


STAR WARS



I find your lack of faith disturbing.

WHAT DID JOSEPH CAMPBELL THINK?

Star Wars was one of the last major works of modern fantasy that Joseph Campbell analyzed before he died. He discussed his thoughts about George Lucas's epic with Bill Moyers at Skywalker Ranch.

By now, you've had the opportunity to watch *Star Wars*, the monomythic journey of Luke Skywalker. George Lucas claims that he had the idea to write *Star Wars* after reading Campbell's influential work *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*. You have also had the opportunity learn Joseph Campbell's thoughts about George Lucas's creation in *The Power of Myth*.

So how exactly **did** Campbell feel about seeing his life's work realized on the screen in a new myth for the ages?

You are Joseph Campbell, and you are writing a letter to George Lucas about your thoughts and feelings as you viewed *Star Wars*. Are you impressed with how it realizes the hero's

journey? What archetypes and steps in the journey did you notice?

Your letter should be approximately 2-3 pages, typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman font size 12 with proper MLA heading and formatting. Explain to George Lucas how his movie is the ultimate result of your own work. Use Campbell's own quotes from *The Power of Myth*, properly cited with page numbers and a Works Cited page, to defend your assertions.

This essay is due November 3, 2009. Remember that policy is to take 10% of the total points possible each day the essay is late. Carefully follow directions. The rubric that will be used to evaluate your essay is on the reverse.



"I'm Luke Skywalker. I'm here to rescue you."

What makes Luke Skywalker the quintessential monomythic hero?