

Hero's Journey Analysis – "Star Wars"

Step 1- Ordinary World

ORDINARY WORLD

Episode IV A new Hope

Titles on screen

A long time ago in a galaxy far far away

Civil war

Rebel spies have stolen plans to death star

Princess Leia has plans that can save her people

4:30

A futuristic spaceship is being chased by a much larger craft

R2D2

C3PO shuffling down the halls

We're doomed

No escape for the princess this time

Action from the opening scenes

A minor character is introducing a more significant character

They are swallowed by the larger ship

Storm Troopers in white come in

And kill all the Rebels

Darth Vader in black walks through

Breathing heavily

All the classic signs of the ANTAGONIST

Princess Leia puts a card into R2D2

Don't hear her talk

Darth Vader wants to know where the secret plans are

Throttles a guy

Princess Leia is stunned by a laser gun

R2D2 tells C3PO

Secret mission

Plans

Gets into a little escape pod

They eject from the ship

Hold your fire

No life forms

Floats off into space

33:28?

Leia says it's a diplomatic mission
Vader says she's part of the rebel alliance
She'll die before she tells you anything

Plans aren't on the ship
No transmissions
Must have been on the escape pod
Vader sends his Storm Troopers after them

R2D2 and C3PO have landed
Walk across a desert

We can only understand one of them – C3PO
We rely on him to translate R2D2 for us
Makes for a nice dynamic

35:05

No more adventures
I'm not going that way

They separate

Massive skeleton of some sort of dinosaur

Massive transport
Please help

R2D2 heads down a path watched by red eyes
Is zapped by them
And falls over

36:33

Little munchkins come and collect R2D2
Bring it back to a massive transport

Huge track wheels

R2D2 is zapped
And sucked up

R2D2 comes back to life
Surrounded by a bunch of other droids

C3PO is there too
They are reunited

38:08

The Storm Troopers mounted on dinosaur-like horses

Have found the pod
And know that there are droids

The Transport stops outside an igloo shaped house
They line up their droids
Show them to Luke Skywalker and his uncle Owen
Luke! Luke!
Translator must speak Baachi
This is a way to tell us what our hero's name is

They buy C3PO and a red droid

CALL TO ADVENTURE
Luke is told that he has to clean C3PO

REFUSAL
Wanted to go in to buy power converters

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR
You can play with your friends when your chores are done

Red Droid malfunctions
So they take R2D2 instead

Luke says that he's never going to get off this rock
Says he's on the planet furthest from the centre of the
universe – he hates his Ordinary World

Do you know about the rebellion?
Luke is fired up – tells us he is keen for adventure

You've got something jammed in here

CALL TO ADVENTURE
Plays a hologram
Help me Obi Wan Kenobe
You're my only hope

Luke says that she's beautiful
I wonder if he means old Ben Kenobe
A strange old hermit

I better play back the whole thing
R2D2 says that if he removes the restraining bolt
He can play the whole recording
Luke does but then the hologram disappears

Luke thinks the R2 unit has been stolen
Mentions Ben Kenobi – related?
Obi Wan Kenobi knew his father
Forget about it

Over dinner with his Uncle and Aunt (very common in mythology for there to be a missing parent or parents)
Luke tells them he wants to leave a season early
Go to the Academy

But his uncle won't let him
Luke not happy

Where are you going?
Nowhere
He is totally frustrated and just waiting for the call

Luke is just not a farmer says his aunt
Too much of his father in him
That's what I'm afraid of, says Owen
Hinting at danger ahead but also foreshadowing something interesting about Luke's father

Landscape has two moons
We are in a different place
But with the same problems

Luke looks forlorn
Comes in and finds C3PO
R2D2 has gone
Kept babbling on about his mission

Too dangerous with all the sand people around to chase
That little droid is going to cost me a lot of trouble

46:23

Next morning
Uncle looking for Luke
Take two units with him? Asks Owen

They are now flying in this little space ship
Luke and C3PO

They find R2D2
Sand people attack Luke

They come to claim his space ship

R2D2 cowers in a cave

A hooded figure comes down
They run
He checks Luke

Pulls back his hood

Come here my little friend

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Ben? Ben Kenobi?
Am I glad to see you

This little droid
Claims to be the property of Obi Wan Kenobi
Now that's a name I've not heard in a long time

Is he dead?
He's not dead
He's me

I haven't gone by the name of Obi Wan since before you
were born. He doesn't remember owning a droid

Obi Wan was a Jeddi knight like his father
And a good friend

I have something for you

Gives him his father's light sabre
An elegant weapon for a more civilised age
A literal passing on of something from earlier generation

For generations
The Jeddi Knight protected the people of the Republic

Darth Vader betrayed and murdered your father
He was seduced by the dark side of the force

The force? What's that?
It's what gives a Jeddi Knight his power

CALL TO ADVENTURE

Ben plays the hologram
Princess says the plans to the Death Star are stored on
R2D2 – they need to deliver the plans to Alderan

You must learn the ways of the Force if you're to come
with me to Alderan, Luke

REFUSAL OF THE CALL

Luke says he's too busy
So even though he's itching for adventure
There's an element of fear

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

You must do what you feel is right of course

On the Death Star
Last remnants of old Republic have been dissolved
If the rebels have the plans
They might find a weakness and attack
This station is impregnable
The most powerful in the universe (shades of Titanic)

Darth says that technology doesn't compare to the Force
Guy dismisses the Force
But without touching him Darth Vader almost chokes him

They will crush the rebellion

Ben finds a burnt out Transporter
Only Imperial Storm Troopers could have done this
Clearly they are chasing the droids

Luke heads home fearful for his aunt and uncle

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR

Wait Luke
It's too dangerous

But he jumps in his ship and returns to find his aunt and
uncle burnt to a crisp

He looks changed

Darth Vader comes to meet Princess Leia
Location of hidden rebel base
Machine with a needle
Clearly she will be tortured for the information

CROSSING THE FIRST THRESHOLD

There is nothing you could have done, Luke
I want to come with you to Alderan
There is nothing for me here now
I want to learn the ways of the Force

TESTS, ALLIES & ENEMIES

They head in to town
They are stopped by Storm Troopers
They don't need to check their papers
A demonstration of the force
A TEST

He did we get by the troops
The Force can have a strong effect on the weak minded

Will we really find a pilot who can take us to Alderan?

(A little reminder about what they're there for)

They go into the classic Watering hole – very typical of this phase

Music – also typical

Strange people

Droids can't go in

Strange languages

Classic disorientation for the hero

Ben talks to Chewbacca

Guy comes up to Luke

We don't like you

This little one is not worth the effort, says Ben

But that's not enough this time

Guy attacks Luke

Obi Wan pulls out his light sabre

Takes the guy's arm off

Another TEST

Han Solo

Captain of the Millennium Falcon

He's outrun Imperial Starships

Han wants Ten Thousand

We could buy our own ship for that

Yeah but who's going to fly it

Luke says he could

Antagonism between these two characters

Storm Troopers come in

But now they've gone

Han is clearly just in it for the money

He is cornered

Gets shot at

Kills the guy

TEST

Sorry about the mess

Darth says her resistance to the probe is considerable

May be another way

Luke sells his space ship

They are followed

Jabba the Hut
Big slimy vaguely French monster
Says he'll pay him back

They are still being followed
Transmits a message

What a piece of junk, says Luke
Han defends his ship
Setting up tension between these two guys

Storm Troopers are after them
Come in firing

Chewy, get us out of here

The Millennium Falcon takes off

Imperial Cruiser follows them
Han says he has to make the calculation for the jump to
light speed (hyper space)

Han says it's a bit different to dusting crops, kid
Luke is in a different world

Leia meets head of the Empire - Tark
He says that she can tell him where the rebel base is
Or he will destroy her home planet of Alderan

So she tells them it's on Dantouine

But then he double crosses her
They fire and Alderan is destroyed

As Luke plays with his light sabre
Ben says he felt a great disturbance in the force

APPROACH

Luke practises with his light sabre – very typical of
this phase

Chewy and R2D2 play some weird form of chess – again
typical

Obi Wan says that a Jediti can feel the force
Han doesn't believe in the Force
Again CONTRASTING two of the central characters

Ben says he should try it again

Stop trying to control
Go on instinct
Puts a helmet on with a blast shield
Can't see
Stretch out with your feelings

He gets stung
But then has some success
I did feel something
Good, you've taken your first step to a larger world

They find that the base is not on Dantouine
Terminate her immediately

They come out of hyperspace
To find Alderaan has been destroyed

They find a ship
Obi Wan says they should leave him

He's heading for a Moon
Too big to be a space station
I have a very bad feeling about this
Turn the machine around
But they can't
They are being sucked in by the tractor beam

ORDEAL

Darth is told about the capture
Leia might be of some use

Says it's empty
Send scanning crew on board
Darth can feel the Force

They are hidden in compartments

Need to turn off Tractor Beam
Obi Wan says leave it to him

They kill some Storm Troopers
Put on their suits

Enter the command centre
Shoot the guy

Between his howling and your blasting surprised the whole
station doesn't know we're here

R2D2 plugs in and identifies where they can disable the
tractor beam

Luke wants to go with Obi Wan
Says no
The Force will be with you

R2D2 says he's found Princess Leia
She's scheduled to be terminated

CALL TO ADVENTURE
Luke wants to go rescue her

REFUSAL OF THE CALL
Han doesn't want to go

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR
But Luke says that she's rich
The reward would be more than he could imagine

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD
I could imagine quite a bit

Luke suggests putting handcuffs on Chewbacca and taking
him to the detention centre

They take him up in a lift

Obi Wan makes his way down a hall
Darth can feel him

They enter the detention centre
Prisoner transfer
Shoot out

Luke goes to get Leia

Han tries to hold off someone on intercom
But can't

Luke finds Leia
Aren't you a little short for a Storm Trooper
Says he's here with Obi Wan Kenobi

Darth says Obi wan is there
He can feel the force

Banter between Leia and Han
They communicate to C3PO
People are trying to get in to them

No way out
They are trapped

She blasts a hole in the wall
They dive out
Smell
Either going to kill her or beginning to like her
RIVAL

They land in a compactor
Han not happy with Leia
Han fires his gun
Bounces around
Different world

How could it get worse
Growl
It just got worse

Tentacle

Luke is grabbed and dragged under
Appears to be gone
LIFE AND DEATH MOMENT – typical of an ORDEAL

Silence

He comes up
What happened?
I don't know
He just let go

Starts compacting
They try to brace the walls
C3PO?

The Storm Troopers have made it in
Sends them off on a wild goose chase

C3PO says he's taking R2D2 in for maintenance

R2D2 plugs into the circuits
Han handles Leia

Use the comms link says R2D2
At the last second
R2D2 shuts down the compactor

Listen to them, they're dying
We're all right

They've survived the Ordeal

Obi Wan has found the Power Source
Turns it off

Leia says that from now on
He takes orders only from her
Han says he only takes orders from himself

Obi Wan causes a distraction and gets away from the Storm Troopers

Leia impressed that Han flies ship
Braver than I thought

ORDEAL

He then takes them all on
Runs after them
Before they run after him

Luke and Leia separated from Han and the rest
They need to cross a space
The bridge has been blasted
He tosses a rope up
Swings across
Just as the Storm Troopers come from behind

Han and Chewy get chased

ORDEAL

Obi wan meets Darth
I've been waiting for you, Obi Wan
The circle is now complete
When I left, I was the student (?)
And you were the Master
Now I am the master
Only the master of evil, Darth

You should not have come back

They joust with their light sabres

Luke and Leia join Han and the rest at the ship
Storm troopers are distracted by the fight between Obi Wan and Darth

Ben looks to Luke
Holds sabre to his chest
Darth strikes him
No!!!!, screams Luke

WITNESSING DEATH – ORDEAL

They make their escape

REWARD

Luke is upset
Leia puts a blanket around him
Can't believe he's gone

THE ROAD HOME

Come on, buddy we're not out of this, yet

ORDEAL

They have to fight off Imperial fighters
Luke and Han shoot at them

Han gets one
Luke gets one
Great, kid. Don't get cocky

Two more out there
Luke gets one
And then Han finishes off the last one

REWARD

We did it

Hugs

ROAD HOME

Darth has put a homing beacon aboard their ship

Leia says they let us go

It's not over yet, she says

Leia says that she just hopes they can analyse the plans
and find a weakness

Han says that he's only in it for the money
Does he care about anything or anyone

REWARD

(Romantic interlude)
What do you think of her?
I'm trying not to

Do you think a princess and a guy like me?
No, says Luke too quickly

RESURRECTION

Briefing reveals that analysis has revealed a weakness
A precise hit is needed

Guy says it cant be done

Luke says he used to hit a target that small back home

This will be a day long remembered says Darth

Luke is kitted up

Han has his reward and he is just leaving

CALL TO ADVENTURE

Luke invites Han to come with him

REFUSAL

He says a reward is no good if you aren't alive to use it

Take care of yourself, Han

I guess that's what you're good at

Chewy moaning

Leia kisses Luke

Luke hooks up with Biggsy

Someone he's mentioned several times previously

The two worlds come back together

R2D2 gets mounted on Luke's fighter

The fighters take off

Ben says, "Luke, the force will be with you"

Luke takes some fire

The Death Star sends out fighters to take them on

One ship goes down

Rebel base in range in 7 minutes

The ticking clock

Luke, trust your feelings

Enemy fighters coming your way

Another ship goes down

Biggsy is being chased

Luke comes to help

Takes it out

Darth says several fighters have broken off from main group

Luke takes a hit

But R2 puts it out

Darth is now in a fighter

Death Star in range in 5 mins

Guy says switch to targeting computer

Darth chases them and takes out a rebel ship

Darth takes another one

And another

Head guy is told they've identified the weakness

Ready his ship?

In our hour of triumph?

Think you overestimate their chances

Rebel ship comes in on target

Fires

But misses target

In the process, lost two more fighters who were covering him

Darth takes out the lead guy

Rebel base 1 minute and closing

Luke going in at full speed

Biggsy questions whether he'll be able to pull out

Just like Devils Canyon back home

Luke starts his run

R2D2 – lock down stabiliser

One of Luke's cover guys has to leave

R2 – try to increase the power

Darth takes out Biggsy

Darth chases Luke

I'm on the leader

Luke has his attack computer

Use the Force, Luke

The Force is strong in this one

Luke, you've switched off your target computer

Lost R2

Death Star ready to fire

Darth has Luke in sights

Gets hit by Millennium Falcon
Han has come good

Luke fires

Down chute

Stand by to shoot

The Death Star explodes

Remember, the Force will be with you, always

RETURN WITH THE ELIXIR

They return to celebrate

Need to repair R2
C3PO happy to donate

Ceremony

Leia honours Han, Luke and Chewy
Puts medals around necks of all three

R2D2 is there – all repaired

They bow
Everyone claps
Chew moans