

Anakin Skywalker

Anakin "Ani" Skywalker is believed by many, notably Qui-Gon Jinn, to be the Chosen One destined to bring balance to the Force. He is taken as a young boy and trained as a Jedi, and becomes a legendary figure during the Clone Wars. However, Anakin's arrogant behavior and emotional insecurities eventually cause him to turn to the Dark Side, becoming Darth Vader. Jedi Master Mace Windu says that the Chosen One will destroy the Sith and bring balance to the Force.

Son of Shmi Skywalker, Anakin is born in about 41 BBY. Some viewers have drawn narrative parallels between this tale and the New Testament stories of Jesus' conception and birth, as well as classic mythological stories, as Shmi claims that there was no father and that she just became pregnant with Anakin. The wise Qui-Gon Jinn suggests that the midi-chlorians might have conceived him - the implication being that Anakin is a creation of the will of the Force itself. (According to Chancellor Palpatine, the Sith Lord Darth Plagueis learned to provoke midi-chlorians into producing life, raising the possibility that either Plagueis or his apprentice Palpatine engineered this event). George Lucas has revealed that Anakin's origins were left deliberately ambiguous, and that it has been left for the audience to decide how he was created.

In the prequels, and especially in the third episode, *Revenge of the Sith*, Anakin is a tragic hero of Star Wars whose tragic flaw is his fear of loss.

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Childhood and discovery



Jake Lloyd as Anakin

In *The Phantom Menace*, he appears as a kind, selfless nine-year-old boy (played by Jake Lloyd). Anakin and his mother are slaves owned by the curmudgeonly scrap-shop owner Watto. Even at this young age, he has a reputation for being able to build or repair anything, evidenced by the creation of his own protocol droid C-3PO and podracer, each from salvaged parts. A child prodigy, Anakin excels at mathematics and engineering. Among his many talents, he also is a remarkable pilot due to his enhanced intuition, endowing him with quick reflexes.

He is found on Tatooine by Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn. Qui-Gon is convinced that Skywalker is the individual told of in prophecy who will "bring balance to the Force", not only because the boy's incredible abilities indicate that he is Force adept, but also because his midi-clorian levels read at record high levels. Qui-Gon is able to win Anakin's freedom based on a clever wager that enters the boy in a podrace. Having then won his freedom, Anakin must leave his mother, and he is brought to Coruscant with Qui-Gon, Queen Padmé Amidala of Naboo, and Qui-Gon's padawan, Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Master Jinn asks the Jedi Council to allow him to train Anakin as his student, after his current apprentice, Obi-Wan, completes the trials necessary to become a Jedi Knight. This request is denied. Anakin is much older than usual, and they are concerned that his prior experiences will interfere with his training. In particular, he exhibits much fear and anger, left over from his days as a slave, and further compounded by the separation from his mother and home.

Ultimately, Anakin helps to lead Naboo and Gungan forces to victory over the Trade Federation by taking a Naboo spacefighter and destroying the Federation flagship, the Droid Control Ship. Later, a dying Qui-Gon, slain by Darth Maul, urges Obi-Wan to train Anakin, and the Council reluctantly approves. Meanwhile, the newly-elected Supreme Chancellor, Palpatine, would "watch [his] career with great interest."

In the course of events, he meets Padmé Amidala, with whom he forms a strong bond. Padmé is one of Anakin's first glimpses of the galaxy beyond Tatooine.

Star Wars character



Hayden Christensen, as Anakin Skywalker, wields his lightsaber in a publicity shot

Anakin Skywalker

Homeworld	<u>Tatooine</u>
Species	<u>Human</u>
Gender	<u>Male</u>
Height	1.35 meters (4 ft 5 in) (as a child), 1.85 meters (6 ft 1 in) (as a young adult)
Weapon	<u>Blue Lightsaber</u>

Vehicle	<u>Customized Delta-7 Jedi Starfighter</u> , <u>Anakin Skywalker's Podracer</u> , <u>Naboo N-1 Starfighter</u>
Affiliation	<u>Jedi</u> , <u>Galactic Republic</u>
Film portrayer	<u>Jake Lloyd/Hayden</u> <u>Christensen/Sebastian Shaw</u>

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The Clone Wars

In *Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones*, (2002), Anakin is now a young adult and cocky Jedi apprentice (played by actor Hayden Christensen). Anakin develops as an arrogant, socially awkward loner, doubtless in part because of his transition from scrapyard slave to rising star of the Jedi Order. His natural abilities place him leaps and bounds above his peers, and this feeds his ego. He frequently shows off. His relationship with Obi-Wan, is complicated. Though he says that Obi-Wan is like a father to him and claims his mentor possesses the wisdom of Master Yoda and the power of Master Windu, he strafes against Obi-Wan's authority and partially views him as inferior. He builds a friendship with Chancellor Palpatine, who would say things to further fuel his pride, at one time saying "I foresee you becoming the greatest of all the Jedi, Anakin, even greater than Master Yoda."

He is assigned to guard Padmé, who is now a senator. His childhood fascination with her has turned into a powerful infatuation. In conversation, he reveals his affection for her, a distrust of the political process and his view of the need for one strong leader. He falls in love with Padmé, and she reciprocates. Both seem entranced with the other and their different social castes. Anakin's pursuit of this relationship is in violation of Jedi tradition, which holds that although Jedi are not required to be celibate, they must avoid attachment in their relationships.

While still guarding Padmé, Anakin senses that his mother, Shmi, is in danger. After arriving on Tatooine, Anakin finds that his mother has been freed from slavery and has been living in the desert with her new husband when she is captured by Tusken Raiders. The young Jedi discovers their

camp, and slips into the tent that contains his mother, presumably locating her with his Jedi senses. He arrives to talk to Shmi shortly before she dies. Battered, sleep-deprived, and dehydrated, she dies in his arms. Angry at the Tusken, his dark side is more strongly revealed as he slaughters the entire tribe of Tusken; killing all, including the women and children as he confesses to Padmé. Padmé is clearly troubled by what he has done, but she has invested herself too much in him to be truly repulsed; she tries to soothe him with sympathy.

Anakin learns that his friend and mentor, Obi-Wan Kenobi, has been taken hostage by the Geonosian-engineered Separatist forces, and goes against the spirit of his orders, by taking Padmé with him, to save Obi-Wan. However, they are also soon captured and are about to meet their demise in a gladiatorial-execution arena, wherein they profess their dying love to one another. Thankfully for the trio, the timely arrival of the Jedi and the new clone troopers allow both of them to escape and fight in the ensuing Battle of Geonosis. After losing his right arm in a lightsaber battle with Count Dooku, Anakin finally marries Padmé on Naboo.

In *Star Wars: Clone Wars*, Anakin goes through many battles in the war, earning him the moniker the "Hero Without Fear." One of such major events in it is his battle with Asajj Ventress. He is later made a full-fledged Jedi, despite the fact that he never goes through the final test prior to his knighting. During a mission to save the Nelvaanian Braves, Anakin goes through a cave that reveals what would become him in the future. The twins Luke and Leia are conceived during this time period as well.

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Transformation to Vader



In *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*, Anakin and Obi-Wan board the Confederate flagship The Invisible Hand where Count Dooku is holding Chancellor Palpatine hostage. They confront Dooku, who manages to

disable Obi-Wan before being defeated and disarmed by Anakin. At Palpatine's urgings, Anakin kills Dooku, immediately regretting betraying the way of the Jedi by killing a foe who has already surrendered.

Upon his return to Coruscant, Anakin is reunited with his wife and she informs him of her pregnancy. He is later troubled by visions of Padmé dying in childbirth. In addition, dark times follow when Palpatine makes Anakin his representative on the Jedi Council. The other Jedi reluctantly accept Anakin's placement on the council, but deny him the rank of Jedi Master. Further, the Jedi Council urges Anakin to keep tabs on Palpatine. This leads Anakin to lose his trust in them, and reveal to Padmé that he is plagued with uncertainty.

As he continues to meet with Palpatine, the Chancellor offers Anakin the chance to learn the Dark Side of the Force. Anakin realizes that Palpatine is a Sith Lord and draws his lightsaber. Palpatine warns Anakin that only through his teachings can Anakin save Padmé from the death he has foreseen. Anakin reports to Mace Windu that Palpatine is a Sith Lord, and Windu and three other Jedi go to arrest the chancellor, ordering Anakin to stay behind. Palpatine duels with the Jedi, slaying three of them before engaging Windu in a prolonged battle. Anakin, in the meantime, is troubled by the thought that by Palpatine's death, he will lose the chance to save his wife.

Windu comes out on top, holding his weapon on the cowering Sith just as Anakin arrives. Palpatine attacks Windu with Force lightning while pleading to Anakin for help. Windu screams at Anakin not to listen. Windu blocks the Force lightning with his lightsaber, scarring and deforming Palpatine severely. Palpatine relents and begs for his life, but Windu expresses a desire to kill Palpatine and end the Sith. Anakin demands that Palpatine must stand trial— to execute him is not the way of the Jedi. Windu chooses to attack, but before he can kill Palpatine, Anakin draws his lightsaber, severing most of Windu's arm. Before Windu can respond, Palpatine uses Force lightning and sends Windu plummeting to his death. After this, Anakin questions his actions but Palpatine states that he is fulfilling his destiny. He further encourages Anakin to embrace the dark side. Anakin says he will do anything Palpatine desires, but he must help save Padmé's life. Palpatine insists that he and Anakin, together, can find the secret, tacitly admitting that he does not have the ability to hold back death. Anakin then pledges himself to the Dark Side and Sidious endows him with a new name: Darth Vader.

In order to increase Vader's power with the Dark Side, Palpatine orders him to lead a battalion of Clone Stormtroopers to the Jedi Temple and kill every Jedi and Padawan inside. Vader does this without question, killing venerable Jedi and children alike. Next, Vader is sent to the planet Mustafar where he kills the Council of the Confederacy of Independent Systems, including the Trade Federation Viceroy, Nute Gunray, Sidious's former ally who invaded and occupied Naboo and is defeated by Anakin in the Battle of Naboo, ten years before the Clone Wars.

Padmé goes to Mustafar to try to reason with him, afraid for him and wanting to leave public life to live together and raise their child. Unknown to her, Obi-Wan stows away on her ship to find Anakin. Upon seeing Obi-Wan, Anakin suspects betrayal and uses the Force to choke Padmé until she loses consciousness. Anakin and Obi-Wan fight an intense battle throughout the mining complex and down the river of lava outside. Anakin largely has the upper hand during the battle, but is overly aggressive. The battle ends on the banks of the lava river, where Anakin, overconfident, leaps to strike his former master, only to lose his left arm and both legs to Obi-Wan's blade.



Vader and the Emperor overseeing the construction of the Death Star

Anakin tries to claw his way up the embankment, but his body catches on fire and he is nearly immolated. With his remaining robotic arm, Anakin does finally manage to crawl high enough to prevent falling directly into the lava flow. After Obi-Wan and Padmé leave the planet, Darth Sidious arrives and finds Anakin barely alive next to the lava river. He returns with Anakin to Coruscant and repairs the damage to his body through intensive cybernetic enhancement. Upon his revival as a cyborg in a manner reminiscent of Dr. Frankenstein's monster, Vader breaks his bindings on the operating table and struggles to walk under the sheer weight of his new legs. Vader then questions his master about Padmé, who has since died in childbirth. Sidious tells him that Anakin/Vader killed Padmé in anger.

Overwhelmed by his despair in the belief he has killed his wife and unborn child, the only thing that remains in his life is his service to his master, the new Emperor of the galaxy.

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Darth Vader



"He's more machine now than man, twisted and evil." — Obi-Wan Kenobi

Vader is a cruel and frightening figure in the Empire, and his ability to choke people using the Force is a skill he uses often. In *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*, Vader's aggressive instincts are somewhat restrained with orders to serve under Grand Moff Tarkin for that time: when Admiral Motti challenges Vader's "sad devotion" to the Force, Tarkin does not allow Vader to choke Motti to death, only long enough to make his point. The death of Tarkin aboard the Death Star removes any apparent check on Vader's power, and throughout the rest of the trilogy, Imperial officers universally react with fear and dread at Vader's presence. This fear is not unwarranted, as both Admiral Ozzel and Captain Needa die by Vader's hand in Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back. Admiral Piett curiously survives, despite failing to recapture the Millenium Falcon.

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Fighting the rebellion

At the beginning of *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*, Vader has been charged with tracing the stolen plans of the Death Star and finding the hidden base of the Rebel Alliance. In the process he tortures Leia Organa and is complicit in the deaths of billions by the destruction of the planet Alderaan, although Grand Moff Tarkin is more directly responsible for the deed. Vader also battles the now-elderly Obi-Wan Kenobi in their second lightsaber duel against each other. Despite Obi-Wan's vague warning that doing so will make him "more powerful than you can possibly imagine," Vader strikes him down, and Obi-Wan becomes a spirit in the Force in order to guide Luke Skywalker. To determine the location of the rebel base, Vader allows Luke and Han Solo to rescue Princess Leia and escape with the plans to the construction of the Death Star. He then appears again piloting a distinctive TIE/Advanced fighter and almost prevents Luke's successful starfighter attack on the Death Star. When the Millennium Falcon comes in and shoots down one of his two support craft, the other veers into Vader's fighter and sends him spinning away from the planet-sized weapon of mass destruction that he helped to construct. Vader regains control and escapes.

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Battling his son



 Luke Skywalker confronts Darth Vader

In *Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back*, Vader is at the forefront of the continuing attempt to suppress the Rebellion, as he orders the fleet to approach the ice world of Hoth and prepare a full military assault on the hidden rebel base there. Admiral Ozzel makes the mistake of jumping into the system too close, alerting the rebels to their presence and allowing them to evacuate and escape. While most of the rebels escape to the safety of the rebel fleet, the Millennium Falcon's hyperdrive fails, and Vader orders the fleet to pursue the Falcon, even through an asteroid field.

While on this pursuit, Vader receives a new mission from the Emperor—to capture Luke Skywalker, his own son and the pilot who destroyed the Death Star. Vader suggests that he could be turned to the dark side of the Force, and the Emperor agrees, noting that he would be a "powerful asset".

Vader continues pursuing the Falcon, resorting to hiring bounty hunters. Ultimately, the Falcon appears and just as quickly disappears, hiding in a blind spot on the back of the bridge tower of Captain Needa's Star Destroyer. Captain Needa takes responsibility for losing them, and apologizes to Vader. After Needa dies at Vader's hand, the fleet disperses and the Falcon breaks off, floating away as the Star Destroyer it was attached to dumps its garbage before going to hyperspace. The Falcon then sets course to Cloud City, a mining colony administered by Han's old friend Lando Calrissian. Boba Fett, one of the bounty hunters hired by Vader, had deduced their strategy and followed them to Cloud City, alerting Vader.

Vader lands on Cloud City, making a deal with Lando and waiting for the Falcon's arrival. When the Falcon arrives, Vader captures and tortures Han Solo. Much to the chagrin of Boba Fett, who is already seeking Solo under the hire of Jabba the Hutt, Vader freezes Solo in carbonite as a test subject to see if the method would be viable for the younger Skywalker. Luke, training under Yoda on Dagobah, sees a vision of this and rushes to Cloud City to save his friends, despite the sternest warnings from Yoda that he would risk falling to the dark side. Luke arrives, but Leia warns him it's a trap within the corridors of Cloud City. Lando, Chewbacca, and Leia engineer an escape from Cloud City as Boba Fett takes the frozen Han Solo to collect the bounty from Jabba the Hutt.



"No. *I* am your father."

Luke finds Vader, and they battle, Luke not knowing his opponent's true identity. As Yoda and Obi-Wan warned, the inadequately trained Luke is no

match for the powerful and experienced Vader who ultimately defeats him, cutting off his right hand.

Vader: "Obi-Wan never told you what happened to your father."

Luke: "He told me enough. He told me you killed him!"

Vader: "No. I am your father."

Vader tells Luke to join him so that they can destroy the Emperor and rule the galaxy as father and son. Luke, however profoundly shaken by this stunning claim, refuses to join Vader and escapes.

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The redemption of Anakin Skywalker

Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi sees Vader take charge of the construction of a second Death Star. Vader detects the presence of Luke Skywalker, but the Emperor does not. Luke surrenders to Imperial troops on the forest moon of Endor, where Luke attempts to convince Vader to turn away from the Dark Side. Vader replies, "It is too late for me, son," taking Luke to the Emperor onboard the incomplete Second Death Star. Luke reluctantly fights an extended Lightsaber battle with Vader, attempting to persuade Vader to renounce the Dark Side of the Force as Vader and the Emperor attempt to turn Luke to the Dark Side.

Vader telepathically examines Luke's mind and realizes that Leia is Luke's sister (and thus his daughter), and threatens to turn her to the Dark Side if he should fail with Luke. Realizing the threat to his sister, Luke's rage is finally unleashed, and he attacks Lord Vader, driving him back with a whirlwind of blows. Severing Vader's right hand, Luke's fury is suddenly cut short—as he stares at his own cybernetic hand, he realizes with a visceral horror that he has already begun transforming into Vader's successor. As the Emperor approaches, encouraging Luke to finish Vader and take Vader's place, Luke throws down his lightsaber, refusing to perform the killing blow, thus guaranteeing the Emperor's failure. Luke proudly states that he will never turn to the Dark Side. Enraged at his unsuccessful attempt to turn Luke to the Dark Side, the Emperor uses Force lightning to attack Luke.

Luke: "Never. I'll never turn to the Dark Side. You've failed, your highness. I am a Jedi, like my father before me."

Emperor: "So be it, Jedi."



Sebastian Shaw as the dying Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader.

Luke writhes in agony under the Emperor's torture, begging his father for help. Vader ultimately takes mercy and saves Luke from the Emperor, lifting and throwing him into a deep shaft where he explodes in a fury of dark energies (receiving mortal wounds in the process). The dying man pleads with Luke to remove his mask. Luke removes Vader's mask and sees the face of an old, deeply worn man underneath. In his dying breaths, Anakin Skywalker accepts redemption through the light side of the Force, finally admitting to Luke that the goodness within him was not destroyed after all.

"You were right, Luke. Tell your sister. You were right." [Wikiquote](#)

According to [Steve Sansweet](#) of [Lucasfilm](#) and the script for the Return of the Jedi Special Edition, Anakin's body disappeared at death in the same way as Obi-Wan's and Yoda's bodies,

[1] (<http://www.starwars.com/community/askjc/steve/askjc20000131.html>) though some argue that the movie would have shown his disappearance explicitly if that were the case. In either case, Vader's life support suit and whatever remains inside is burned by Luke in the manner of a Jedi's funeral on the [forest moon of Endor](#).



[Sebastian Shaw](#) (left) as the spirit of Anakin Skywalker in *Return of the Jedi*.

Later that night, during the celebration on Endor, Luke is able to see the spirit of the redeemed Anakin Skywalker, along with the deceased Jedi, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Yoda. In the original version of this scene, Anakin was played by Sebastian Shaw, who played Anakin in his death scene. The latest version of Return of the Jedi as of 2005 is the 2004 DVD release where Anakin's spirit is replaced by Hayden Christensen, who plays Anakin/Vader in *Attack of the Clones* and *Revenge of the Sith*. According to Lucas, this change was made because Anakin goes back to his "inner persona" once one with the force, and appears the way he was before he turned to the dark side.

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Talents

Darth Vader is a brilliant strategist and one of the greatest pilots in the galaxy. Vader still possesses his former persona's amazing engineering skills, having overseen the design of the TIE/Advanced fighter. His talent with the lightsaber is legendary. All of these skills, however, are secondary to his incredible mastery of the Force. As Anakin, he has the greatest known midi-chlorian count (a measure of Force-aptitude) in the galaxy, surpassing that of both Yoda and the Emperor. However, George Lucas states that his injuries on Mustafar (including the severing of all three of his remaining limbs) cost Vader much of his Force potential. Lucas claims that, as a masked and suited Darth Vader, Anakin has roughly 80% the strength of the Emperor. Had he sustained none of his injuries on Mustafar, he would have been about twice as powerful.