

THREE-ACT STRUCTURE

Beginning, middle and end, with the five turning points that hold a story up.

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TITLE

Star Wars (1977)

WRITER

George Lucas

MAIN CHARACTER

Luke Skywalker

WHAT THEY WANT

Adventure, and to matter

PAGES / RUNTIME

121 min

STORY TIMELINE

rough guide: in a 110-page script, 10% is about page 11

ACT ONE | Setup

●
Inciting incident
about 10%

●
Plot point 1
about 25%

ACT TWO | Confrontation

●
Midpoint
about 50%

ACT THREE | Resolution

●
Plot point 2
about 75%

●
Climax
about 90%

ACT ONE: SETUP

SETUP the hero, their world and what's missing

The Empire captures Princess Leia. Her droids escape to Tatooine, where they're sold to Luke's uncle. Luke is bored and stuck.

INCITING INCIDENT the event that starts the story

Luke finds Leia's message inside R2-D2 and meets Obi-Wan Kenobi.

PLOT POINT 1 the hero commits. No going back.

Stormtroopers kill Luke's aunt and uncle. With no home left, he leaves Tatooine with Obi-Wan.

THREE-ACT STRUCTURE

Act two is the longest. Keep raising the stakes.

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ACT TWO: CONFRONTATION

RISING ACTION obstacles, allies and enemies

Mos Eisley, Han Solo and Chewbacca, lightsaber training, and the discovery that Alderaan has been destroyed.

MIDPOINT a big reveal or reversal

The Falcon is captured by the Death Star. The heroes are now inside the enemy's weapon.

PLOT POINT 2 the lowest point, or a push into the final battle

Obi-Wan dies facing Darth Vader. They escape with Leia and the plans, but the Empire is tracking them.

ACT THREE: RESOLUTION

CLIMAX the final confrontation

The Battle of Yavin. Luke trusts the Force on the trench run and destroys the Death Star.

RESOLUTION the new normal

Luke, Han and Chewbacca are honored at the medal ceremony. The Rebellion lives to fight on.