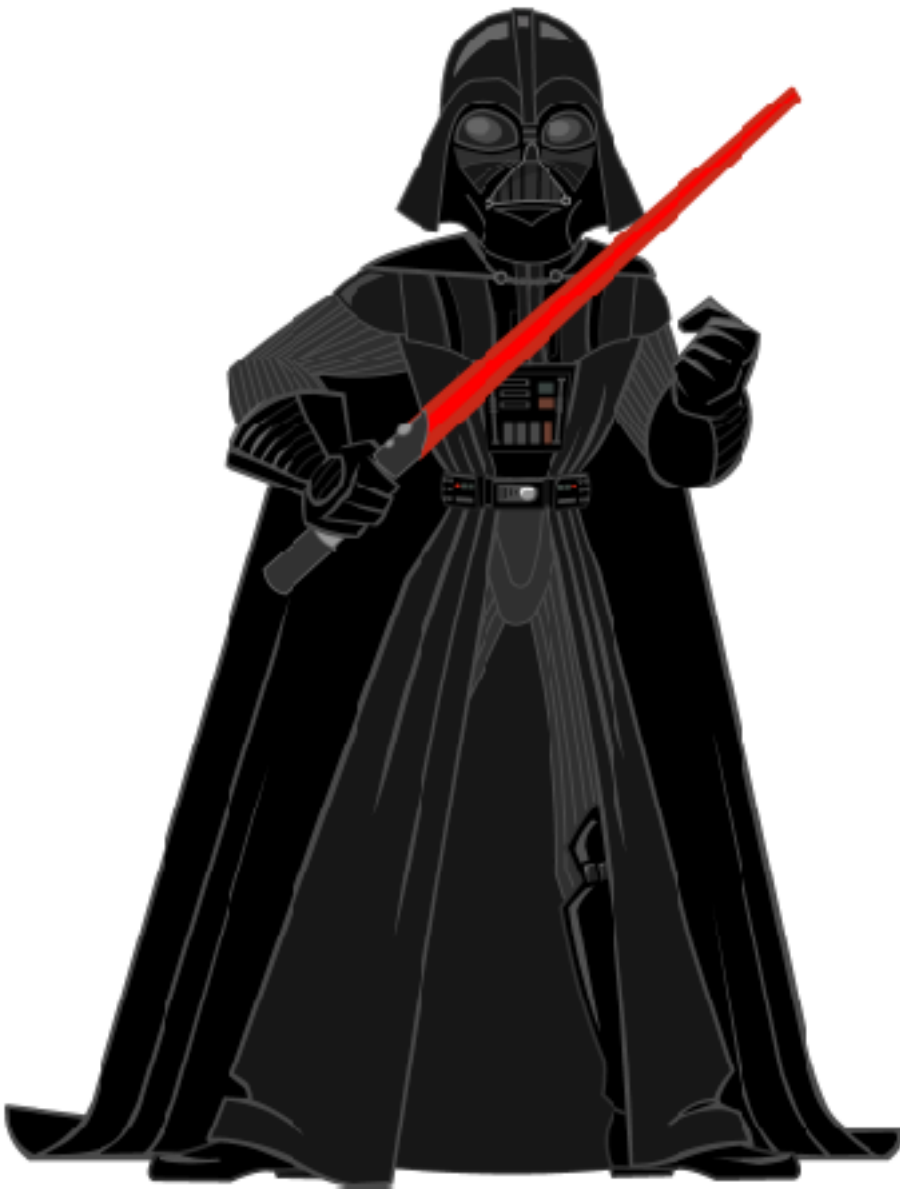


Darth Vader

Darth Vader's story, as seen in the *Star Wars* films, takes him from the light side to the dark side and back again. He was once a Jedi Knight, trained in the ways of the Force. He grew impatient, though, and turned to the dark side so his path to power would be quicker. As a military commander, he ruled using fear. In a final confrontation with his son, Darth Vader chooses good over evil and turns back to the light side of the Force.



Headwear: Darth Vader's helmet was inspired by the Japanese samurai. It resembles the Mempo mask and Kabuto helmet from the Japanese feudal period. His helmet also serves as a breathing mask.

Body: Darth Vader's robes are modeled after a monk's robes. George Lucas wanted Vader to look like a dark lord riding in the wind. He uses a lightsaber, the ancient traditional weapon of the Jedi Knight. The lightsaber has many similarities to the swords used by the Japanese samurai.

Legs: These are the legs of Darth Vader.

FACT: When Darth Vader turns on the Emperor and rescues his son, Luke, he redeems himself from his evil ways. The removal of his mask symbolizes his triumph over evil. Luke burns his father's armor on a funeral pyre, which symbolizes purification of the soul.

