

Bythelens - Screenwriter's Toolkit

Analysing a Movie

Name of film:

Star Wars

Brief description:

A classic quest set in a science-fiction universe.

Act 1: Universe Description:

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. Science-fiction universe but very well-worn, grubby and in some places in need of repair. The galaxy is ruled by an Empire, violent and dictatorial. Technology is everywhere, but people are still the focus.

Protagonist and Antagonist:

Luke, an orphan, living with his aunt and uncle.
Darth Vader, Grand Moff Tarkin, agents of the Empire.

Instigating Event:

Attempting to capture the stolen plans to the Death Star, an Imperial weapon, Vader sends troops to Tatooine. They follow two droids to Luke's home and murder his adoptive parents.

Act 2:

Obstacles in Act 2:

Need transport.
Alderaan is missing.
Leia is prisoner.
Ben is killed.
Millennium Falcon is followed.
Death Star is sent to destroy Rebel base.

Protagonist gains in Act 2:

Han Solo and Chewbacca, allies with transport.
Training in use of the Force.
Rescue of Leia.
Spiritual guidance of Ben.

Act 3:

Axis (beginning of Act 3):

Death Star arrives at Yavin IV to destroy Rebel base. Battle commences, victory for Rebels will destroy Death Star. Victory for Empire will destroy Rebel base.

Denouement:

Battle is fought. Rebels victorious. Tarkin killed. Death Star destroyed. Vader escapes.

Aftermath:

Medals all round. Luke, Han, Chewbacca, all now part of Rebellion.