

HERO'S JOURNEY

The 12 stages from Christopher Vogler's The Writer's Journey, based on Joseph Campbell.

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TITLE		WRITER	
Star Wars (1977)		George Lucas	
HERO		WHAT THE HERO WANTS	
Luke Skywalker		To leave Tatooine and fight for something bigger than a moisture farm	

ACT ONE: DEPARTURE

1. ORDINARY WORLD the hero's normal life before the story

Luke works his uncle's moisture farm on Tatooine and watches the twin suns set, wishing he were anywhere else.

2. CALL TO ADVENTURE a problem or offer shakes things up

R2-D2 plays a hidden message from Princess Leia: "Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi. You're my only hope."

3. REFUSAL OF THE CALL fear, doubt or duty holds them back

Obi-Wan asks Luke to come to Alderaan. Luke says no. He has chores and his uncle needs him for the harvest.

4. MEETING THE MENTOR someone gives advice, training or a gift

Obi-Wan gives Luke his father's lightsaber and tells him about the Force.

5. CROSSING THE THRESHOLD they commit and enter the special world

Luke finds his aunt and uncle murdered. He commits, and the Millennium Falcon jumps to hyperspace.

NOTES themes, images, ideas

Lucas said he read Joseph Campbell while developing Star Wars. The mentor gift here is literal: a weapon and a family history.

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Stages can overlap or swap order. Use what serves your story.

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ACT TWO: INITIATION

6. TESTS, ALLIES, ENEMIES learning the rules of the new world

The Mos Eisley cantina, hiring Han Solo and Chewbacca, and blindfolded lightsaber training on the Falcon.

7. APPROACH TO THE INMOST CAVE closing in on the big danger

A tractor beam pulls the Falcon into the Death Star. The heroes hide in the ship's floor and sneak in.

8. THE ORDEAL the biggest test so far, often a brush with death

They rescue Leia and nearly get crushed in the trash compactor.

9. REWARD what they win by surviving

They escape with Leia and the Death Star plans, but Obi-Wan is killed by Darth Vader.

ACT THREE: RETURN

10. THE ROAD BACK the push for home, and a new threat

TIE fighters chase them to the Rebel base on Yavin 4, and the Death Star follows.

11. RESURRECTION the final test, where the change shows

The trench run. Luke switches off his targeting computer, trusts the Force and destroys the Death Star.

12. RETURN WITH THE ELIXIR home again, with something to share

The medal ceremony. Luke comes home to a new family and the Rebellion survives.

HOW HAS THE HERO CHANGED?

From a farm boy who waits for his life to start to a pilot who acts on faith.