Plot Summary of Star Wars Episode 4

[The galaxy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_Wars#Setting) is in a [civil war](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galactic_Civil_War), and spies for the [Rebel Alliance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebel_Alliance) have stolen plans to the [Galactic Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galactic_Empire_(Star_Wars))'s [Death Star](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_Star), a heavily armed and armored [space station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_station) capable of destroying an entire planet. Rebel leader [Princess Leia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princess_Leia) is in possession of the plans, but her ship is captured by Imperial forces under the command of the evil lord [Darth Vader](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Darth_Vader). Before she is captured, Leia hides the plans in the memory of a [droid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Droid_(robot)#Astromech_droids) called [R2-D2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/R2-D2), along with a [holographic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holography) recording. The small droid flees to the surface of the desert planet [Tatooine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatooine" \o "Tatooine) with fellow protocol droid [C-3PO](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C-3PO).

The droids are captured by [Jawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Star_Wars_species_(F%E2%80%93J)" \l "Jawa" \o "List of Star Wars species (F–J)) traders, who sell the pair to moisture farmers [Owen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Star_Wars_characters#Owen_Lars) and [Beru](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Star_Wars_characters" \l "Beru_Lars" \o "List of Star Wars characters) and their nephew, [Luke Skywalker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luke_Skywalker). While cleaning R2-D2, Luke accidentally triggers part of Leia's message, in which she requests help from [Obi-Wan Kenobi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obi-Wan_Kenobi). The only "Kenobi" Luke knows of is an old hermit named Ben Kenobi who lives in the nearby hills. The next morning, Luke finds R2-D2 searching for Obi-Wan, and meets Ben Kenobi, who reveals himself to be Obi-Wan. Obi-Wan tells Luke of his days as a [Jedi Knight](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jedi), one of a faction of former galactic peacekeepers with supernatural powers derived from an energy field called the [Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Force_(Star_Wars)), who were wiped out by the Empire. Contrary to his uncle's statements, Luke learns that his father fought alongside Obi-Wan as a Jedi Knight before he was betrayed and killed by Vader, Obi-Wan's former pupil who turned to the [dark side of the Force](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_side_(Star_Wars)). Obi-Wan then offers Luke his father's [lightsaber](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lightsaber" \o "Lightsaber).

Obi-Wan views Leia's complete message in which she begs him to take the Death Star plans to her home planet of [Alderaan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alderaan" \o "Alderaan) and give them to her father for analysis. Obi-Wan invites Luke to accompany him to Alderaan and learn the ways of the Force. Luke initially declines, but changes his mind after discovering that Imperial [stormtroopers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stormtrooper_(Star_Wars)" \o "Stormtrooper (Star Wars)) searching for C-3PO and R2-D2 have destroyed his home and killed his aunt and uncle. Obi-Wan and Luke hire smuggler [Han Solo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Han_Solo) and his[Wookiee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wookiee) first mate [Chewbacca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chewbacca) to transport them on their ship, the [*Millennium Falcon*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Falcon).

Upon the *Falcon* '​s arrival at the location, they find out that Alderaan has been destroyed by order of the Death Star's commanding officer, [Grand Moff Tarkin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Moff_Tarkin), as a demonstration of the Death Star's power. The *Falcon* is captured by the Death Star's [tractor beam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tractor_beam) and brought into its hangar bay. While Obi-Wan goes to disable the tractor beam, Luke discovers that Leia is imprisoned aboard and, with the help of Han and Chewbacca, rescues her. After several harrowing escapes, the group makes its way back to the *Falcon*. Obi-Wan engages in a lightsaber duel with Darth Vader and is killed. The *Falcon* escapes the Death Star, unknowingly carrying a tracking device that enables the Empire to follow it to the rebels' hidden base on [Yavin IV](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yavin" \l "Yavin_4" \o "Yavin).

The rebels analyze the Death Star plans and identify a vulnerable exhaust port that connects to the station's main reactor. Luke joins the rebel assault squadron, while Han collects his payment for the transport and intends to leave despite Luke's request that he stay and help. In the ensuing battle, the rebels suffer heavy losses after several unsuccessful attack runs, leaving Luke one of the few surviving pilots. Vader leads a squad of [TIE fighters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TIE_fighter) and prepares to attack Luke's [X-wing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/X-wing)ship, but Han returns and fires on the Imperials, sending Vader spiraling away. Helped by spiritual guidance from Obi-Wan to use the Force, Luke successfully destroys the Death Star seconds before it can fire on the rebel base. Leia later awards Luke and Han with medals for their heroism.