

## **Star Wars Archetypes**

**Archetypes:** Type of literary criticism that accepts the idea of recurring patterns of situations, characters, or symbols existing universally and instinctively.

### **Situational Archetypes:**

- The Quest – restore freedom to the galaxy
- The Initiation – learning the Jedi ways after the death of his foster family; on the way to Alderaan when Ben is training him
- The Task – save Leia; destroy the Death Star
- The Magic Weapon – most commonly the light sabre
- The Ritual – medal ceremony
- The Journey – trip to Alderaan and beyond
- The Fall – down the garbage chute
- Death and Rebirth – when Luke disappears underwater in the garbage chute then suddenly reappears
- The Natural vs. Mechanistic World – Luke vs. Darth; Ben vs. Darth; Rebels vs. Empire; Humans vs. Storm Troopers
- The Battle between Good and Evil – Rebels vs. Empire
- The Unhealable wound – Death of aunt and uncle and death of Ben
- The Scapegoat – Ben Kenobi submits to Darth
- The Star-Crossed Lovers – Han and Leia; Luke and Leia
- The Hunting Group of Companions – Luke, Han, Leia
- The Loyal Retainers – C3PO and R2D2
- The Creature of Nightmare – all the characters in the Cantina, Jabba the Hut, Sand People
- The Friendly Beast – Chewbacca
- The Apparently Evil Figure with an Ultimately Good Heart – Han Solo
- The Woman Figure
  - The Damsel in Distress—Leia
  - The Earth Mother—Aunt Beru
  - The Temptress—Leia
  - The Platonic Ideal – Leia
  - The Unfaithful Wife—(not in this episode)
  - The Ingénue – Leia
  - The Model Wife – (not in this episode)

### **Character Archetypes:**

- The Hero – Luke Skywalker
- The Young Man from the Provinces – Luke Skywalker
- The Initiates – Luke and Leia
- The Mentor – Obi Wan Kenobi (Ben)
- The Mentor-Pupil Relationship – Ben training Luke
- The Devil Figure – Darth Vader and General
- The Father-Son Conflict – Luke and Darth (although they don't know their relationship yet)
- The Outcast – Han Solo or Ben Kenobi

### **Symbolic Archetypes:**

- Light vs. Darkness – Force vs. Dark side of Force
- Water vs. Desert – Tatooine (desert planet that harvests water)
- Heaven vs. Hell – Rebels vs. Empire
- Innate Wisdom vs. Educated Stupidity – Luke is able to shoot into the hole because of his experience back home shooting swamp rats; the general thinks the rebels do not stand a chance against the Death Star.
- Supernatural Intervention – The Force
- Fire vs. Ice – color of light sabres