

USING
**STAR
WARS**

Super Graphic

IN THE CLASSROOM

ABOUT THIS GUIDE:

Infographics are a useful tool for visually representing data, comparing aspects of a story or character, or simply demonstrating concepts. In **Star Wars Super Graphic**, author and designer Tim Leong makes connections, closes loops, sheds light, focuses attention, and brings clarity to a story that has developed over the past

40 years through films, TV shows, comic books, and novels. The following are examples of how he has used infographics to represent interesting aspects of the *Star Wars* story. Many of these techniques can be used on the novels, plays, stories, graphic novels, and poetry taught in your classroom.

ABOUT THE BOOK:

STAR WARS SUPER GRAPHIC:

A Visual Guide to a Galaxy Far, Far Away

By Tim Leong

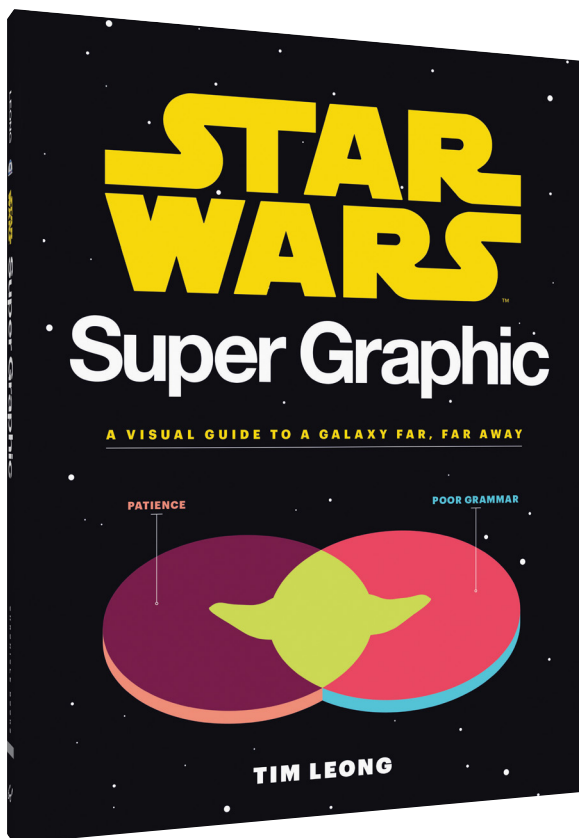
7¼ x 9¼ in, 176 pp,

full color images throughout, paperback

ISBN: 978-1-4521-6120-4, \$19.95

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Tim Leong is the Creative Director at Entertainment Weekly magazine, founder of the Eisner Award-nominated Comic Foundry magazine, and author of the award-winning **Super Graphic: A Visual Guide to the Comic Book Universe**. He lives in New York with his Leia and their Jedi youngling.



TYPE OF INFOGRAPHIC:

WORD MAPPING

YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO CRAWL BEFORE YOU LEARN TO SKYWALK

EVERYTHING YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE OPENING CRAWL

NUMBER OF WORDS IN EACH OPENING CRAWL



TO HIGHLIGHT THE FILM'S PLOT AND THEMES, THESE WORDS WERE IN ALL-CAPS →

ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC DEATH STAR GALACTIC EMPIRE FIRST ORDER REPUBLIC RESISTANCE

THE DIRECTION THE CAMERA PANS AFTER THE OPENING CREDITS



THE NUMBER OF PERIODS IN THE ELLIPSIS AT THE END OF THE CRAWL



FONTS THERE ARE TWO TYPEFACES USED IN THE OPENING CREDITS: **NEWS GOTHIC BOLD** FOR THE MAIN TEXT AND **Univers 49 UltraCondensed Light** FOR THE TITLE OF EACH FILM

In this chart, Tim uses bars to show the relative length of words used in the opening “crawl” (introductory text as the film begins) of the *Star Wars* films. Study the chart and answer the following questions:

1. Which films have the greatest amount of text in the crawl? Why? (Remember that the first movie released in the series was *Star Wars: Episode IV A New Hope*)
2. Ten years elapsed between the release of *Revenge of the Sith* (2005) and *The Force Awakens* (2015). How might that have influenced the amount of text used in *The Force Awakens*?
3. Why might the filmmakers have chosen to use all capital letters for certain words?
4. Why do the filmmakers use an opening crawl?

ACTIVITY:

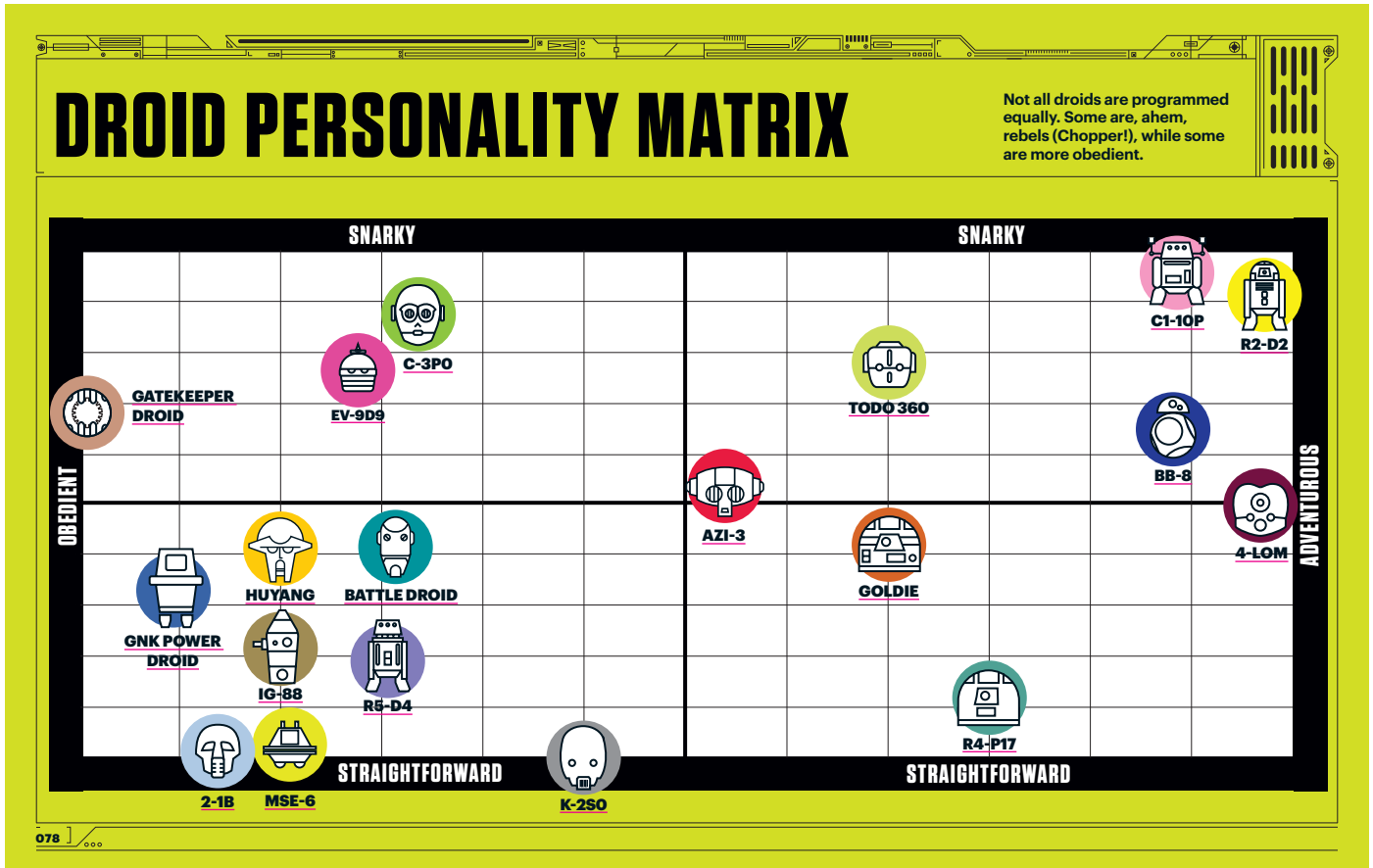
USE WORD MAPPING IN YOUR CLASS

Create a word map of two characters’ speeches from a literary work, such as Othello and Iago’s speeches from *Othello* by William Shakespeare. Use the word map to compare the speeches. How would you characterize Othello’s speech based on your findings? What about Iago?

In a poetry unit have students create word maps that display the line length of different types of poems, such as a haiku, sonnet, or sestina and create a classroom display of poetry forms.

TYPE OF INFOGRAPHIC:

PERSONALITY MATRIX



The *Star Wars* droids often have distinct personalities which make them memorable supporting characters. Sometimes these attributes affect the storyline such as R2-D2's loyalty to Princess Leia or BB-8's willingness to take risks. Study the chart and discuss why the author has placed the droids in their respective positions.

ACTIVITY:

USE PERSONALITY MATRIX IN YOUR CLASS

Using this graph as inspiration, create a matrix of two contrasting personality characteristics (i.e., introvert vs. extrovert, passive vs. active, optimistic vs. pessimistic) and place the characters from a book, play, or story in the matrix. Discuss why you positioned the characters in their relative spots on the matrix.

SOME POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:

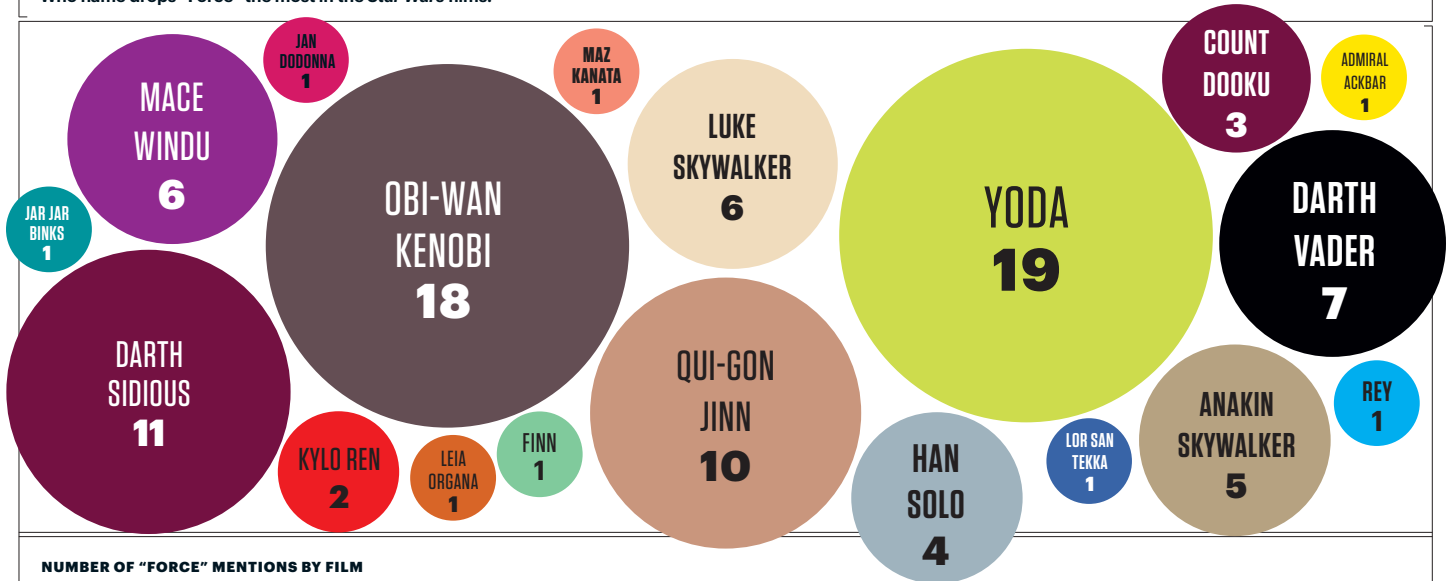
- Why did the writer decide to include different personality types?
- Pick one character and describe how his/her personality type affects the story.
- Where would you appear on this chart?

TYPE OF INFOGRAPHIC:

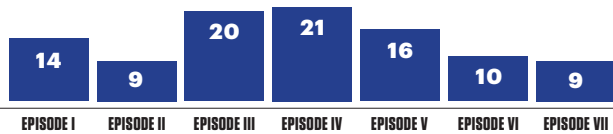
WORD FREQUENCY BUBBLE CHART

THE FORCE IS STRONG WITH THIS ONE

Who name drops "Force" the most in the *Star Wars* films.



NUMBER OF "FORCE" MENTIONS BY FILM



NUMBER OF "FORCE" MENTIONS BY LIGHT SIDE VS. DARK SIDE CHARACTERS



In *Star Wars*, the Force is an energy field that connects all living things in the galaxy, and those who are sensitive to it, such as the Jedi who can control and use it. Study this chart and answer the following questions:

- Who talks about the Force the most? The least? Does the number of times the person mentions the Force tell you something about his/her character or personality?
- There are two sides of the Force, the Light side and the Dark side. Is there significance in the difference of mentions by members of either side?

ACTIVITY:

USE BUBBLE CHART IN YOUR CLASS

Analyze the text from a speech for word frequency. Create a bubble chart that captures how often the speaker uses certain words.

Example: Watch a presidential inaugural address or any political speech and note which words recur. Find the text of the speech online and count how many times these words appear in the speech. What conclusions can you draw after creating the chart?

