he now lives in seclusion as a hermit until Luke brings him a dire message.

Han Solo – The cocky pilot and smuggler just looking for a big pay day to get him out of debt with the gangsters who are after him, but maybe there's more to him than just money.

Chewbacca – Han's copilot and only friend. Being a Wookiee, he is big, furry, and strong.

R2-D2 – a clever astromech droid who, despite only communicating in beeps and boops, seems prone to foul language, and is also the bearer of the secret message for Obi-Wan Kenobi.

C3-P0 – a nervous and jittery protocol droid who despite being fluent in over six million forms of communication, can never seem to just shut up and get to the point.

Darth Vader – the leader of the Empire's forces, he wears a dark suit of armor, and, like Obi-Wan, he too is capable of the mystic powers of the force.

Grand Moff Tarkin – A cohort of Vader's, he's the head of the space station known as The Death Star, and will stop at nothing to quash the rebellion.

SUMMARY

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...

The galaxy is in the midst of a civil war. Rebel spies have stolen plans to the Galactic Empire's Death Star, a colossal space station capable of destroying an entire planet. **Princess Leia**, one of the rebellion's leaders, has the plans, but her ship is captured by Imperial forces under the command of the ruthless **Darth Vader**. Before she is captured, Leia hides the plans in the memory of an astromech droid, **R2-D2**, along with a holographic recording. R2-D2 flees in an escape pod to the desert planet Tatooine with **C-3PO**, a protocol droid.

The droids are captured by Jawa traders, who sell them to farmers Owen and Beru Lars and their nephew **Luke Skywalker**. While cleaning R2-D2, Luke accidentally triggers part of Leia's message, in which she requests help from Obi-Wan Kenobi. The next morning, Luke finds R2-D2 missing, and follows his trail to find Ben Kenobi, an old hermit who reveals himself as **Obi-Wan**. Obi-Wan tells Luke of his days as one of the Jedi Knights, former Galactic Republic peacekeepers with supernatural powers derived from an energy called the Force, who were all but wiped out by the Empire. Contrary to his uncle's statements, Luke learns that his father fought alongside Obi-Wan as a Jedi Knight. Obi-Wan tells Luke that Vader who was a former pupil of his, turned to the dark side of the Force and murdered Luke's father. Obi-Wan presents Luke with his father's weapon: an energy sword called a lightsaber.

Obi-Wan views Leia's complete message, in which she begs him to take the Death Star plans to her home planet of Alderaan and give them to her father for analysis. Obi-Wan invites Luke to accompany him to Alderaan and learn the ways of the Force. Luke declines because of his responsibilities back on the farm, but after discovering that Imperial stormtroopers have destroyed the farm, killing his aunt and uncle, Luke changes his mind. Obi-Wan and Luke travel to Mos Eisley, where they meet smuggler Han Solo and his Wookiee first mate Chewbacca in a cantina. After a series of brief confrontations, they agree to join forces and board Han's ship, the *Millennium Falcon*, but not before Han is cornered by a bounty hunter after his head, who Han shoots dead without hesitation.

While aboard the Millennium Falcon, the group discovers that Alderaan has been destroyed by the Death Star's superlaser on order of the commanding officer, **Grand Moff Tarkin**, as a show of power, and that they're heading straight towards it. Before they can get away, the Falcon is captured by the Death Star's tractor beam. Hiding among the Falcon's smuggling ports, the crew avoids capture and manages to steal some disguises from unwilling stormtroopers. While Obi-Wan goes to disable the tractor beam, Luke discovers that Leia is imprisoned on the Death Star, and rescues her with the help of Han and Chewbacca, but only after Han is promised a handsome reward. After several escapes, the group makes its way back to the Falcon. Obi-Wan sacrifices himself in a lightsaber duel with Darth Vader, and the Falcon escapes amid a fierce dogfight. The Empire has planted a tracking beacon aboard the ship, and follows the Falcon to the rebels' hidden base on Yavin 4.

The rebels analyze the Death Star plans and identify an exhaust port that connects to the main reactor; the Death Star can be destroyed through a chain reaction. Luke joins the Rebel fighter squadron, while Han collects his payment for the transport (and the rescue of Leia), and intends to leave. In the ensuing battle, the rebels suffer heavy losses after several unsuccessful runs. Vader leads a squadron of TIE fighters and prepares to attack Luke's X-wing fighter, but Han, showing he couldn't turn his back on his new friends, returns and fires at the Imperials, sending Vader spiraling away. Guided by Obi-Wan's spirit, Luke finds the power within himself and uses the Force to destroy the Death Star seconds before it can fire on the Rebel base. On Yavin 4, Leia awards Luke and Han with medals for their heroism.