

STAR WARS SCRIPT BEAT SHEET

STRUCTURE OF STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE

Exposition

Luke Skywalker is a farm boy on the desert planet Tatooine who hopes to one day become a star pilot and study at the Imperial Academy.

Inciting Incident

Princess Leia, a young political diplomat, plants a distress call on an R2-D2 droid unit, who she then sends in an escape pod to Tatooine before being captured by the villainous Darth Vader.

Plot Point One

On Tatooine, Luke discovers the R2 unit and hears the distress call from Leia calling out for help from Obi-Wan Kenobi. Luke asks his Uncle Owen if Obi-Wan might be related to an old hermit named Ben Kenobi, which greatly unsettles him.

Rising Action

Luke finds Ben Kenobi, who reveals that he is actually the great Jedi Knight Obi-Wan and has been in hiding since the Clone Wars. Obi-Wan asks for Luke's help in rescuing Leia. Luke doesn't want to abandon his Aunt and Uncle, so he's hesitant to agree to this proposal.

Midpoint

Luke returns to his homestead to discover that his family was slaughtered by Imperial troops. He vows to dedicate his life to that of a Jedi and to become as powerful as his father, Anakin Skywalker—a former pupil of Obi-Wan's.

Plot Point Two

Obi-Wan and Luke hire smuggler Han-Solo to fly them to the planet Alderaan so that they can free Leia. Meanwhile, on the weaponized ship known as the Death Star, Darth Vader orders the destruction of Alderaan.

Build Up

Han's ship, the Millennium Falcon, is caught in a tractor beam and trapped within the Death Star. Luke and Han rescue Leia, while Obi-Wan confronts Darth Vader, who kills him in mortal combat.

Climax

Luke, Han, Leia, and Chewbacca escape from the Death Star and return to the rebel base of Yavin where they plan an all-out assault.

Finale

The Rebel Alliance attacks the Empire in a galactic dog-fight. While piloting an X-Wing, Luke uses the Force to fire a laser shot into the Death Star exhaust port, which causes the entire station to go up in flames.

Denouement

Luke, Han and Chewbacca are honored at a large ceremony and given medallions by Leia for aiding the Rebel Alliance in the destruction of the Death Star.