

# STAR WARS

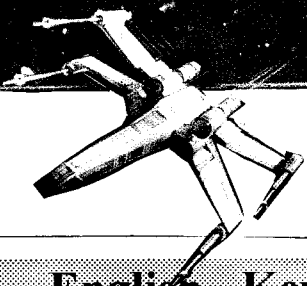
20th CENTURY FOX PRESENTS  
A LUCASFILM LTD. PRODUCTION  
"STAR WARS"  
MARK HAMILL HARRISON FORD CARRIE FISHER  
PETER CUSHING  
AND  
ALEC GUINNESS

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY GEORGE LUCAS PRODUCED BY GARY KURTZ MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS

PANAVISION® PRINTS BY DELUXE® TECHNICOLOR® SPECIAL EDITION SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON RCA VICTOR THX



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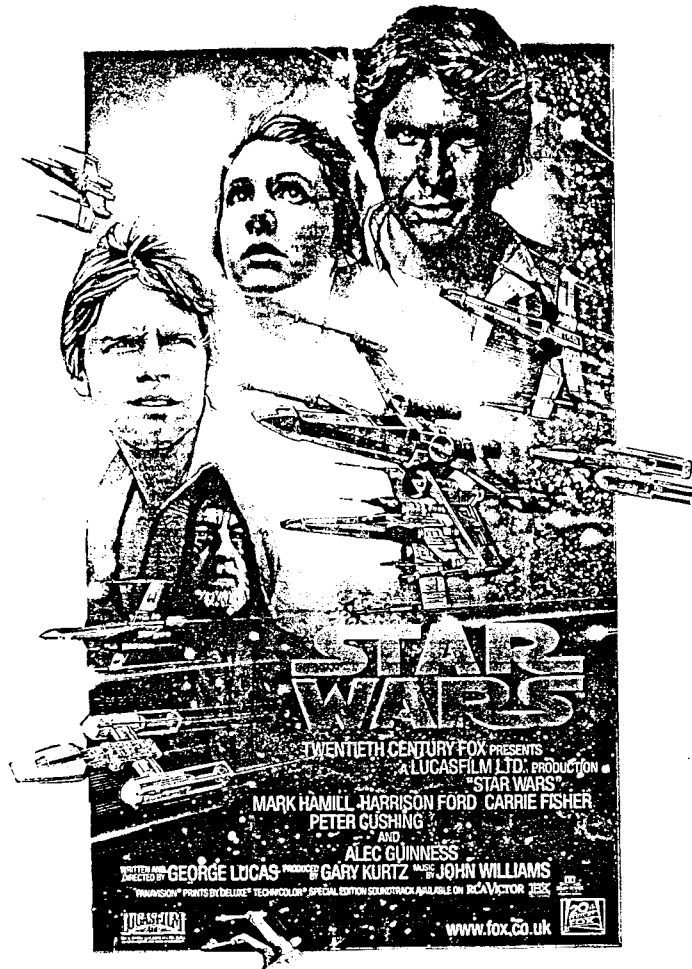


English Key Stage Three  
DWG English Department Production © G. Hollingsbee, Spring 1997

## Genre: The Film Poster

A film poster is not only displayed at the cinema, but on billboards and in magazines and newspapers. It is one of the main ways we find out about a film and decide whether or not to see it. Therefore, the film companies spend a lot of time and effort in making sure the poster will attract as many people as possible.

One way to attract people to a film is to identify the genre (the type) of the film so that people can be fairly sure what type of story and events will happen in the film. A poster is almost always a good indicator of a film's genre.



Answer the following questions in as much detail as you can about the poster:

### Section A

1. What words are written on the poster? What do they tell you about the film? (Think about what the title, *Star Wars*, suggests.)
2. What images (or pictures) are shown on the poster? What do they tell you about the film?
3. What sort of people would be attracted to this poster?

### Section B

Design a poster for a new *Star Wars* film called *Star Wars: Escape to the Ice Planet*.

## Storytelling: Comparing Openings

Novels often begin much differently than films. The novel of *Star Wars* begins very differently than the film. Read the beginning and then watch the film's start. Remember to take notes while you watch.

### prologue

ANOTHER galaxy, another time.

The Old Republic was the Republic of legend, greater than distance or time. No need to note where it was or whence it came, only to know that . . . it was *the Republic*.

Once, under the wise rule of the Senate and the protection of the Jedi Knights, the Republic thrived and grew. But as often happens when wealth and power pass beyond the admirable and attain the awesome, then appear those evil ones who have greed to match.

So it was with the Republic at its height. Like the greatest of trees, able to withstand any external attack, the Republic rotted from within though the danger was not visible from outside.

Aided and abetted by restless, power-hungry individuals within the government, and the massive organs of commerce, the ambitious Senator Palpatine caused himself to be elected President of the Republic. He promised to reunite the disaffected among the people and to restore the remembered glory of the Republic.

Once secure in office he declared himself Emperor, shutting himself away from the populace. Soon he was controlled by the very assistants and boot-lickers he had appointed to high office, and the cries of the people for justice did not reach his ears.

Having exterminated through treachery and deception the Jedi Knights, guardians of justice in the galaxy, the Imperial governors and bureaucrats prepared to institute a reign of terror among the disheartened worlds of the galaxy. Many used the imperial forces and the name of the increasingly isolated Emperor to further their own personal ambitions.

But a small number of systems rebelled at these new outrages. Declaring themselves opposed to the New Order they began the great battle to restore the Old Republic.

From the beginning they were vastly outnumbered by the systems held in thrall by the Emperor. In those first dark days it seemed certain the bright flame of resistance would be extinguished before it could cast the light of new truth across a galaxy of oppressed and beaten peoples . . .

From the First Saga  
*Journal of the Whills*

"They were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Naturally they became heroes."

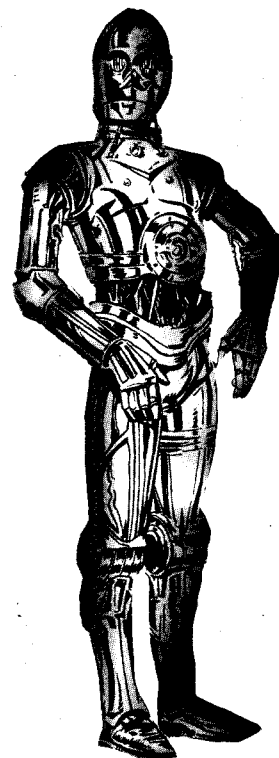
Leia Organa of Alderaan, Senator

#### Section A

1. Write down three differences between the start of the novel and the start of the film.
2. Why aren't we told very much about events before the start of the film?
3. Which do you think is the better start?

#### Section B

Now write up your answers to Section A into a short paragraph. Remember to begin with a topic sentence.

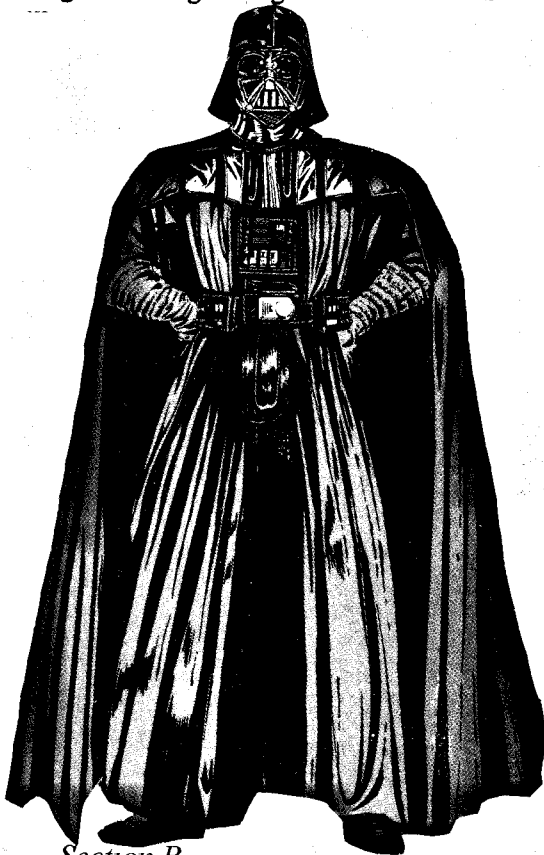


# Character: Darth Vader

Darth Vader, the Lord of the Sith, is the first main character we see in the film. Here is how he is first described in the novel:

Two meters tall. Bipedal. Flowing black robes trailing from the figure and a face forever masked by a functional if bizarre black metal breath screen—a Dark Lord of the Sith was an awesome, threatening shape as it strode through the corridors of the rebel ship.

Fear followed the footsteps of all the Dark Lords. The cloud of evil which clung tight about this particular one was intense enough to cause hardened Imperial troops to back away, menacing enough to set them muttering nervously among themselves. Once-resolute rebel crewmembers ceased resisting, broke and ran in panic at the sight of the black armor—armor which, though black as it was, was not nearly as dark as the thoughts drifting through the mind within.



Section B

From the *Character Qualities* list write down five words you can use for Darth Vader.

## Character Qualities

sensitive	independent	cruel
active	a fighter	hard hearted
romantic	friendly	spoilt
a loner	serious	kind
villain	kind	sulky
lonely	tough	mean
aggressive	passive	strange
trustworthy	intellectual	strong-willed
secretive	sex-symbol	childish
paternal	a thinker	clever
strong	gentle	unfriendly
sympathetic	selfish	generous
thoughtful	adventurous	caring
malicious	brave	afraid
loving	gallant	stern

### Section A

Answer these questions about the description of Darth Vader in full sentences:

1. How tall is Darth Vader?
2. What does 'Bipedal' mean?
3. Why does the writer describe Vader's breath screen as 'bizarre'?
4. Pick out two striking adjectives (describing words) used to describe Vader.
5. What is meant by a 'cloud of evil'?
6. What effect does Darth Vader have on other people

### Section C

Using the description, the film and the picture write a 100-word description of Darth Vader. Make sure you describe:

- his face
- his clothes
- his stance
- how he speaks to others
- how he makes you feel

## Storytelling: Extra Scene

The film begins with the capture of a rebel ship by a Galactic cruiser. When Darth Vader speaks to Princess Leia he tells us what had happened earlier:



"Senator Leia Organa," Vader rumbled softly, though strongly enough to override her protests. His pleasure at finding her was evident in the way he savored every syllable.

"Don't play games with me, Your Highness," he continued ominously. "You aren't on any mercy mission this time. You passed directly through a restricted system, ignoring numerous warnings and completely disregarding orders to turn about—until it no longer mattered."

The huge metal skull dipped close. "I know that several transmissions were beamed to this vessel by spies within that system. When we traced those transmissions back to the individuals with whom they originated, they had the poor grace to kill themselves before they could be questioned. I want to know what happened to the data they sent you."

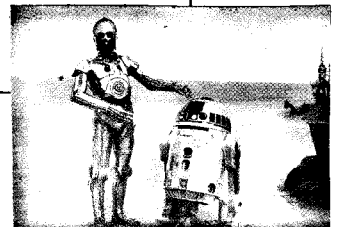
### Section A

Either: write a story or design a storyboard of what happened immediately before the beginning of *Star Wars*.

## Setting: Tatooine

Say whether the following statements about Tatooine are true or false. If a statement is false write down the truth.

1. Tatooine is a desert world.
2. It has four suns.
3. No people live on Tatooine.
4. People farm moisture.
5. Jawas are tall, green insects who drive small landspeeders and sell water.
6. People live underground.
7. Tuscan Raiders (Sandpeople) ride small, flying animals.
8. Luke Skywalker loves Tatooine and never wants to leave.
9. Luke Skywalker lives with his father and mother.
10. Ben Kenobi is the king of Tatooine.



## Storytelling: Message to Ben Kenobi

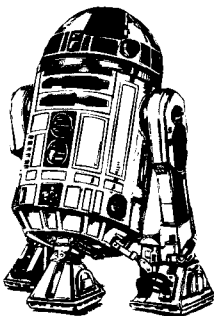
R2D2 plays Princess Leia's holographic message to Ben Kenobi. Here it is:

"General Obi-wan Kenobi," the mellifluous voice was saying, "I present myself in the name of the world family of Alderaan and of the Alliance to Restore the Republic. I break your solitude at the bidding of my father, Bail Organa, Viceroy and First Chairman of the Alderaan system."

Kenobi absorbed this extraordinary declamation while Luke's eyes bugged big enough to fall from his face.

"Years ago, General," the voice continued, "you served the Old Republic in the Clone Wars. Now my father begs you to aid us again in our most desperate hour. He would have you join him on Alderaan. You *must* go to him.

"I regret that I am unable to present my father's



request to you in person. My mission to meet personally with you has failed. Hence I have been forced to resort to this secondary method of communication.

"Information vital to the survival of the Alliance has been secured in the mind of this Detoo 'droid. My father will know how to retrieve it. I plead with you to see this unit safely delivered to Alderaan."

She paused, and when she continued, her words were hurried and less laced with formality. "You *must* help me, Obi-wan Kenobi. You are my last hope. I will be captured by agents of the Empire. They will learn nothing from me. Everything to be learned lies locked in the memory cells of this 'droid. Do not fail us, Obi-wan Kenobi. Do not fail *me*."

1. How does Princess Leia address Ben Kenobi?
2. Who does she say she is?
3. Who is her father?
4. Who did Ben Kenobi serve 'years ago'?
5. What has Leia failed to do?
6. What is in the mind of R2D2?
7. What does Leia ask Ben Kenobi to do?

## Character: Luke Skywalker

Luke Skywalker, a twenty years old farmboy, is the main character of *Star Wars*. The film is about how he joins the Rebel Alliance and fights the Evil Galactic Empire.

### Section A

Using the Character Qualities list on page four choose five words for Luke Skywalker.

### Section B

Write a letter from Luke Skywalker to his friend Biggs Darklighter. Write as if you are Luke and include news about:

- buying C3PO and R2D2
- meeting Ben Kenobi and discovering the message from Princess Leia
- finding your aunt and uncle dead
- deciding to go to Alderaan and join the fight against the Empire

Make sure the letter is set out correctly. Luke's address is: Skywalker Ranch, Yellow Desert, Right Hemisphere, Tatooine, THX 111.



## Character: Han Solo

Luke and Ben meet up with Han Solo in the cantina in Mos Eisley. They are looking for someone to fly them to Alderaan:

Luke had appropriated someone else's drink from a waiter's tray as they made their way to the rear of the cantina. He gulped at it with the giddy air of one who feels himself under divine protection. That safe he was not, but in the company of Kenobi and the giant Wookie he began to feel confident that no one in the bar would assault him with so much as a dirty look.

In a rear booth they encountered a sharp-featured young man perhaps five years older than Luke, perhaps a dozen—it was difficult to tell. He displayed the openness of the utterly confident—or the insanely reckless. At their approach the man sent the humanoid wench who had been wriggling on his lap on her way with a whispered something which left a wide, if inhuman, grin on her face.



The Wookie Chewbacca rumbled something at the man, and he nodded in response, glancing up at the newcomers pleasantly.

"You're pretty handy with that saber, old man. Not often does one see that kind of swordplay in this part of the Empire anymore." He downed a prodigious portion of whatever filled his mug. "I'm Han Solo, captain of the *Millennium Falcon*." Suddenly he became all business. "Chewie tells me you're looking for passage to the Alderaan system?"

"That's right, son. If it's on a fast ship," Kenobi told him. Solo didn't bridle at the "son."

"Fast ship? You mean you've never heard of the *Millennium Falcon*?"

Kenobi appeared amused. "Should I?"

"It's the ship that made the Kessel run in less than twelve standard timeparts!" Solo told him indignantly. "I've outrun Imperial starships and Corellian cruisers. I think she's fast enough for you, old man." His outrage subsided rapidly. "What's your cargo?"

"Only passengers. Myself, the boy, and two 'droids—no questions asked."

"No questions." Solo regarded his mug, finally looked up. "Is it local trouble?"

"Let's just say we'd like to avoid any Imperial entanglements," Kenobi replied easily.

"These days that can be a real trick. It'll cost you a little extra." He did some mental figuring. "All in all, about ten thousand. In advance." He added with a smile, "And no questions asked."

Luke gaped at the pilot. "Ten thousand! We could almost buy our own ship for that."

Solo shrugged. "Maybe you could and maybe you couldn't. In any case, could you fly it?"

"You bet I could," Luke shot back, rising. "I'm not such a bad pilot myself. I don't—"

Again the firm hand on his arm. "We haven't that much with us," Kenobi explained. "But we could pay you two thousand now, plus another fifteen when we reach Alderaan."

Solo leaned forward uncertainly. "fifteen . . . You can really get your hands on that kind of money?"

"I promise it—from the government on Alderaan itself. At the worst, you'll have earned an honest fee: two thousand."

But Solo seemed not to hear the last. "Seventeen thousand . . . All right, I'll chance it. You've got yourselves a ship. As for avoiding Imperial entanglements, you'd better twist out of here or even the *Millennium Falcon* won't be any help to you."

Answer these questions in full sentences:

1. Where does Luke meet Han Solo?
2. How is Han Solo described?
3. What do you think the following sentence means? "He displayed the openness of the utterly confident - or the insanely reckless"
4. What is the name of Han's spaceship?
5. How much does Han Solo charge?
6. What does Luke think about the charge?

# Setting: The Millenium Falcon

In your own words explain what is happening in this picture. Who are the characters? Where are they? What are they doing?



# Setting: The Death Star

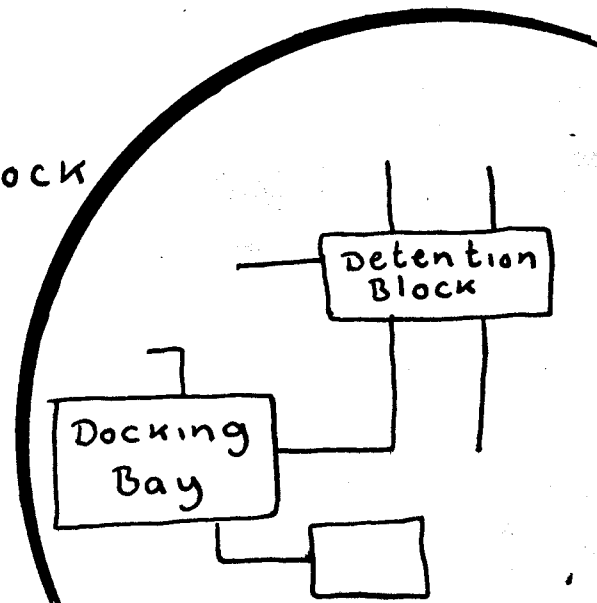
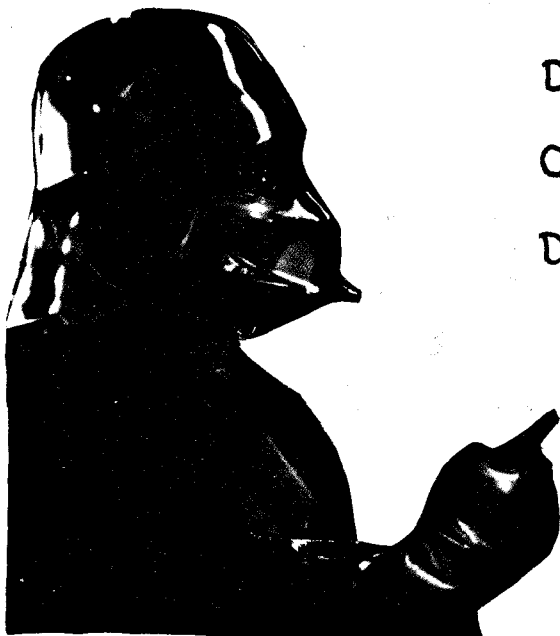
As you watch the film make a note of all the places visited on the Death Star. Draw your own map of the inside of the Death Star.

## Places Visited

Docking Bay

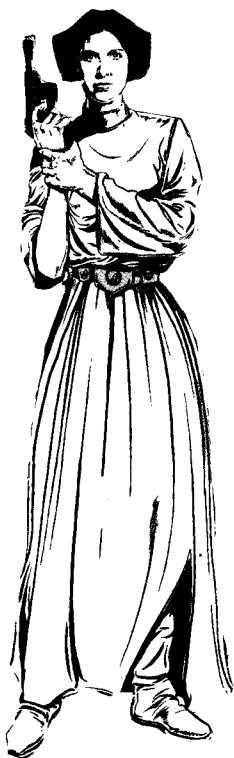
Corridors

Detention Block





## Character: Princess Leia Organa



### Section A

Choose five words from the *Character Qualities* list to describe Princess Leia.

### Section B

When Princess Leia arrives at the rebel base she is asked to write a report about her adventures. Write that report as if you are Princess Leia. Make sure you write about:

- what happened on the way to the rebel base and what you did with the Death Star plans;
- meeting Darth Vader and being taken to the Death Star;
- being rescued by Luke Skywalker and Han Solo;
- anything else you think would be useful to the Rebel Alliance.

## Storytelling: The End

Take notes about everything that happens and is said while you watch the end of the film.

Write the front page news story of the Rebel Alliance News reporting on the battle against Imperial forces and the destruction of the Death Star. You can present your newspaper story using a DTP.



## Writing a Review

Write a review of *Star Wars*. Make sure you include:

- a brief account of the story
- what you thought of the special effects (SFX)
- what you thought of the actors and the characters they played
- scenes which you thought were particularly enjoyable
- an overall comment on the film
- a score out of ten

