



CRITICAL VIEWING GUIDE

STAR WARS AND THE HERO'S JOURNEY

EPISODE VI: RETURN OF THE JEDI

Luke Skywalker has returned to his home planet of Tatooine in an attempt to his friend Han Solo from the clutches of the vile gangster, Jabba the Hutt. Little does Luke know that the Galactic Empire has secretly begun construction on a new armored space station even more powerful than the first dreaded Death Star. When completed, this ultimate weapon will spell certain doom for the small band of Rebels trying to restore freedom to the galaxy...

Characters and Locations

Jabba the Hutt: Crime lord of Tatooine. He paid a handsome bounty to Boba Fett for capturing Han Solo.

Bib Fortuna: Jabba's loyal assistant.

Emperor Palpatine: Rule of the Empire and master of the Dark Side of the Force.

Mon Mothma: Leader of the Rebel Alliance and former Senator of the Republic

Admiral Ackbar: Mon Calamari leader of the Rebel fleet.

Crix Madine: Commander of Rebel ground forces.

Wicket: Young Ewok who wants to become a warrior.

Endor: Forest moon inhabited by the Ewoks and location of the

Mythic Elements

shield generator that protects the Death Star.

As you view the film, look for examples of each of the following mythic elements:

1. The Hero's Return
2. Resurrection
3. Monster Combat
4. The Resurgence of Evil
5. The Enchanted Forest
6. Helpful Animals
7. Descent into the World
8. Atonement with the Father
9. Unmasking
10. Final Victory

Critical Viewing Questions

Having carefully watched the film, answer the following questions to the best of your ability.

1. Why do you think Luke had to lose his lightsaber along with his hand in *The Empire Strikes Back*? Why is significant that he must now construct his own?
2. What is symbolic about Han's "hibernation"? How is he different about being released?
3. What is the significance of Luke fighting the Rancor without any weapons?
4. Who is "the other" hope for the Rebellion that Yoda refers to in *The Empire Strikes Back*?
5. What role do the Ewoks play in the story? Why are they significant? What does Lucas suggest about "technological power" though the Ewoks battle with the Imperial forces?
6. To what other characters in mythology can Emperor Palpatine be compared?
7. At what point in the story does it become evident that Vader is struggling with his feelings for his son?
8. What role does Luke play in the redemption of Darth Vader? By the end of the story, is Vader redeemed?
9. What is symbolic about Luke's use of a funeral pyre at the end of the story?

