

STAR WARS Episode I: The Phantom Menace

The Old Republic finds itself under an insidious attack, which appears in the form of a trade dispute. Actually, the dispute disguises the truth which is that Darth Sidious is manipulating the Republic and trying to tear it down. The Planet Naboo is the innocent victim of this dispute, held hostage by the evil Trade Federation. Naboo's QUEEN AMIDALA depends on two Jedi Knights (QUI-GON JINN & OBI-WAN KENOBI) to get her to safety. Their escape takes a detour to the planet Tatooine where they befriend ANAKIN SKYWALKER. Anakin's amazing skill with "the Force" (the source of a Jedi's power) makes him a powerful ally, though he's just a boy. When the Republic's Senate cannot help her, Queen Amidala returns to Naboo and defeats the Trade Federation by force - with help from an indigenous army, the self-sacrificing Jedi Knights, and the boy Anakin Skywalker. Qui-Gon dies, but makes Obi-Wan promise to train the boy as a Jedi. He may be a prophesied "chosen one" who will bring balance to the Force. But Darth Sidious remains un-discovered and scheming as the story ends.

Act 1: Escape From Naboo

QUI-GON JINN & OBI-WAN KENOBI come to Naboo to end a trade dispute, but find themselves in the middle of a war. They rescue the besieged QUEEN AMIDALA and take her away to seek help at the Senate. Their efforts only succeed with the help of JAR JAR BINKS, who provides a secret way of getting to the Queen's capital city. When the all leave the planet together, their ship is wounded and they are virtually broke.

1- Qui-Gon & Obi-Wan Betrayed by Trade Federation

The powerful and sinister Trade Federation is threatening the stability of the Galactic Republic. To challenge the government's taxation of the inter-galactic trade routes, the Trade Federation has mustered a space blockade around the peaceful planet of Naboo. Hoping to quell the tense situation and fortify Naboo's newly elected QUEEN AMIDALA, the Supreme Chancellor of the Republic, VALORUM, dispatches two Jedi ambassadors, QUI-GON JINN and his apprentice, OBI-WAN KENOBI.

2- Queen Amidala's Situation

The second, brief sequence, dramatizes the trade-dispute over Naboo as the ruler of Naboo, young QUEEN AMIDALA confronts the Trade Federation Viceroy in a communique. The Viceroy lies to her face and says he never heard from the expected Ambassadors. The Viceroy then decides to block all of her trans-missions so that she cannot call for more assistance from other star systems. Confused and powerless to persuade the Trade Federation to leave her people alone, Queen Amidala turns to her advisors. A transmission from her representative in the intergalactic Senate (SENATOR PALPATINE) gets cut-off, indicating the Trade Federation is launching an attack. This thrusts a choice onto Amidala -- should she fight or concede or does she have another option?

3- Jedi Assisted by the Gungan

This sequence follows Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan as they try to reach the Capital City of Naboo ahead of the invading droid army. The two Jedi sneak down to the planet, stowed away in the droid army ships, but find themselves out in the open and a long way from the Queen.Fortunately, Qui-Gon trips over an exiled Gungan named JAR-JAR BINKS, a local of these remote regions of Naboo. Jar-Jar directs Qui-Gonand Obi-Wan to his native city. There, Qui-Gon uses his mind-influencing techniques on the Gungan leader BOSS NASSS and receives a transport and a guide (Jar-Jar) to the Capital City. Their route, however, is through the dangerous Planet Core. Protected by the force, Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan eventually reach the Capital City -- but too late to save it. The Trade Federation's army has marched in and captured everyone.

4- Taking Queen Amidala Off Naboo

Having taken the Capital City with his droid army, the Trade Federation Viceroy personally takes Queen Amidala into custody to force her to sign his treaty. But Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan have snuck into the city unnoticed. They find the Queen being escorted by droid soldiers and they leap on the soldiers, destroy them and free the Queen. Without the resources to fight the Trade Federation, Qui-Gon recommends that the Queen travel to the Senate and plead for assistance. Queen Amidala is reluctant to leave her people even though she knows she can't help by staying. She agrees to Qui-Gon's plan, however, and they fight their way to the Queen's personal space ship and fly away (taking Jar-Jar with them). Flying away from Naboo, they have to cross the Trade Federation's blockade. Their ship is damaged, but the assistance of astro-mech droid R2-D2 helps them succeed.

Act 2: From Tatooine to Coruscant

To repair their ship, Qui-Gon guides the Queen to the planet Tatooine. There he finds a way to pay for repairs without money, by taking advantage of the local interest in gambling on Pod Races. Qui Gon befriends an exceptional boy named ANAKIN SKYWALKER. Anakin is a Pod Racer with an unprecedented command of the Force. Qui Gon gambles not only to pay for his ship's repair, but also to win Anakin's freedom. Thanks to Anakin's skill, Qui Gon wins his bets. But Qui Gon gets a glimpse of the true enemy when DARTH MAUL attacks, trying to reach the Queen. Darth Maul and his master DARTH SIDIOUS want the Naboo under their control.Qui Gon takes the Queen to the Senate in Coruscant, but to little effect. He finds neither solutions for the Naboo situation, nor any Jedi willing to accept Anakin into their ranks. The Jedi Council does not agree that the boy is the prophesied "Chosen one." When the Queen decides to return to her home, Qui Gon goes along and takes Anakin with him.

1- Stopping on Tatooine

The costs of crossing the Trade Federation blockade is found when the Queen's ship can't make the jump to light speed because its hyperdrive is damaged. They need a place to hide and make repairs and Qui-Gon chooses the remote desert planet Tatooine. The Queen trusts Qui-Gon's judgment and they land outside the Tatooine spaceport of Mos Espa. The Queen's handmaiden PADME is ordered to become part of Qui-Gon's efforts. She cleans R2-D2 and meets Jar Jar, then joins them as part of Qui-Gon's team who head into Mos Espa to find parts and repairs for their ship. Qui-Gon is reluctant to accept Padme's help, but he agrees as a favor to the Queen. Meanwhile, the Trade Federation reports to their secret commander, Darth Sidious, that they have lost the Queen of Naboo. Sidious says he will have his assistant, DARTH MAUL find them. Darth Maul is a frightening man and the Trade Federation is nervous to deal with more evil people of Darth Sidious' kind.

2- Assisted by Anakin Skywalker

Qui-Gon's group (Qui-Gon, Padme, Jar Jar, and R2-D2) marches from the Queen's ship into Mos Espa, where scoundrels, smugglers and slave-owners carry out their business. They stop inside a spaceship-parts shop where the owner, WATTO (a flying blue reptile) tells them he is the only shop in town with the parts they need. Qui-Gon tries to buy the parts, but can't convince Watto to accept his Federation Credits as payment. Meanwhile, Padme meets Watto's young slave assistant -- ANAKIN SKYWALKER. Anakin is a spry young man, proud of his piloting skills and unashamed of his slave-status. Padme is impressed with him. Unable to buy the parts he needs, Qui-Gon searches for another approach. A sandstorm moves in and traps Qui-Gon's party in Mos Espa until it passes. This gives Qui-Gon some time to think as Anakin invites Qui-Gon's party home to find shelter with his mother SHMI SKYWALKER. Meanwhile, Obi-Wan and the Naboo leaders on the ship receive a message from Naboo pleading for their help. Time is short, they realize, because people are dying under Trade Federation control.

3- Qui-Gon Recognizes Anakin's Gift

Inside Anakin's home, Qui-Gon becomes very impressed with Anakin. He can't hide his identity as a Jedi from the boy's intuition. Then Anakin presents a solution to Qui-Gon's problem -- he can win Qui-Gon the money he needs for parts by racing in the big Podrace tomorrow. Convinced that Anakin can win this race, Qui-Gon senses Anakin is a very special child. Qui-Gon arranges for Anakin to be in the race and for him to lay a heavy wager on Anakin to win. Watto accepts this deal because of a deep weakness for gambling. Padme criticizes Qui-Gon's risky plan, but Qui-Gon's Jedi intuition tells him he's right to bet on the boy. Talking to Anakin's mother, Qui-Gon learns Anakin has no father and was conceived miraculously. He has Anakin's blood tested by Obi-Wan and discovers the boy's "mediclurian" count is higher than even YODA, the great Jedi master.

4- The Pod Race

On the day of the big Podrace, Qui-Gon strikes another wager with Watto so that if Anakin wins the race, Anakin will be free. Watto accepts the wager, but will not stake both Anakin and his mother in the bargain, so that only Anakin has a chance of going free. Padme remains deeply skeptical of this race. If Anakin loses, they will be stranded on Tatooine without even a ship to repair. But Anakin is confident of winning even though no one has ever beat the current champion SEBULBA. Sebulba is a fierce and treacherous competitor. When the podrace begins, Sebulba has already sabotaged Anakin's pod. Anakin's quick work gets him going though and, after two laps, he and Sebulba are the only racers left. Sebulba tries a few more tricks, but they backfire on him and Anakin wins the race. He's free and Qui-Gon will have the Queen's ship repaired. Meanwhile, however, Darth Maul has tracked the Queen to Tatooine and sent droids out to find her. He is hot on Qui-Gon's trail as this sequence ends.

5- Escape From Tatooine

This sequence dramatizes all the results of Anakin's pod race. Qui-Gon collects his debts from a defeated Watto and informs Anakin that he is now free. But the news that Anakin's mother must remain a slave puts Anakin in the position of choosing between his family and his liberty. He chooses to go with Qui-Gon to train as a Jedi, promising to return and free his mother later. These dealings give Darth Maul time to locate Qui-Gon and chase him down in an attempt to nab Queen Amidala. Just as Qui-Gon and Anakin reach their repaired ship, Darth Maul attacks. Qui-Gon is barely able to hold him off and escape with the help of Obi-Wan's quick thinking. They're off to the Senate in Coruscant, but they now realize they face enemies besides the Trade Federation.

6- Settling Into Coruscant

Flying to Coruscant, Padme learns that her people are dying back on Naboo at the hands of the Trade Federation. She is consoled by Anakin Skywalker and they become close because they both feel they are losing their homes. Then, arriving at the city-planet of Coruscant, Queen Amidala is greeted by Senator Palpatine and the Senate's Supreme Chancellor VALORUM. Palpatine has no faith that the Senate will be able to help Naboo and suggests that a new Supreme Chancellor may make a difference. Amidala is distressed to face so much bureaucracy when her people are dying. Meanwhile, Qui-Gon reports to his superiors on the Jedi Council. He tells them that he suspects he fought a member of "the Sith" on Tatooine -- a shocking idea since the Sith have been extinct for a thousand years. Qui-Gon also reports that he has found Anakin Skywalker to be so special that he believes Anakin may be the prophesied "chosen one" who "will come to bring balance back to the Force." The Council is skeptical of these announcements, but agrees to investigate Qui-Gon's claims. As this sequence ends, Anakin tries to say goodbye to Padme, but finds her mysteriously missing as the Queen prepares to meet the Senate.

7- Giving Up Hope in Coruscant

Queen Amidala pleads her case to the Senate, but is immediately shut down by the Trade Federation. The Supreme Chancellor caves in to the Federation's request for an investigation of Amidala's claims, and this prompts the Queen to move against the Chancellor. By moving for a "Vote of No Confidence in Chancellor Valorum," the Queen and Senator Palpatine have Valorum kicked out and open the polls to elect a new Chancellor. All these politics distress the Queen, however, and she realizes she cannot help her people through these efforts. She hears some encouragement from Jar Jar Binks that he would fight in her position, and the Queen decides to fly back to Naboo to do just that. Senator Palpatine is shocked by this decision, but powerless to stop her. Meanwhile, the Jedi Council tests Anakin's abilities with the Force. Master YODA finds Anakin to be powerful, but he also senses fear in the boy. Ultimately, the council refuses to allow Anakin to be trained. Qui-Gon does not accept this decision. Without directly contradicting the council's orders, Qui-Gon keeps Anakin under his supervision. He returns to Naboo to guard the Queen, taking Anakin along with him.

Act 3: The Battle of Naboo

Back on Naboo, Queen Amidala reveals a plan in which she calls on Jar Jar Binks' people to help defeat the invading Trade Federation. The combination of effort from the Gungan, the Jedi Knights, and the Naboo proves to be enough to win the day. But only with luck and atgreat cost -- Luck, because Anakin Skywalker's key performance during the battle was not planned; and great cost because in the course of defeating Darth Maul, Qui-Gon Jinn is killed. Obi-Wan Kenobi promises to train Anakin as his apprentice. But he and the rest of the Jedi are completely unaware of Darth Sidious' presence among them and do not recognize his constant threat...

1- The Queen's Plan Takes Shape

Travelling to the planet Naboo, the Queen begins to reveal that she has more in mind than simply surrendering to the Trade Federation. She calls on Jar Jar Binks to direct her to the leader of his people and they strike a historic accord -- allying their two peoples for the first time. In doing this, she reveals that Padme and Queen Amidala are actually the same person. She has a double who protects her when she wants to be hidden, but she reveals this secret to win the Gungan's trust. This provides Queen Amidala with an army to fight the Trade Federation's droids. Though it's a fight they can't win, they are only required to distract the droid army while the Queen and a few others (including the Jedi Knights) sneak into the Capital palace and capture the Viceroy. A third part of this plan is to send fighters into space to destroy the orbiting command ship which controls the droid army. This is a bold plan, but the Jedi and the Gungan agree to it. Meanwhile, Darth Sidious thinks the Queen's return means he is about to conquer her once and for all. He orders Darth Maul to wait for the Jedi to reveal themselves and then wipe them all out.

2- The Battle Begins

This sequence introduces the battle as Queen Amidala had planned it, but ends on a note that the Queen couldn't predict -- the appearance of Darth Maul. The Gungan army meets the droid army, providing the necessary distraction for Qui-Gon and the Queen to fighttheir way into the palace and allow the fighter pilots to take their ships off to battle the droid command ship. But the Queen gets pinned down in this space-craft hanger and suddenly Darth Maul appears. The two Jedi choose to face Darth Maul together while the Queen continues her mission without them.

3- The Battle Turns Sour

While Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan face Darth Maul and Queen Amidala gets pinned down by destroyer droids -- Anakin is told to stay out of the way and hide in the cockpit of an unused Naboo fighter. From this perch, he sees the trouble everyone's in and tries to help. He accidentally starts the fighter and begins flying away. On the way, he blasts the destroyer droids to clear the way for Amidala's bandof soldiers to continue their mission. Her mission is cut short, however, when she reaches the Viceroy only to be captured by his droids.Meanwhile, the Gungan/Droid battle continues on the fields of Naboo and the droids are winning. Their forces are larger and more deadlyand the Gungan only last a short while before surrendering. Darth Maul proves to be more than a handful for Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan. He useshis double-sided light saber to fight them both at once and finally kills Qui-Gon while Obi-Wan watches. Meanwhile, Anakin flies up to the droid command ship on auto-pilot and joins the hopeless battle there. With only his instincts, Anakin learns to fly his ship -- but he is soon grounded inside the command ship with his engines over heated and surrounded by enemy droids. Everything seems hopeless.

4- Victory

The final sequence of this battle turns the tides on every front. First, Queen Amidala is able to trick the Viceroy when her double shows up and confuses him about what girl is really the queen. Amidala is able to isolate and capture the Viceroy in the confusion.Meanwhile, Anakin manages to fix his fighter (as he fixed his pod racer) and accidentally blasts the main reactor of the droid command ship from the inside where he has landed. He flies out of the massive space station just as it explodes. With the command ship destroyed,the droid army falls asleep -- unguided and useless. Jar-Jar Binks and the Gungan army are freed. Obi-Wan, meanwhile faces Darth Maul alone and is quickly defeated -- left hanging from a ledge without his light saber. Darth Maul toysarrogantly with the helpless Obi-Wan, which gives Obi-Wan time to form a plan. He uses to force to bring him Qui-Gon's forgotten light saber and surprises Darth Maul -- killing him. Obi-Wan speaks to his dying friend Qui-Gon and promises to train Anakin Skywalker. Then Qui-Gon Jinn dies.

5- Congratulations All Around

The final sequence of this movie deals with the aftermath of the battle of Naboo. The Trade Federation is arrested to face the punishment for their crimes. Senator Palpatine is announced as the new Supreme Chancellor of the Senate. Yoda agrees to allow Obi-Wan to train Anakin Skywalker -- against his better judgment. And finally, the Jedi Council realizes that whoever Darth Maul was -- he certainly was a member of the Sith. They aren't aware, however, that Darth Maul was the apprentice of Darth Sidious and have to wonder when the other Sith will reveal themselves. The film ends with an awards ceremony and parade celebrating the uniting of the people of Naboo with the Gungans. Anakin stands as a hero beside Obi-Wan and Queen Amidala.