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Characters Character Voice actor(s) Character's role Episode debutOriginal air datesHomer SimpsonHusband of Marge; father of Bart, Lisa, and Maggie."Good Night"1987-04-19Marge SimpsonWife of Homer; mother of Bart, Lisa, and Maggie."Good Night"1987-04-19Bart SimpsonOldest child and only son of Homer and Marge; brother of Lisa and Maggie."Good Night"[2] 1987-04-19Lisa SimpsonMiddle child and eldest daughter of Homer and Marge; sister of Bart and Maggie."Good Night"1987-04-19Maggie SimpsonYoungest child and daughter of Homer and Marge; sister of Bart and Lisa."Good Night"1987-04-19Tress MacNeille (2014–2020), Jenny Yokobori (2021–present) Japanese artist from Japan."Married to the Blob"2014-01-12Sunday school teacher."The Telltale Head"1990-02-25Jon Lovitz, Dan Castellaneta Owner of the Shelbyville Nuclear Power Plant.[3] "Homer Defined"1991-10-17State comptroller.[5] "Lisa Gets an 'A'1998-11-22Governor of Springfield's state."Two Cars in Every Garage and Three Eyes on Every Fish"1990-11-01Harry Shearer Radio talk show host; Fox News anchor."Sideshow Bob Roberts"1994-10-09Harry Shearer, Dan Castellaneta Grampa's closest neighbor at the Retirement Castle."Homer's Odyssey"1990-02-04Harry Shearer, Hank Azaria, and Dan Castellaneta Springfield University students."Homer Goes to College"1993-10-14Dan Castellaneta and Harry Shearer KBBL Radio co-hosts."Bart vs. Thanksgiving"1990-11-22Unvoiced Three-eyed fish."Two Cars in Every Garage and Three Eyes on Every Fish"1990-11-01Dan Castellaneta Mr. Burns hired goons. His partner is Crusher."Dog of Death"1992-03-12Blue Haired Lawyer[6] Dan Castellaneta Attorney."Bart Gets Hit by a Car"1991-01-10Tress MacNeille Host of late night TV monster movies."I'm Spelling as Fast as I Can"2003-02-16Student at Springfield Elementary School."Homer's Odyssey"1990-01-21Clarence Bouvier Harry Shearer The Chan smoking of Jacqueline Bouvier, Homer Simpson, Patty, Selma, and Ling Bouvier. He was a French origin."The Way We Was"1991-01-31Julie Kavner Mother of Selma and Patty Bouvier and Marge Simpson, Grandmother of Bart, Lisa, Maggie and Ling."Bart vs. Thanksgiving"1990-11-22Julie Kavner Twin sister of Selma and older sister of Marge."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Julie Kavner Twin sister of Patty and older sister of Marge. Adoptive mother of Ling."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Harry Shearer Channel 6 News anchor."Krusty Gets Busted"1990-04-29Hank Azaria (1992–2020), Eric Lopez (2020-present) Star of slapstick sketch comedy show on Canal Ocho.""1992-11-03Hank Azaria Owner of Chazz Busby Ballet Academy."Smoke on the Daughter"2008-03-30Christopher Collins (early season 1), Harry Shearer Owner of the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Capital City GoofballMascot of the Capital City Capitals baseball team.[7] "Dancin' Homer"1990-11-08Hank Azaria (1990–2020) Alex Désert (2020–present) Springfield Nuclear Power Plant employee."Homer's Night Out"1990-03-25Tress MacNeille Mentally ill owner of many cats. Name revealed as Eleanor Abernathy in "See Homer Run"."Girly Edition"1998-04-19Hank Azaria Public schools superintendent."Whacking Day"1993-04-29Tress MacNeille Daughter of Superintendent Chalmers."The Good, the Sad, and the Drugly"2009-04-19Dan Castellaneta[8] Springfield Nuclear Power Plant employee."Life on the Fast Lane"1990-03-18Chase (Pyro)Hank Azaria Luann Van Houten's ex-boyfriend; American Gladiator."A Milhouse Divided"1996-12-01Dan Castellaneta News co-anchor."Krusty Gets Busted"1990-04-29Hank Azaria Proprietor of The Android's Dungeon comic book store. Name revealed to be Jeff Albertson in "Homer and Ned's Hail Mary Pass"."Three Men and a Comic Book"1991-05-09Hank Azaria President of Costington's Department Store."Trash of the Titans"1998-04-26Hank Azaria Mr. Burns hired goons. His partner is Lowblow."Blood Feud"1991-07-11Nancy Cartwright, Pamela Hayden Student at Springfield Elementary School. First name is revealed to be Kyle in "Yellow Subterfuge""Bart's Comet"1995-02-05Documentary filmmaker.'Scuse Me While I Miss the Sky"2003-03-20Hank Azaria Disco aficionado."Two Bad Neighbors"1996-01-14Tress MacNeille Springfield Elementary School bully."The Telltale Head"1990-02-25Doris Grau (1991–1997)Tress MacNeille (2006-present)Springfield Elementary School lunch lady."Lisa's Pony"1991-11-07Hank Azaria Spokes-mascot for Duff Beer. His real name is Barry Duffman."The City of New York vs. Homer Simpson".1997-09-21Harry Shearer (1990-present) and Hank Azaria (1990–2020) Alex Désert (2020-present)Springfield police officers."There's No Disgrace Like Home"1990-01-28Mob boss."Bart the Murderer"1991-10-10† Maggie Roswell Ned Flanders's wife (dies on Season 11)."Dead Putting Society"1990-11-15The Simpson family's next door neighbor; owner of The Leftorium (until it closes on Season 29), Bart Simpson's teacher at Springfield Elementary School (Season 29 onwards, substituting the void left by former deceased teacher Edna Krabappel, who was previously married to Flanders from Seasons 23 to 25).[9] [10] "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Pamela Hayden (1990-2024) Chris Edgerly (2024-present) Ned and Maude Flanders's older son."The Call of the Simpsons"1990-02-18Nancy Cartwright Ned and Maude Flanders's younger son."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Tress MacNeille Broadway performer."My Fare Lady"2015-02-15Maria Grazia Cucinotta, Tress MacNeille Sideshow Bob's Italian wife."The Italian Bob"2005-12-11Hank Azaria (2003–2019) Tony Rodriguez (2021–present) Homer's great Julio and Grady are best friend."Three Gays of the Condo"2003-04-13Dan Castellaneta Informant for Fat Tony."Insane Clown Poppy"2000-11-12Hank Azaria Scientist, inventor."Old Money"1991-03-28Unvoiced One-eyebrowed baby. Arch-nemesis of Maggie Simpson."Sweet Seymour Skinner's Baadasssss Song"1994-04-28Ginger Flanders Tress MacNeille Ned Flanders's "Vegas wife.""Viva Ned Flanders"1999-01-10Tress MacNeille Sideshow Bob's toddler son."The Italian Bob"2005-12-11Elderly."Three Men and a Comic Book"1991-05-09Snake's pregnant girlfriend."A Hunka Hunka Burns in Love"2001-12-02Harry Shearer Supreme and creative preserves."Bart Gets Hit by a Car"1991-01-10The GrumpleHank Azaria Green monster."Kill Gil, Volumes I & II"2006-12-17Dan Castellaneta Homer's drunken old pal."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Dan Castellaneta Unsuccessful salesman."Realty Bites"1997-12-07Dan Castellaneta, Hank Azaria, and Harry Shearer Children's cartoon series characters."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Springfield judge."The Parent Rap"2001-11-11Harry Shearer Owner of Herman's Military Antiques shop.[11] "Bart the General"1990-02-04Tress MacNeille (1999–2019) Dawnn Lewis (2021-present) Dr. Hibbert's wife."Bart's Dog Gets an "F"1991-03-07Harry Shearer (1990–2021); Kevin Michael Richardson (2021-present) Medical doctor."Bart the Daredevil"1990-12-06Maggie Roswell Lisa Simpson's teacher at Springfield Elementary School."Brush with Greatness"1991-04-11Phil Hartman† Attorney."Bart Gets Hit by a Car"1991-01-10Dan Castellaneta and Harry Shearer Cartoon cat and mouse."The Bart Simpson Show"[12] 1988-11-20Jacques Bowling instructor.[13] "Life on the Fast Lane"1990-03-18Pamela Hayden Springfield Elementary School bully."The Telltale Head"1990-02-25Shawn Colvin[14] Lead singer of the Christian Rock band Kovenant.[15] "Alone Again, Natura-Diddily"2000-02-13Harry Shearer and Dan Castellaneta Extraterrestrials."Treehouse of Horror"1990-10-25Maggie Roswell Belly dancer.[16] "Homer's Night Out"1990-03-25†Marcia Wallace† Bart Simpson's teacher at Springfield Elementary School (until season 25), and Ned Flanders wife (Seasons 23–25, when the character is revealed to have died).[17] "Bart the Genius"1990-01-14Hank Azaria Sadistic gym teacher at Springfield Elementary School."My Fair Laddy"2006-02-26Rabbi; father of Krusty the Clown.[18] "Like Father, Like Clown"1991-10-24Dan Castellaneta TV show clown host, original name Herschel Shmoikel Pinchas Yerucham Krustofski.[19] "The Krusty the Clown Show" (short)1989-01-15Tress MacNeille Real estate agent.[20] "Realty Bites"1997-12-07Harry Shearer Springfield Elementary School's music teacher."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Harry Shearer and Dan Castellaneta Fat Tony's henchmen."Bart the Murderer"1991-10-10Dan Castellaneta Superintendent Chalmers' assistant."Sweet Seymour Skinner's Baadasssss Song"1994-04-28Harry Shearer Springfield Nuclear Power Plant employee; one of Homer Simpson's friends."Life on the Fast Lane"1990-03-18Dan Castellaneta Male faerie from Ireland as well as Saint Patrick's Day."This Little Wiggy"1998-03-22Student at Springfield Elementary School."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Reverend Lovejoy's wife."Life on the Fast Lane"1990-03-18Harry Shearer Minister of the First Church of Springfield."The Telltale Head"1990-02-25Gymnastics instructor.[21] "Children of a Lesser Clod"2001-05-13Beverly D'Angelo, Doris Grau Country music singer-songwriter."Colonel Homer"1992-03-26Harry Shearer Springfield Elementary School bus driver."Homer's Odyssey"1990-01-21Hank Azaria Sea captain."New Kid on the Block"1992-11-12Alex Rocco, Dan Castellaneta Chairman of Itchy & Scratchy International."Itchy & Scratchy & Marge"1990-12-20Phil Hartman† Actor."Homer vs. Lisa and the 8th Commandment"1991-02-07Dan Castellaneta Unfortunate man."Principal Charming"1991-02-14† Harry Shearer Psychotherapist."There's No Disgrace Like Home"1990-01-28Nelson's father."Brother from the Same Planet"1993-02-04Tress MacNeille Nelson Muntz's mother."Tis the Fifteenth Season"1999-01-17Nelson MuntzNancy CartwrightSpringfield Elementary School bully."Bart the General"1990-02-04Dan Castellaneta Daredevil."Bart the Daredevil"1990-12-06† Ron Taylor, Kevin Michael Richardson Blues musician.[22] "Moaning Lisa"1990-02-11Tress MacNeille Corporate executive."The Itchy & Scratchy & Poochie Show"1997-02-09Hank Azaria Operator of the Kwik-E-Mart."The Telltale Head"1990-02-25Jan Hooks (1997–2002), Tress MacNeille (2002-present)[23] Apu Nahasapeemapetilon's wife."Much Apu About Nothing"1997-11-16Harry Shearer Apu Nahasapeemapetilon's older brother."Homer vs. Lisa and the 8th Commandment"1991-02-07Dan Castellaneta, Harry Shearer[24] Barber."Simpson and Delilah"1990-10-18Hank Azaria Springfield Retirement Castle resident."Krusty Gets Kancelled"1993-05-13Pamela Hayden and Tress MacNeille Orphans.[25] "Miracle on Evergreen Terrace"1997-12-21Dan Castellaneta Channel 6 helicopter reporter."Homer Alone"1992-02-06Homer Simpson's half-brother.[26] "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?"1991-02-21Pamela Hayden, Kimberly Brooks Student at Springfield Elementary School."Moaning Lisa"1990-02-11Pamela Reed, Maggie Roswell The Simpsons' next door neighbor.[27] "New Kid on the Block"1992-11-12Russi Taylor (1990–2019) Grey DeLisle (2019–present) Student at Springfield Elementary School."Bart the Genius"1990-01-14Dan Castellaneta, Chris Edgerly, Hank Azaria Martin's father."Bart the Genius"1990-01-14Martin Prince's mother."Bart the Genius"1990-01-14Harry Shearer Springfield Elementary's school psychologist."Bart the Genius"1990-01-14Maggie Roswell Long wife of the Mayor of Springfield Joe Quimby."Bart Gets Famous"1994-02-03Dan Castellaneta Mayor of Springfield."The Call of the Simpsons"1990-10-11Harry Shearer Comic book superhero."Three Men and a Comic Book"1991-05-09Dan Castellaneta Philanthropist."$pringfield (Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Legalized Gambling)"1993-12-16Pamela Hayden, Nancy Cartwright, Maggie Roswell Student at Springfield Elementary School."Bart the Genius"1990-01-14Hank Azaria Italian restaurant proprietor."Sweet Seymour Skinner's Baadasssss Song"1994-04-28Tress MacNeille Luigi's mother."Much Apu About Something"2016-01-17Hank Azaria Incompetent medical doctor. Injured at the end of the movie by a falling chunk of glass, and brought back in nineteenth season."Bart Gets Hit by a Car"1991-01-10The Simpson family's pet dog."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Dan Castellaneta A gay person who lived in Springfield."Flaming Moe"2011-01-16Jon Lovitz Homer and Marge's best friend."A Star Is Burns"1995-03-05Russi Taylor (1990–2019) Grey DeLisle (2019–present) Identical twins; Students at Springfield Elementary School."Homer's Odyssey"1990-01-21Harry Shearer Reporter for The Springfield Shopper."Two Cars in Every Garage and Three Eyes on Every Fish"1990-11-01Criminal mastermind and Krusty the Clown Show ex-operator and sidekick."The Telltale Head"1990-02-25Dan Castellaneta The Krusty the Clown Show sidekick."Itchy & Scratchy & Marge"1990-12-20Dan Castellaneta Homer Simpson's father; Bart, Lisa, and Maggie Simpson's grandfather."Grandpa and the Kids" (The Simpsons shorts)[28] 1988-01-10Pamela Hayden Homer Simpson's deceased "Vegas wife."[29] "Viva Ned Flanders"1999-01-10Glenn Close, Tress MacNeille, Maggie Roswell[30] Estranged mother of Homer Simpson and wife of Abe Simpson."Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?"1991-02-21Tress MacNeille Seymour Skinner's mother."The Crepes of Wrath"1990-04-15Harry Shearer Principal of Springfield Elementary School."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Harry Shearer Mr. Burns's personal assistant."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Hank Azaria Recidivist."The War of the Simpsons"1991-05-02Frank Welker, Dan Castellaneta The Simpson family's pet cats."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Harry Shearer (1991-2020); Kevin Michael Richardson (2024-present) Springfield judge."Krusty Gets Busted"1990-04-29Harry Shearer Founder of Springfield; local hero."The Telltale Head"1990-02-25Slack-Jawed Yokel."Bart Gets an Elephant"1994-03-31Pamela Hayden Cletus and Brandine Spuckler's children."Yokel Chords"2007-03-04Tress MacNeille Cletus Spuckler's wife and sister."Scenes from the Class Struggle in Springfield"1996-02-04Nancy Cartwright Cletus Spuckler and Brandine Spuckler's children."Yokel Chords"2007-03-04Dan Castellaneta Cletus and Brandine's children."Yokel Chords"2007-03-04Pamela Hayden Cletus and Brandine Spuckler's children."Yokel Chords"2007-03-04Tress MacNeille Cletus Spuckler and Brandine Spuckler's children."Yokel Chords"2007-03-04 Dan Castellaneta Service industry."Dog of Death"1991-02-14Unvoiced African elephant."Bart Gets an Elephant"1994-03-31Hank Azaria Owner of Moe's Tavern."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Hank Azaria and Jay PharoahProfessional boxer, a caricature of Mike Tyson.[31] "Homer vs. Lisa and the 8th Commandment"1991-02-07Winona Ryder, Pamela Hayden, Tress MacNeille Student at Springfield Elementary School."Lisa's Rival"1994-09-11Dan Castellaneta The Krusty the Clown Show trained monkey."Like Father, Like Clown"1991-10-24Sideshow Bob's younger brother.[32] "Brother from Another Series"1997-02-23Hank Azaria One of Fat Tony's henchmen.[33] "Insane Clown Poppy"2000-11-12Russi Taylor Student at Springfield Elementary School."Treehouse of Horror IV"1993-10-28Hank Azaria Milhouse Van Houten's father; factory worker."Bart's Friend Falls in Love"1992-05-07Maggie Roswell Kirk Van Houten's wife; Milhouse's mother."Homer Defined"1991-10-17Pamela Hayden Bart Simpson's best friend; Student at Springfield Elementary School."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Tress MacNeille She and her husband at Springfield."Saddlesore Galactica"2000-02-06Plastic surgeon.[34] "Pygmoelian"2000-02-27Hank Azaria Springfield Chief of Police."Homer's Odyssey"1990-01-21Nancy Cartwright Son of Police Chief Clancy Wiggum."Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire"1989-12-17Pamela Hayden and Megan MullallyChief Wiggum's wife; Ralph Wiggum's mother."Duffless"1993-02-18Dan Castellaneta Janitor of Springfield Elementary School."Principal Charming"1991-02-14Hank Azaria[35] Service industry."The Way We Was"1991-01-31Harry Shearer, Hank Azaria Actor; star of McBain films."The Way We Was"1991-01-31Tress MacNeille, Simu Liu (adult); Rosalie Chiang (child) Lisa's classmate and intellectual rival."Treehouse of Horror XX"2009-10-18Dan Castellaneta Service industry."Mayored to the Mob"1998-12-20Jon Lovitz, Dan Castellaneta[36] Former billionaire and Marge's prom date.[37] "The Way We Was"1991-01-31Springfield Elementary School bully."The Telltale Head"1990-02-25Appearances References Bibliography Book: Gimple, Scott M. . . 1999 . 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Life on the Fast Lane . The Simpsons . Swartzwelder, John; Silverman, David . Fox . 18 March 1990 . 1 . 9. McCann, p. 38 Alone Again, Natura-diddily . Alone Again, Natura-Diddily . The Simpsons . Maxtone-Graham, Ian; Reardon Jim . Fox . 13 February 2000 . 11 . 14. Homer's Night Out . Homer's Night Out . The Simpsons . Vitti, Jon; Moore, Rich . Fox . 25 March 1990 . 1 . 10. News: Kaiser . Rowan . The Simpsons "Ned 'n Edna's Blend" . . 2012-05-14 . 2012-05-21 . 2012-05-16 . //www.avclub.com/articles/ned-n-ednas-blend%2C73726/ . live . Like Father, Like Clown . Like Father, Like Clown . The Simpsons . Kogen, Jay and Wallace Wolodarsky; Lynch, Jeffrey with Brad Bird . Fox . 24 October 1991 . 3 . 6. Today I Am a Clown . Today I Am a Clown . The Simpsons . The Simpsons . Cohen, Joel H.; Kruse, Nancy . Fox . 2003-12-07 . 15 . 6. Realty Bites . Realty Bites . The Simpsons . Greaney, Dan; Scott III, Swinton O. . Fox . 7 December 1997 . 9 . 9. Children of a Lesser Clod . Children of a Lesser Clod . The Simpsons . Jean, Al; Polcino, Mike . Fox . 13 May 2001 . 12 . 20. Moaning Lisa (The Simpsons) . Moaning Lisa (The Simpsons) . The Simpsons . Jean, Al and Mike Reiss; Archer, Wesley . Fox . 11 February 1990 . 1 . 6. Gimple, p. 64 McCann, p. 117 Miracle on Evergreen Terrace . Miracle on Evergreen Terrace . The Simpsons . Hauge, Ron; Anderson, Bob . Fox . 21 December 1997 . 9 . 10. Oh Brother, Where Art Thou? . Oh Brother, Where Art Thou? . The Simpsons . Martin, Jeff; Archer, Wesley . Fox . 21 February 1991 . 2 . 15. New Kid on the Block . New Kid on the Block . The Simpsons . O'Brien, Conan; Archer, Wesley . Fox . 12 November 1992 . 4 . 8. Grampa and the Kids . The Simpsons shorts . The Simpsons shorts . Groening, Matt . Fox . 10 January 1988 . 2 . 19. Viva Ned Flanders . Viva Ned Flanders . The Simpsons . Stern, David M.; Affleck, Neil . Fox . 10 January 1999 . 10 . 10. Appel, Richard; Groening, Matt; Oakley, Bill; Silverman, David; Weinstein, Josh . The Simpsons: The Complete Seventh Season DVD Video Collector's Edition commentary for the episode "Mother Simpson" . DVD . Twentieth Century Fox. Homer vs. Lisa and the 8th Commandment . Flaming Moe's . The Simpsons . Collier, Jonathan; Kirkland, Mark . Fox . 21 November 1991 . 3 . 10. Brother from Another Series . Brother from Another Series . The Simpsons . Keeler, Ken; Michels, Pete . Fox . 23 February 1997 . 8 . 16. Insane Clown Poppy . Insane Clown Poppy . The Simpsons . Frink, John and Don Payne; Anderson, Bob . Fox . 29 April 2000 . 12 . 3. Pygmoelian . Pygmoelian . The Simpsons . Doyle, Larry; Kirkland, Mark . Fox . 27 February 2000 . 11 . 16. McCann, p. 116 Castellaneta, Dan; Gewirtz, Howard; Groening, Matt; Jean, Al; Kirkland, Mark; Reiss, Mike . The Simpsons: The Complete Third Season DVD Video Collector's Edition commentary for the episode "Homer Defined" . DVD . Twentieth Century Fox. The Ziff Who Came to Dinner . The Ziff Who Came to Dinner . The Simpsons . Castellaneta, Dan and Deb Lacusta; Kruse, Nancy . Fox . 14 March 2004 . 15 . 14. Cast & crewUser reviewsTriviaFAQTopTop-rated40 seasonsSee all4039383736353433323130292827262524232221201918171615141312111098765432137 yearsSee all2025202420232022202120202019201820172016201520142013201220112010200920082007200620052004200320022001200019991998199719961995199419931992199119909891 Sign in to rate and Watchlist for personalized recommendationsSign inSuggest an edit or add missing contentBy what name was Simpsoni (1989) officially released in Germany?Answer Some of the many recurring and regular characters in The Simpsons. is a all deamAlong with the Simpson family, The Simpsons includes a large array of characters: co-workers, teachers, family friends, extended relatives, townspeople, local celebrities, as well as fictional characters within the show. The creators originally intended many of these characters as one-time jokesters or for fulfilling needed functions in the town. A number of them have gained expanded roles and subsequently starred in their own episodes. According to creator Matt Groening, the show adopted the concept of a large supporting cast from the Canadian sketch comedy show Second City Television.[1] The main episode characters, the Simpson family, are listed first; all other characters are listed in alphabetical order. Only main, supporting, and recurring characters are listed. For other recurring characters, see List of recurring The Simpsons characters. Contents[edit | edit source] 1Appearances 2Characters 3References 3.1Citations 3.2Bibliography Characters[edit | edit source] Billy Bullion C8ube enemies[edit | edit source] American voice actress (born 1957) This article is about the actress. For the philosopher, see Nancy Cartwright (philosopher). Nancy CartwrightCartwright in 2019BornNancy Jean Cartwright (1957-10-25) October 25, 1957 (age 67)Dayton, Ohio, U.S.Alma materUniversity of California, Los Angeles (BA)OccupationActressYears active1980–presentKnown forRugrats The SimpsonsSpouse Warren Murphy (m. 1988; div. 2002)Children2RelativesSabrina Carpenter (niece)Websitenancycartwright.com Nancy Jean Cartwright (born October 25, 1957) is an American actress, best known as the long-time voice of Bart Simpson on The Simpsons, for which she won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice-Over Performance and an Annie Award for Best Voice Acting in the Field of Animation. Cartwright also voices other characters for the show, including Maggie Simpson, Ralph Wiggum, Todd Flanders, and Nelson Muntz. She is also the voice of Chuckie Finster in the Nickelodeon series Rugrats and its spin-off All Grown Up!, succeeding Christine Cavanaugh. Cartwright was born in Dayton, Ohio. She moved to Hollywood in 1978 and trained under voice actor Daws Butler. Her first professional role was voicing Gloria in the animated series Richie Rich, which she followed with a starring role in the television movie Marian Rose White (1982) and her first feature film, Twilight Zone: The Movie (1983). In 1987, Cartwright auditioned for a role in a series of animated shorts about a dysfunctional family that was to appear on The Tracey Ullman Show. Cartwright intended to audition for the role of Lisa Simpson, the middle child; when she arrived at the audition, she found the role of Bart—Lisa's brother—to be more interesting. Series creator Matt Groening allowed her to audition for Bart and offered her the role on the spot. She voiced Bart for three seasons on The Tracey Ullman Show, and in 1989, the shorts were spun off into a half-hour show called The Simpsons. Besides The Simpsons, Cartwright has also voiced numerous other animated characters, including Daffney Gillfin in Snorks, Mellissa Screetch in Toonsylvania, Rufus in Kim Possible, Mindy in Animaniacs, Pistol in Goof Troop, the Robots in Crashbox, Margo Sherman in The Critic and Todd Daring in The Replacements. In 2000, she published her autobiography, My Life as a 10-Year-Old Boy, and four years later, adapted it into a one-woman play. In 2017, she wrote and produced the film In Search of Fellini. Nancy Jean Cartwright was born on October 25, 1957,[1][2] in Dayton, Ohio.[3] She was the fourth of six children born to Frank and Miriam Cartwright.[4][5] She grew up in Kettering, Ohio,[6] and discovered her talent for voices at an early age. While in the fourth grade at the school of St. Charles Borromeo, she won a school-wide speech competition with her performance of Rudyard Kipling's How the Camel Got His Hump.[7] Cartwright attended Fairmont West High School, and participated in the school's theater and marching band. She regularly entered public speaking competitions, placing first in the "Humorous Interpretation" category at the National District Tournament two years running. The judges often suggested to her that she should perform cartoon voices. Cartwright graduated from high school in 1976 and accepted a scholarship from Ohio University.[8] She continued to compete in public speaking competitions; during her sophomore year, she placed fifth in the National Speech Tournament's exposition category with her speech "The Art of Animation".[9] In 1976, Cartwright landed a part-time job doing voice-overs for commercials on WING radio in Dayton.[6] A representative from Warner Bros. Records visited WING and later sent Cartwright a list of contacts in the animation industry.[10] One of these was Daws Butler, known for voicing characters such as Huckleberry Hound, Snagglepuss, Elroy Jetson, Spike the Bulldog, and Yogi Bear. Cartwright called him and left a message in a Cockney accent on his answering machine.[7] Butler immediately called her back and agreed to be her mentor. He mailed her a script and instructed her to send him a tape recording of herself reading it. Once he received the tape, Butler critiqued it and sent her notes. For the next year, they continued in this way, completing a new script every few weeks. Cartwright described Butler as "absolutely amazing, always encouraging, always polite".[11] Cartwright returned to Ohio University for her sophomore year, but transferred to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) so she could be closer to Hollywood and Butler.[6] Her mother, Miriam, died late in the summer of 1978.[12] Cartwright nearly changed her relocation plans but, on September 17, 1978, "joylessly" left for Westwood, Los Angeles.[13] Daws Butler was Cartwright's mentor and helped her become a voice actress.[14] While attending UCLA, which did not have a public speaking team,[15] Cartwright continued training as a voice actress with Butler. She recalled, "every Sunday I'd take a 20-minute bus ride to his house in Beverly Hills for a one-hour lesson and be there for four hours ... They had four sons, they didn't have a daughter and I kind of fitted in as the baby of the family."[14] Butler introduced her to many of the voice actors and directors at Hanna-Barbera. After she met the director Gordon Hunt, he asked her to audition for a recurring role as Gloria in Richie Rich. She received the part, and later worked with Hunt on several other projects. At the end of 1980, Cartwright signed with a talent agency and landed a lead role in a pilot for a sitcom called In Trouble. Cartwright described the show as "forgettable, but it jump-started my on-camera career".[16] She graduated from UCLA in 1981 with a degree in theater.[17] During the summer, Cartwright worked with Jonathan Winters as part of an improvisation troupe at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.[16] Returning to Los Angeles, Cartwright won the lead role in the television film Marian Rose White. Janet Maslin, a critic for The New York Times, described Cartwright as "a chubby, lumbering, slightly cross-eyed actress whose naturalness adds greatly to the film's impact".[18] Cartwright replied by sending Maslin a letter insisting she was not cross-eyed, and included a photograph.[19] Later, Cartwright auditioned for the role of Ethel, a girl who becomes trapped in a cartoon world in the third segment of Twilight Zone: The Movie. She met with director Joe Dante and later described him as "a total cartoon buff, and once he took a look at my resume and noticed Daws Butler's name on it, we were off and running, sharing anecdotes about Daws and animation. After about twenty minutes, he said, 'considering your background, I don't see how I could cast anyone but you in this part!'"[20] It was her first role in a feature film.[20] The segment was based on The Twilight Zone television series episode "It's a Good Life", which was later parodied in The Simpsons episode "Treehouse of Horror II" (1991).[21] Cartwright continued to do voice work for projects including Pound Puppies, Popeye and Son, Snorks, My Little Pony and Saturday Supercade.[22] She joined a "loop group", and recorded vocals for characters in the background of films, although in most cases the sound was turned down so that very little of her voice was heard. She did minor voice-over work for several films, including The Clan of the Cave Bear (1986), Silverado (1985), Sixteen Candles (1984), Back to the Future Part II, and The Color Purple (1985).[23] Cartwright also voiced a shoe that was "dipped" in acid in Who Framed Roger Rabbit (1988), describing it as her first "off-screen death scene",[23] and worked to correctly convey the emotion involved.[24] Once I had graduated from UCLA, I decided that as long as I was an actress, I was going to find related work in the industry. There were plenty of opportunities. And fortunately, I am just pushy enough to find and get myself in touch with those who can provide such opportunities. —Nancy Cartwright, My Life as a 10-Year-Old Boy[22] In 1985, she auditioned for a guest spot as Cynthia in Cheers. The audition called for her to say her line and walk off the set. Cartwright decided to take a chance on being different and continued walking, leaving the building and returning home. The production crew was confused, but she received the part.[23] In search of more training as an actress, Cartwright joined a class taught by Hollywood coach Milton Katselas. He recommended that Cartwright study La Strada, a 1956 Italian film starring Giulietta Masina and directed by Federico Fellini. She began performing "every imaginable scene" from La Strada in her class and spent several months trying to secure the rights to produce a stage adaptation.[25] She visited Italy with the intention of meeting Fellini and requesting his permission in person. Although they never met, Cartwright kept a journal of the trip and later wrote a one-woman play called In Search of Fellini, partially based on her voyage.[25] The play was co-written by Peter Kjenaas, and Cartwright won a Drama-Logue Award after performing it in Los Angeles in 1995. In a 1998 interview, she stated her intention to make it into a feature film,[26] which she succeeded in doing in 2017.[27] Cartwright in 2007 "Eat my shorts" 26-second excerpt of "Lisa's Sax" in which Bart taunts Principal Skinner Problems playing this file? See media help. Cartwright voices the character Bart Simpson on the long-running animated television show The Simpsons. On March 13, 1987, she auditioned for a series of animated shorts about a dysfunctional family that was to appear on The Tracey Ullman Show, a sketch comedy program. Cartwright had intended to audition for the role of Lisa Simpson, the elder daughter. After arriving at the audition, she found that Lisa was simply described as the middle child and at the time did not have much personality. Cartwright became more interested in the role of Bart, described as "devious, underachieving, school-hating, irreverent, [and] clever".[28] Creator Matt Groening let her try out for Bart and gave her the job on the spot.[29] Bart's voice came naturally to Cartwright, as she had previously used elements of it in My Little Pony, Snorks, and Pound Puppies.[24] Cartwright describes Bart's voice as easy to perform compared with other characters.[24] The recording of the shorts was often primitive; the dialog was recorded on a portable tape deck in a makeshift studio above the bleachers on the set of The Tracey Ullman Show. Cartwright, the only cast member to have been professionally trained in voice acting,[30] described the sessions as "great fun".[31] However, she wanted to appear in the live-action sketches and occasionally showed up for recording sessions early, hoping to be noticed by a producer.[31] In 1989, the shorts were spun off into a half-hour show on the Fox network called The Simpsons. Bart quickly became the show's breakout personality and one of the most celebrated characters on television—his popularity in 1990 and 1991 was known as "Bartmania".[32][33][34][35] Bart was described as "television's brightest new star" by Mike Boone of The Gazette[36] and was named 1990's "entertainer of the year" by Entertainment Weekly.[37] Despite Bart's fame, however, Cartwright remained relatively unknown. During the first season of The Simpsons, Fox ordered Cartwright not to give interviews, because they did not want to publicize the fact that Bart was voiced by a woman.[38] Cartwright's normal speaking voice is said to have "no obvious traces of Bart",[24] and she believes her role is "the best acting job in the world"[24] since she is rarely recognized in public.[7] When she is recognized and asked to perform Bart's voice in front of children, Cartwright refuses because it "freaks [them] out".[24] Bart's catchphrase "Eat My Shorts" was an ad-lib by Cartwright in one of the original table readings, referring to an incident from her high school days. Once while performing, members of the Fairmont West High School marching band switched their chant from the usual "Fairmont West! Fairmont West!" to the irreverent "Eat my shorts!" Cartwright felt it appropriate for Bart, and improvised the line; it became a popular catchphrase on the show.[39] In 2000, Bart, along with the rest of the Simpson family, was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Cartwright voices several other characters on the show, including Nelson Muntz, Ralph Wiggum, Todd Flanders, Kearney, and Database.[40] She first voiced Nelson in the episode "Bart the General" (season one, 1990). The character was to be voiced by Dana Hill, but Hill missed the recording session and Cartwright was given the role.[41] She developed Nelson's voice on the spot and describes him as "a throat-ripper".[42] Ralph Wiggum had originally been voiced by Jo Ann Harris, but Cartwright was assigned to voice the character in "Bart the Murderer" (season three, 1991).[43] Todd Flanders, the only voice for which Cartwright used another source, is based on

jazz musician Bleeding Gums Murphy, whom she regards as an idol. Murphy helps pull Lisa out of her depression in "Moaning Lisa" (season 1, 1990).[9] She is later deeply saddened by Murphy's death in "'Round Springfield" (season 6, 1995).[10] Lisa has had a few brief relationships with boys, including Ralph Wiggum in "I Love Lisa" (season 4, 1993),[11] Nelson Muntz in "Lisa's Date with Density" (season 8, 1996)[12] and Colin in The Simpsons Movie (2007).[13] Bart's best friend Milhouse Van Houten has a crush on her, but despite dropping unsubtle hints about his feelings, he has been unsuccessful in winning her affection.[12] Her voice actor Yeardley Smith said Muntz would make a good match for Lisa.[14] In 2019, Simpsons showrunner Al Jean said he saw Lisa as being "possibly polyamorous" in the future.[15] In the Season 23 episode "Holidays of Future Passed" Lisa is shown holding hands with an unnamed dark-haired woman in a photo, and then shown in a second photo where she is holding hands with two different women at once, suggesting polyamory; she later ends up with Milhouse. However, this episode is non-canon.[16][17][18][15] Lisa is the most intellectual member of the Simpson family (she has an IQ of 159), and many episodes of the series focus on her fighting for various causes.[19] Lisa is often the focus of episodes with "a real moral or philosophical point", which according to former writer David S. Cohen is because "you really buy her as caring about it."[20] Lisa's political convictions are generally left-wing and liberal and she often contests other's views. She is a vegetarian, feminist, environmentalist and a supporter of gay rights, universal healthcare, and the Free Tibet movement.[21][22] In a special Christmas message for the UK in 2004 Lisa showed her support for Cornish nationalism, even speaking the Cornish language to get her message across.[23] While supportive of the general ideals of the Christian church in which she was raised, Lisa became a practicing Buddhist in the episode "She of Little Faith" (season 13, 2001) after she learned about the Noble Eightfold Path.[24] Matt Groening conceived Lisa and the rest of the Simpson family in 1986 in the lobby of producer James L. Brooks's office. Groening had been called in to pitch a series of animated shorts for The Tracey Ullman Show and had intended to present an adaptation of his Life in Hell comic strip. When he realized that animating Life in Hell would require him to rescind publication rights, Groening went in another direction,[25] hurriedly sketching his version of a dysfunctional family, named after members of his own family. Lisa was named after Groening's younger sister, but little else was based on her.[26] In The Tracey Ullman Show shorts, Lisa displayed none of the intelligence for which she later became known. She was more of a "female Bart"[27] and was originally described as simply the "middle child", without much personality.[28] Lisa made her brief debut with the rest of the Simpson family on April 19, 1987, in The Tracey Ullman Show short "Good Night".[29] On December 17, 1989, the shorts were adapted into The Simpsons, a half-hour series on the Fox Broadcasting Company.[25] This image illustrates how to draw Lisa's head and hairline using the three-three-two arrangement The entire Simpson family was designed to be easily recognized in silhouette.[30] The family was crudely drawn, because Groening had submitted basic sketches to the animators, assuming they would clean them up; instead, they just traced over his drawings.[25] Lisa's physical features are generally unique. In some early episodes, minor background characters occasionally had a similar hairline. However, in the later seasons, no character other than Maggie shares her hairline.[31] While designing Lisa, Groening "couldn't be bothered to even think about girls' hairstyles".[32] At the time, Groening was primarily drawing in black and white; when designing Lisa and Maggie, he "just gave them this kind of spiky starfish hair style, not thinking that they would eventually be drawn in color".[33] To draw Lisa's head and hair, most of the show's animators use what they call the "three-three-two arrangement". It begins with a circle, with two curving lines (one vertical, one horizontal) intersecting in the middle to indicate her eyeline. The vertical line continues outside of the circle to create one hair point, with two more added towards the back of her head. Three more points are then added in front (in the direction Lisa is facing), with two more behind it.[34] Several Simpsons animators, including Pete Michels and David Silverman, consider Lisa the most difficult Simpsons character to draw.[35] Silverman explains that "her head is so abstract" due to her hairstyle.[32] While the roles of Homer and Marge were given to Dan Castellaneta and Julie Kavner because they were already a part of the Tracey Ullman Show cast,[36] the producers decided to hold casting for the roles of Bart and Lisa. Nancy Cartwright intended to audition for the role of Lisa, but disliked the character's bland description—Lisa was described simply as the "middle child"—and read for the role of Bart instead.[28][37] Casting director Bonita Pietila brought Yeardley Smith in for an audition after seeing her performing in the play Living on Salvation Street.[38][39] Smith was hesitant to audition for an animated series, but her agent had persuaded her to give it a try.[40] Smith originally auditioned for the role of Bart but Pietila believed her voice was too high. Smith later recalled: "I always sounded too much like a girl, I read two lines as Bart and they said, 'Thanks for coming!'"[39][41] Pietila offered Smith the role of Lisa instead.[40] Lisa's voice actress Yeardley Smith Smith and the show's writers worked to give Lisa a more defined personality, and she has developed greatly during the series. In her 2000 memoir My Life as a 10-Year-Old Boy, Cartwright wrote: "with the brilliant wit of the writers and the wry, in-your-eye, honest-to-a-fault interpretation, Yeardley Smith has made Lisa a bright light of leadership, full of compassion and competence beyond her years. Lisa Simpson is the kind of child we not only want our children to be but also the kind of child we want all children to be. But, at the time, on The Tracey Ullman Show, she was just an animated eight-year-old kid who had no personality."[28] Lisa is the only regular character voiced by Smith, who raises the pitch of her voice slightly for the role.[42] In some earlier episodes she provided some of Maggie's squeaks and occasional speaking parts, and has voiced other characters on very rare occasions.[43] Usually they are derivative of Lisa, such as Lisa Bella in "Last Tap Dance in Springfield" (season 11, 2000) and Lisa, Jr. in "Missionary: Impossible". (season 11, 2000)[44] It's a happy fluke. When she was cast back in 1987, I just liked the sound of her voice. She's also a great actress. In general, people who make their living doing voices on cartoons aren't always great for us. Most cartoons want things peppy and cartoony. Yeardley can go through moments of great emotion and wring it for all she's worth. —Matt Groening on Smith's vocal style[45] Despite Lisa's fame, Smith is rarely recognized in public, which she does not mind. She said, "it's wonderful to be in the midst of all this hype about the show, and people enjoying the show so much, and to be totally a fly on the wall; people never recognize me solely from my voice."[46] In a 2009 interview with The Guardian she commented that "It's the best job ever. I have nothing but gratitude for the amount of freedom The Simpsons has bought me in my life."[47] Although Smith received a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Voice-Over Performance in 1992, she considers it unimportant, saying "there's part of me that feels it wasn't even a real Emmy." The award is a Creative Arts prize not awarded during the primetime telecast and, at the time, a juried award without nominations.[40] Still, Smith considers her work on the show a success. "If I had to be associated with one character in fiction," she said, "I will always be thrilled that it was Lisa Simpson."[40] Matt Groening has described Smith as being very similar to Lisa: "Yeardley has strong moral views about her character. Some lines are written for Lisa that Yeardley reads and says, 'No, I wouldn't say that.'"[45] Former Simpsons writer Jay Kogen praised her performance on the show, particularly in the episode "Lisa's Substitute", as able "to move past comedy to something really strong and serious and dramatic."[45] Until 1998, Smith was paid $30,000 per episode. A pay dispute erupted in 1998, during which Fox threatened to replace the six main voice actors with new actors, going as far as preparing for casting of new voices.[48] The dispute was soon resolved, and Smith received $125,000 per episode until 2004 when the voice actors sought an increase to $360,000 per episode.[48] The issue was resolved a month later,[49] and Smith earned $250,000 per episode.[46] New salary negotiations took place in 2008, and the voice actors currently receive approximately $400,000 per episode.[50] Three years later, with Fox threatening to cancel the series unless production costs were cut, Smith and the other cast members accepted a 30 percent pay cut, down to just over $300,000 per episode.[51] Lisa in her first televised appearance in "Good Night", while designers who worked on Lisa, Groening, who was primarily drawing in black and white, "just gave [her] this kind of spiky starfish hair style, not thinking that [she] would eventually be drawn in color"; Lisa's hair points would eventually be made less spiky[33] In The Tracey Ullman Show shorts, Lisa was something of a "female Bart": equally mischievous but lacking unique traits.[27] As the series progressed, Lisa began to develop into a more intelligent and more emotional character.[52] She demonstrates her intellect in the 1990 episode "Krusty Gets Busted" (season one), by helping Bart reveal Sideshow Bob's plot to frame Krusty the Clown for armed robbery.[53] Many episodes focusing on Lisa have an emotional nature, such as "Moaning Lisa" (season one, 1990). The idea for the episode was pitched by James L. Brooks, who wanted to do an emotional episode involving Lisa's sadness, to complement the many "jokey episodes" in the first season.[54] In the seventh-season episode "Lisa the Vegetarian" (1995), Lisa permanently becomes a vegetarian, distinguishing her as one of the first primetime television characters to make such a choice.[55] The episode was written by David S. Cohen (in his first solo writing credit), who jotted down the idea one day while eating lunch. Then-executive producer David Mirkin, who had recently become a vegetarian himself, quickly approved the idea. Several of Lisa's experiences in the episode are based on Mirkin's own experiences. The episode guest stars musician Paul McCartney, a committed vegetarian and animal rights activist. McCartney's condition for appearing was that Lisa would remain a vegetarian and would not revert the next week (as is common on situation comedies). The trait stayed and is one of the few permanent character changes made in the show.[56][57][58] In the season 13 episode "She of Little Faith" (2001), Lisa underwent another permanent character change when she converted to Buddhism.[59] Lisa plays the baritone saxophone, and some episodes use that as a plot device. According to Matt Groening, the baritone saxophone was chosen because he found the thought of an eight-year-old girl playing it amusing. He added, "But she doesn't always play a baritone sax because the animators don't know what it looks like, so it changes shape and color from show to show."[60] One of the hallmarks of the show's opening sequence is a brief solo Lisa plays on her saxophone after being thrown out of music class. The Simpsons composer Alf Clausen said that the session musicians who perform her solos do not try to play at the second-grade level and instead "think of Lisa as a really good player."[52] [Lisa is] a good soul. I love that she is so compassionate. She is wise beyond her years. She has remarkable optimism, despite the fact that she's disappointed so often. —Yeardley Smith[38] Lisa, despite being a child prodigy, often sees herself as a misfit within the Simpson family and other children due to possessing an unusually high level of intelligence. She shows characteristics rarely seen in Springfield, including spirituality and commitment to peaceful ways,[61] and is notably more concerned with world affairs than her life in Springfield,[62] with her rebellion against social norms being depicted as constructive and heroic, yet she can be self-righteous at times.[63] In "Lisa the Vegetarian", an increasing sense of moral righteousness leads her to disrupt her father's roast-pig barbecue, an act for which she later apologizes. Like most children her age, she thinks in images rather than words.[64] Episodes often take shots at Lisa's idealism.[65] In "Bart Star" (season nine, 1997), Lisa, who is departing from her typically more genuine nature and apparently looking for a new cause to crusade over,[66] defiantly declares that she, a girl, would like to join the football team. In the 1990s, it was considered odd to allow a girl to play football. However, when coach Ned Flanders reveals that several girls already play for the team, she hesitates and claims football is "not really [her] thing". She then expresses distaste about a ball made of pig's skin, but one of the girls informs her that their footballs are synthetic and that proceeds are donated to Amnesty International. Upset by being unable to gain moral superiority, Lisa runs off.[67] Lisa is said to have an IQ of 159,[68] and in "They Saved Lisa's Brain" (season ten, 1999) she becomes a member of the Springfield chapter of Mensa.[69] Even prior to becoming a Buddhist, Lisa at times is seen meditating.[70] When unable to attend school due to a teachers' strike in "The PTA Disbands" (season six, 1995), she suffers withdrawal symptoms because of the sudden lack of praise.[71] She even demands that her mother grade her for no obvious reason.[72] In Planet Simpson, Chris Turner writes that these traits make Lisa more realistic because "No character can aspire to realism without a few all-too-human flaws."[71] Although she is wise beyond her years, Lisa has typical childhood issues, sometimes requiring adult intervention. One episode to show this is "See Homer Run" (season seventeen, 2005) where she goes through a developmental condition which causes her to get into trouble at school.[73] In "Lost Our Lisa" (season nine, 1998), she tricks Homer into allowing her to ride the bus alone, only to become hopelessly lost and in need of aid from her father.[74] Chris Turner writes in Planet Simpson that incidents like this illustrate that "Even when Lisa's lecturing like a college professor or mounting yet another protest, she never becomes a full-grown adult trapped in a child's body."[73] In The Simpsons and Philosophy: The D'oh! of Homer, Aeon J. Skoble states that although Lisa is an intellectual, she is still portrayed as a character who enjoys normal childhood and girl activities, plays with Malibu Stacy dolls, loves ponies, obsesses over teenage heartthrobs such as Corey, and watches The Itchy & Scratchy Show along with Bart. He writes, "One might argue that this is typical childhood behavior, but since in so many cases Lisa is presented not simply as a prodigy but as preternaturally wise, the fondness for Itchy & Scratchy and Corey seem to be highlighted, taking on greater significance. Lisa is portrayed as the avatar of logic and wisdom, but then she also worships Corey so she's 'no better [than the rest of us]'."[75] Lisa occasionally worries that her family's dull habits will rub off on her, such as in "Lisa the Simpson" (season nine, 1998) she worries that the "Simpson gene" will make her a dimwit later finding out the gene only goes through the male side.[76][77] She is also concerned that Maggie may grow up to be like the rest of the family and tries to teach her complex ideas. Chris Turner writes in Planet Simpson that "Lisa embarks on quests to find solace for her yearning spirit ... but the most reliable source of truth she finds is the one she always believed in: her family. It is from the other Simpsons that Lisa draws stability, meaning, contentment."[78] Her loyalty to her family is most clearly seen in the flashforward "Lisa's Wedding" (season six, 1995), in which she must reconcile her love for them with the distaste of her cultured fiancé.[79] In the episode "Mother Simpson" (season seven, 1995) she meets her paternal grandmother Mona Simpson for the first time.[80] Mona is also well-read and articulate, and the writers used the character as a way to explain the origins of Lisa's intelligence.[81] Lisa's sexuality has become the subject of speculation amongst viewers of the show. Lisa is shown to have heterosexual crushes on Nelson Muntz and Langdon Alger in "Lisa's Date with Density" and "Bart on the Road" respectively. In some episodes Lisa is shown to have a boyfriend, such as Edmund Dracula in "Treehouse of Horror XXI" or Colin in "The Simpsons Movie".[82] Lisa becomes engaged to, and later almost marries, Hugh Parkfield in "Lisa's Wedding" and the episode "Holidays of Future Passed" suggests that Lisa will go on to marry Milhouse Van Houten. However, "Holidays of Future Passed" also show Lisa being in both a monogamous, and later polyamorous, lesbian relationships.[83] Although Lisa's sexuality has never been confirmed on screen, showrunner Al Jean said in a 2019 interview with The Metro that he had always envisaged for Lisa to grow up to become polyamorous.[84][85] In a 2020 interview with the Stryker & Klein show on KROQ Radio, Yeardley Smith said that she believed that Lisa was "still exploring her sexuality". Smith also asked fans to stop speculating on Lisa's sexuality, as she was "ultimately an eight-year old girl".[86] In 2000, Lisa, along with the rest of the Simpson family, was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame See also: List of awards won by The Simpsons Lisa has been a popular character since the show's inception. She was listed at number 11 (tied with Bart) in TV Guide's "Top 50 Greatest Cartoon Characters of All Time."[87] She appeared in Comcast's list of TV's Most Intriguing Characters[88] and was also included in AfterEllen.com's Top 50 Favorite Female TV Characters.[89] On a less positive note, she was ranked third in AskMen's top 10 of the most irritating '90s cartoon characters.[90] Yeardley Smith has won several awards for voicing Lisa, including a Primetime Emmy Award for "Outstanding Voice-Over Performance" in 1992 for "Lisa the Greek".[91] Various episodes in which Lisa stars have won Emmy Awards for Outstanding Animated Program, including "Homer vs. Lisa and the 8th Commandment" in 1991, "Lisa's Wedding" in 1995 and "HOMR" in 2001.[91] In 2000, Lisa and the rest of the Simpson family were awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 7021 Hollywood Boulevard.[92] Lisa's environmentalism has been especially well received. In 2001, Lisa received a special "board of directors Ongoing Commitment Award" at the Environmental Media Awards.[93] "Lisa the Vegetarian" won both an Environmental Media Award for "Best Television Episodic Comedy"[94] and a Genesis Award for "Best Television Comedy Series, Ongoing Commitment".[95] Several other episodes that feature Lisa speaking out in favor of animal rights have won Genesis Awards, including "Whacking Day" in 1994,[96][97] "Bart Gets an Elephant" in 1995,[98][99][100] "Million Dollar Abie" in 2007[101] and "Apocalypse Cow" in 2009.[102] Jonathan Gray, author of the book Watching The Simpsons, feels that Lisa "is probably the best and certainly longest-running feminist character that television has had. She's the heart of the show and she quite often questions gender politics."[103] Christopher Borrelli of The Toledo Blade wrote, "Has there ever been a female TV character as complex, intelligent, and, ahem, as emotionally well-drawn as Lisa Simpson? Meet her once and she comes off priggish and one-note – a know-it-all. Get to know her and Lisa is as well-rounded as anyone you may ever meet in the real world."[104] According to PETA, Lisa was one of the first vegetarian characters on primetime television. In 2004 the organization included Lisa on its list of the "Most Animal-Friendly TV Characters of All Time".[55] In 2008, environmentalist website The Daily Green honored Lisa's role in The Simpsons Movie with one of its inaugural "Heart of Green" awards, which "recognize those who have helped green go mainstream." They wrote "young Lisa Simpson has inspired a generation to wear their hearts on their sleeves and get educated, and involved, about global issues, from justice to feminism and the environment."[105] Japanese broadcasters reversed viewer dislike of the series by focusing marketing of the show on Lisa. Lisa's well-intended but ill-fated struggles to be a voice of reason and a force of good in her family and community struck a chord with Japanese audiences.[106] Mario D'Amato, a specialist in Buddhist studies at Rollins College in Florida, described Lisa as "open-minded, reflective, ethical, and interested in improving herself in various ways, while still preserving a childlike sense of innocence. These are all excellent qualities, ones which are espoused by many Buddhist traditions."[107] Lisa and the rest of the Simpsons have had a significant influence on English-language idioms. The dismissive term "meh"—used by Lisa and popularized by the show—[108] entered the Collins English Dictionary in 2008.[109] In 1996, The New York Times published an article saying that Lisa was inspiring children, especially young girls, to learn to play the saxophone.[60] Lisa Simpson was mentioned at the 2018 Conservative Political Action Conference when Senator Ted Cruz called the Democratic Party "The Party of Lisa Simpson", as opposed to the Republican Party being the party of several other family members.[110] "Lisa the Skeptic" and "The Monkey Suit" are episodes of The Simpsons that delve into themes of skepticism, religion, and science. These episodes demonstrate the show's commitment to encouraging critical thinking and questioning of established beliefs, while also acknowledging the complexities and challenges that arise in such discussions. Despite occasional missteps, The Simpsons has provided a platform for exploring these important topics in an entertaining and thought-provoking manner.[111] Lisa has been included in many The Simpsons publications, toys, and other merchandise. The Lisa Book, describing Lisa's personality and attributes, was released in 2006.[112] Other merchandise includes dolls, posters, figurines, bobblehead dolls, mugs, and clothing such as slippers, T-shirts, baseball caps, and boxer shorts.[113] Lisa has appeared in commercials for Burger King,[114] C.C. Lemon, Church's Chicken, Domino's Pizza, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Ramada Inn, Ritz Crackers, Subway and Butterfinger.[115] On April 9, 2009, the United States Postal Service unveiled a series of five 44-cent stamps featuring Lisa and the four other members of the nuclear Simpson family. They are the first characters from a television series to receive this recognition while still in production.[116] The stamps, designed by Matt Groening, went on sale in May 2009.[117][118] Lisa has also appeared in other media relating to The Simpsons. She has appeared in each Simpsons video game, including The Simpsons Game, released in 2007.[119] In addition to the television series, Lisa regularly appeared in issues of Simpsons Comics, which were published from 1993 until 2018. The comics focus on the sweeter, more naïve incarnation from the early seasons.[120][121] Lisa also plays a role in The Simpsons Ride, launched in 2008 at Universal Studios Florida and Hollywood.[122] ^ "Lisa's Wedding". The Simpsons. Season 6. Episode 19. March 19, 1995. Event occurs at 10:08. Fox. ^ "The Simpsons: Season 33, Episode 20 script | Subs like Script". ^ Turner 2004, pp. 78–79. ^ Martin, Jeff; Kirkland, Mark (October 24, 2021). "Lisa's First Word". The Simpsons. Season 33. Episode 5. 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Maggie. "Good Night (The Simpsons short)"[3] 1987- Lisa Simpson Yeardley Smith Middle child and eldest daughter of Homer and Marge; sister of Bart and Maggie. "Good Night (The Simpsons short)"[3] 1987- Maggie Simpson Liz Georges Gábor Csupó Harry Shearer Yeardley Smith Nancy Cartwright Elizabeth Taylor James Earl Jones Jodie Foster Youngest child and daughter of Homer and Marge; sister of Bart and Lisa. "Good Night (The Simpsons short)"[3] 1987- Akira George Takei, Hank Azaria Waiter at The Happy Sumo;[5] karate teacher.[6] "One Fish, Two Fish, Blowfish, Blue Fish" 1991- Albright, Ms. !Ms. Albright Tress MacNeille Sunday school teacher. "The Telltale Head" 1990- Amadopolis, Aristotle !Aristotle Amadopolis Jon Lovitz, Dan Castellaneta Owner of the Shelbyville Nuclear Power Plant.[9] "Homer Defined" 1991- Atkins !Atkins, State Comptroller Harry Shearer,[10] Hank Azaria[11] State comptroller.[12] "Lisa Gets an "A"" 1998- Bailey, Mary !Mary Bailey Maggie Roswell Governor of Springfield's state. "Two Cars in Every Garage and Three Eyes on Every Fish" 1990- Barlow !Birchibald "Birch" T. Barlow Harry Shearer Radio talk show host; Fox News anchor. "Sideshow Bob Roberts" 1994- Beardly, Jasper !Jasper Beardly Harry Shearer Grampa's closest neighbor at the Retirement Castle. "Bart the General" 1990- Benjamin, Doug, and Gary Harry Shearer, Hank Azaria, and Dan Castellaneta Springfield University students. "Homer Goes to College" 1993- Bill and Marty Dan Castellaneta and Harry Shearer KBBL Radio co-hosts. "Bart vs. Thanksgiving" 1990- Blinky Unvoiced Three-eyed fish. "Two Cars in Every Garage and Three Eyes on Every Fish" 1990- Blue Haired Lawyer[13] Dan Castellaneta[13] Attorney. "Bart Gets Hit by a Car" 1991- Boobarella Tress MacNeille Host of late night TV monster movies. "I'm Spelling as Fast as I Can" 2003- Borton !Wendell Borton Russi Taylor Student at Springfield Elementary School. "Homer's Odyssey" 1990- Bouvier, Jacqueline !Jacqueline Bouvier Julie Kavner Mother of Selma and Patty Bouvier and Marge Simpson, Grandmother of Bart, Lisa, Maggie and Ling. "Bart vs. Thanksgiving" 1990- Bouvier, PattyPatty Bouvier Julie Kavner Twin sister of Selma and older sister of Marge. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989- Bouvier, SelmaSelma Bouvier Julie Kavner Twin sister of Patty and older sister of Marge. Adoptive mother of Ling. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989- Brockman, KentKent Brockman Harry Shearer Channel 6 News anchor. "Krusty Gets Busted" 1990- Bumblebee Man Hank Azaria Star of slapstick sketch comedy show on Canal Ocho. "Itchy & Scratchy: The Movie" 1992- Burns, Charles MontgomeryCharles Montgomery Burns Christopher Collins (early season 1), Harry Shearer Owner of the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989- Capital City Goofball Tom Poston Mascot of the Capital City Capitals baseball team.[15] "Dancin' Homer" 1990- Carlson, CarlCarl Carlson Hank Azaria Springfield Nuclear Power Plant employee. "Homer's Night Out" 1990- Crazy Cat Lady Tress MacNeille[10] Mentally ill owner of many cats. Name revealed as Eleanor Abernathy in "See Homer Run". "Girly Edition" 1998- Chalmers, GaryGary Chalmers Hank Azaria Public schools superintendent. "Whacking Day" 1993- Charlie Dan Castellaneta Springfield Nuclear Power Plant employee. "Life on the Fast Lane" 1990- Chase (Pyro) Hank Azaria[13] Luann Van Houten's ex-boyfriend; American Gladiator. "A Milhouse Divided" 1996- Christian, ScottScott Christian Dan Castellaneta News co-anchor. "Krusty Gets Busted" 1990- Comic Book Guy Hank Azaria Proprietor of The Android's Dungeon comic book store. Name revealed to be Jeff Albertson in "Homer and Ned's Hail Mary Pass". "Three Men and a Comic Book" 1991- Costington, Mr.Mr. Costington Hank Azaria[11] President of Costington's Department Store. "Trash of the Titans" 1998-04-26 Database Nancy Cartwright Student at Springfield Elementary School. First name is revealed to be Kyle in "Yellow Subterfuge" "Bart's Comet" 1995-02-05 Desmond, DeclanDeclan Desmond Eric Idle Documentary filmmaker. "'Scuse Me While I Miss the Sky" 2003-03-20 Disco Stu Hank Azaria[11] Disco aficionado. "Two Bad Neighbors" 1996-01-14 Dolph Tress MacNeille Springfield Elementary School bully. "The Telltale Head" 1990-02-25 Doris, LunchladyLunchlady Doris Doris Grau (1991-1995) Tress MacNeille (1996-present) Springfield Elementary School lunch lady. "Lisa's Pony" 1991-11-07 Duffman Hank Azaria[13] Spokes-mascot for Duff Beer. His real name is Barry Duffman. "The City of New York vs. Homer Simpson". 1997-09-21 Eddie and Lou Harry Shearer and Hank Azaria Springfield police officers. "There's No Disgrace Like Home" 1990-01-28 Fat Tony Joe Mantegna Mob boss. "Bart the Murderer" 1991-10-10 Flanders, MaudeMaude Flanders Maggie Roswell Ned Flanders's wife (dies on Season 11). "Dead Putting Society" 1990-11-15 Flanders, NedNed Flanders Harry Shearer The Simpson family's next door neighbor; owner of The Leftorium (until it closes on Season 29), Bart Simpson's teacher at Springfield Elementary School (Season 29 onwards, substituting the void left by former deceased teacher Edna Krabappel, who was previously married to Flanders from Seasons 23 to 25).[17][18] "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Flanders, RodRod Flanders Pamela Hayden Ned and Maude Flanders's older son. "The Call of the Simpsons" 1990-02-18 Flanders, ToddTodd Flanders Nancy Cartwright Ned and Maude Flanders's younger son. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Francesca Maria Grazia Cucinotta Sideshow Bob's Italian wife. "The Italian Bob" 2005-12-11 Frankie the Squealer Dan Castellaneta[11] Informant for Fat Tony.[19] "Insane Clown Poppy" 2000-11-12 Frink, Professor JohnProfessor John Frink Hank Azaria Scientist, inventor. "Old Money" 1991-03-28 Gerald, BabyBaby Gerald Unvoiced One-eyebrowed baby. Arch-nemesis of Maggie Simpson. "Sweet Seymour Skinner's Baadasssss Song" 1994-04-28 Ginger Flanders Tress MacNeille[10] Ned Flanders's "Vegas wife."[20] "Viva Ned Flanders" 1999-01-10 Gino Terwilliger Tress MacNeille[10] Sideshow Bob's toddler son. "The Italian Bob" 2005-12-11 Glick, AliceAlice Glick Cloris Leachman, Tress MacNeille Elderly. "Three Men and a Comic Book" 1991-05-09 Gloria Jailbird Julia Louis-Dreyfus Snake's pregnant girlfriend. "A Hunka Hunka Burns in Love" 2001-12-02 Gumble, BarneyBarney Gumble Dan Castellaneta Homer's drunken old pal. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Gunderson, GilGil Gunderson Dan Castellaneta[13] Unsuccessful salesman. "Realty Bites" 1997-12-07 The Happy Little Elves Dan Castellaneta,[11] Hank Azaria,[11] and Harry Shearer[22] Children's cartoon series characters. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-02-12 Harm, Judge ConstanceJudge Constance Harm Jane Kaczmarek Springfield judge. "The Parent Rap" 2001-11-11 Herman Hermann Harry Shearer Owner of Herman's Military Antiques shop.[23] "Bart the General" 1990-02-04 Hibbert, BerniceBernice Hibbert Tress MacNeille[10] Dr. Hibbert's wife. "Bart's Dog Gets an "F"" 1991-03-07 Hibbert, Dr. JuliusDr. Julius Hibbert Harry Shearer Medical doctor. "Bart the Daredevil" 1990-12-06 Hoover, ElizabethElizabeth Hoover Maggie Roswell Lisa Simpson's teacher at Springfield Elementary School. "Brush with Greatness" 1991-04-11 Hutz, LionelLionel Hutz Phil Hartman Attorney. "Bart Gets Hit by a Car" 1991-01-10 Itchy & Scratchy Dan Castellaneta and Harry Shearer Cartoon cat and mouse. "The Bart Simpson Show"[25] 1988-11-20 Jacques Albert Brooks Bowling instructor.[27] "Life on the Fast Lane" 1990-03-18 Jones, JimboJimbo Jones Pamela Hayden Springfield Elementary School bully. "The Telltale Head" 1990-02-25 Jordan, RachelRachel Jordan Shawn Colvin[28] Lead singer of the Christian Rock band Kovenant.[29] "Alone Again, Natura-Diddily" 2000-02-13 Kang and Kodos Harry Shearer and Dan Castellaneta Extraterrestrials. "Treehouse of Horror" 1990-10-25 Kashmir, PrincessPrincess Kashmir Maggie Roswell Belly dancer.[30] "Homer's Night Out" 1990-03-25 Krabappel, EdnaEdna Krabappel† Marcia Wallace† Bart Simpson's teacher at Springfield Elementary School (until season 25), and Ned Flanders wife (Seasons 23-25, when the character is revealed to have died).[31] "Bart the Genius" 1990-01-14 Krustofski, Rabbi HymanRabbi Hyman Krustofski Jackie Mason and Dan Castellaneta Rabbi; father of Krusty the Clown.[32] "Like Father, Like Clown" 1991-10-24 Krusty the Clown Dan Castellaneta TV show clown host, original name Herschel Shmoikel Pinchas Yerucham Krustofski.[33] "The Telltale Head" 1990-02-25 Kwan, CookieCookie Kwan Tress MacNeille[10] Real estate agent.[34] "Realty Bites" 1997-12-07 Largo, DeweyDewey Largo Harry Shearer Springfield Elementary School's music teacher. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Legs and Louie Hank Azaria and Dan Castellaneta Fat Tony's henchmen. "Bart the Murderer" 1991-10-10 Leopold Dan Castellaneta Superintendent Chalmers' assistant. "Sweet Seymour Skinner's Baadasssss Song" 1994-04-28 Leonard, LennyLenny Leonard Harry Shearer Springfield Nuclear Power Plant employee; one of Homer Simpson's friends. "Life on the Fast Lane" 1990-03-18 Lewis Clark Russi Taylor Student at Springfield Elementary School. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Lovejoy, HelenHelen Lovejoy Maggie Roswell Reverend Lovejoy's wife. "Life on the Fast Lane" 1990-03-18 Lovejoy, Reverend TimothyReverend Timothy Lovejoy Harry Shearer Minister of the First Church of Springfield. "The Telltale Head" 1990-02-25 Coach Lugash Dan Castellaneta[11] Gymnastics instructor.[35] "Children of a Lesser Clod" 2001-05-13 Lumpkin, LurleenLurleen Lumpkin Beverly D'Angelo, Doris Grau Country music singer-songwriter. "Colonel Homer" 1992-03-26 Mann, OttoOtto Mann Harry Shearer Springfield Elementary School bus driver. "Homer's Odyssey" 1990-01-21 McCallister, Captain HoratioCaptain Horatio McCallister Hank Azaria Sea captain. "New Kid on the Block" 1992-11-12 Meyers, Jr., RogerRoger Meyers, Jr. Alex Rocco, Dan Castellaneta Chairman of Itchy & Scratchy International. "Itchy & Scratchy & Marge" 1990-12-20 McClure, TroyTroy McClure Phil Hartman Actor. "Homer vs. Lisa and the 8th Commandment" 1991-02-07 Moleman, HansHans Moleman Dan Castellaneta Misfortunate man. "Principal Charming" 1991-02-14 Monroe, Dr. MarvinDr. Marvin Monroe Harry Shearer Psychotherapist. "There's No Disgrace Like Home" 1990-01-28 Nelson Muntz Nancy Cartwright Springfield Elementary School bully. "Bart the General" 1990-02-04 Murdock, Captain LanceCaptain Lance Murdock Dan Castellaneta Daredevil. "Bart the Daredevil" 1990-12-06 Murphy, Bleeding GumsBleeding Gums Murphy Ron Taylor Blues musician.[40] "Moaning Lisa" 1990-02-11 Naegle, LindseyLindsey Naegle Tress MacNeille[10] Corporate executive. "The Itchy & Scratchy & Poochie Show" 1997-02-09 Nahasapeemapetilon, ApuApu Nahasapeemapetilon Hank Azaria Operator of the Kwik-E-Mart. "The Telltale Head" 1990-02-25 Nahasapeemapetilon, ManjulaManjula Nahasapeemapetilon Jan Hooks(1997-2002) Tress MacNeille (2014-present)[41] Apu Nahasapeemapetilon's wife. "Much Apu About Nothing" 1997-11-16 Nahasapeemapetilon, SanjaySanjay Nahasapeemapetilon Harry Shearer[10] Apu Nahasapeemapetilon's older brother. "Homer vs. Lisa and the 8th Commandment" 1991-2-7 Jake Dan Castellaneta, Harry Shearer[22] Barber. "Simpson and Delilah" 1990-10-18 Old Jewish Man Hank Azaria[13] Springfield Retirement Castle resident. "Krusty Gets Kancelled" 1993-05-13 Patches and Poor Violet Pamela Hayden[10] and Tress MacNeille[10] Orphans.[43] "Miracle on Evergreen Terrace" 1997-12-21 Pye, ArnieArnie Pye Dan Castellaneta Channel 6 helicopter reporter. "Homer Alone" 1992-02-06 Powell, HerbertHerbert Powell Danny DeVito Homer Simpson's half-brother.[45] "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" 1991-02-21 Powell, JaneyJaney Powell Pamela Hayden Student at Springfield Elementary School. "Moaning Lisa" 1990-02-11 Powers, RuthRuth Powers Pamela Reed The Simpsons' next door neighbor.[47] "New Kid on the Block" 1992-11-12 Prince, MartinMartin Prince Russi Taylor Student at Springfield Elementary School. "Bart the Genius" 1990-01-14 Pryor, LorenLoren Pryor Harry Shearer Springfield Elementary's school psychologist. "Bart the Genius" 1990-01-14 Quimby, Mayor "Diamond" JoeMayor "Diamond" Joe Quimby Dan Castellaneta Mayor of Springfield. "The Call of the Simpsons" 1990-10-11 Radioactive Man Harry Shearer Comic book superhero. "Three Men and a Comic Book" 1991-5-9 Rich Texan, TheThe Rich Texan Dan Castellaneta[13] Philanthropist. "$pringfield (Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Legalized Gambling)" 1993-12-16 Richard Pamela Hayden, Nancy Cartwright Student at Springfield Elementary School. "Bart the Genius" 1990-01-14 Risotto, LuigiLuigi Risotto Hank Azaria[13] Italian restaurant proprietor. "Sweet Seymour Skinner's Baadasssss Song" 1994-04-28 Dr. Nick Riviera Hank Azaria Incompetent medical doctor. Injured at the end of the movie by a falling chunk of glass, and brought back in the twentieth season. "Bart Gets Hit by a Car" 1991-01-10 Santa's Little Helper Dan Castellaneta, Frank Welker[22] The Simpson family's pet dog. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Sherri and Terri Russi Taylor Identical twins; Students at Springfield Elementary School. "Homer's Odyssey" 1990-01-21 Shutton, DaveDave Shutton Harry Shearer Reporter for The Springfield Shopper. "Two Cars in Every Garage and Three Eyes on Every Fish" 1990-11-01 Robert Terwilliger Kelsey Grammer Criminal mastermind and Krusty the Clown Show ex-operator and sidekick. "The Telltale Head" 1990-02-25 Sideshow Mel Dan Castellaneta The Krusty the Clown Show sidekick. "Itchy & Scratchy & Marge" 1990-12-20 Simpson, GrampaGrampa Simpson Dan Castellaneta Homer Simpson's father; Bart, Lisa, and Maggie Simpson's grandfather. "Grampa and the Kids" (The Simpsons shorts)[49] 1988-01-10 Simpson, AmberAmber Simpson Pamela Hayden[10] Homer Simpson's deceased "Vegas wife."[20] "Viva Ned Flanders" 1999-01-10 Simpson, MonaMona Simpson Glenn Close, Tress MacNeille,[10] Maggie Roswell Estranged mother of Homer Simpson and wife of Abe Simpson. "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" 1991-02-21 Skinner, AgnesAgnes Skinner Tress MacNeille Seymour Skinner's mother. "The Crepes of Wrath" 1990-04-15 Skinner, SeymourSeymour Skinner Harry Shearer Principal of Springfield Elementary School. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Smithers, WaylonWaylon Smithers Harry Shearer Mr. Burns's personal assistant. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Snake Jailbird Hank Azaria Recidivist. "The War of the Simpsons" 1991-05-02 Snowball II Frank Welker The Simpson family's pet cats. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Snyder, RoyRoy Snyder Harry Shearer[10] Springfield judge. "Krusty Gets Busted" 1990-04-29 Springfield, JebediahJebediah Springfield Harry Shearer Founder of Springfield; local hero. "The Telltale Head" 1990-02-25 Spuckler, CletusCletus Spuckler Hank Azaria Slack-Jawed Yokel. "Bart Gets an Elephant" 1994-03-31 Spuckler, BrandineBrandine Spuckler Tress MacNeille Cletus Spuckler's wife and sister. "Scenes from the Class Struggle in Springfield" 1996-02-04 Squeaky-Voiced Teen Dan Castellaneta[13] Service industry. "Dog of Death" 1991-02-14 Szyslak, MoeMoe Szyslak Hank Azaria Owner of Moe's Tavern. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Tatum, DrederickDrederick Tatum Hank Azaria Professional boxer, a caricature of Mike Tyson.[52] "Homer vs. Lisa and the 8th Commandment" 1991-02-07 Taylor, AllisonAllison Taylor Winona Ryder, Pamela Hayden Student at Springfield Elementary School. "Lisa's Rival" 1994-09-11 Teeny, Mr.Mr. Teeny Dan Castellaneta[13] The Krusty the Clown Show trained monkey. "Like Father, Like Clown" 1991-10-24 Terwilliger, CecilCecil Terwilliger David Hyde Pierce Sideshow Bob's younger brother.[54] "Brother from Another Series" 1997-02-23 Tightlips, JohnnyJohnny Tightlips Hank Azaria[11] One of Fat Tony's henchmen.[19] "Insane Clown Poppy" 2000-11-12 Üter Zörker Russi Taylor Student at Springfield Elementary School. "Treehouse of Horror IV" 1993-10-28 Van Houten, KirkKirk Van Houten Hank Azaria Milhouse Van Houten's father; factory worker. "Bart's Friend Falls in Love" 1992-05-07 Van Houten, LuannLuann Van Houten Maggie Roswell Kirk Van Houten's wife; Milhouse's mother. "Homer Defined" 1991-10-17 Van Houten, MilhouseMilhouse Van Houten Pamela Hayden Bart Simpson's best friend; Student at Springfield Elementary School. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Velimirovic !Dr. Velimirovic Hank Azaria[11] Plastic surgeon.[55] "Pygmoelian" 2000-02-27 Wiggum, Police Chief ClancyPolice Chief Clancy Wiggum Hank Azaria Springfield Chief of Police. "Homer's Odyssey" 1990-01-21 Wiggum, RalphRalph Wiggum Nancy Cartwright Son of Police Chief Clancy Wiggum. "Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire" 1989-12-17 Wiggum, SarahSarah Wiggum Pamela Hayden[10] Chief Wiggum's wife; Ralph Wiggum's mother. "Duffless" 1993-02-18 Groundskeeper Willie Dan Castellaneta Janitor of Springfield Elementary School. "Principal Charming" 1991-02-14 Raphael Hank Azaria[11] Service industry. "The Way We Was" 1991-01-31 Wolfcastle (McBain), RainierRainier Wolfcastle (McBain) Harry Shearer Actor; star of McBain films. "The Way We Was" 1991-01-31 Yes Guy, TheThe Yes Guy[11] Dan Castellaneta[11] Service industry. "Mayored to the Mob" 1998-12-20 Ziff, ArtieArtie Ziff Jon Lovitz, Dan Castellaneta Former billionaire and Marge's prom date.[57] "The Way We Was" 1991-01-31 Zzyzwicz, KearneyKearney Zzyzwicz Nancy Cartwright Springfield Elementary School bully. "The Telltale Head" 1990-02-25 References[] Citations[] ↑ Rabin, Nathan (26 April 2006). "Matt Groening: Interview". The A.V. Club. . Retrieved 29 September 2008. ↑ 3.0 3.1 3.2 Groening, Matt (19 April 1987). "Good Night". The Simpsons shorts. episode 1. season 1. Fox. ↑ Scovell, Nell; Archer, Wesley (24 January 1991). "One Fish, Two Fish, Blowfish, Blue Fish". The Simpsons. episode 11. season 2. Fox. ↑ Vitti, Jon; Reardon, Jim (3 October 1991). "When Flanders Failed". The Simpsons. episode 3. season 3. 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"Viva Ned Flanders". The Simpsons. episode 10. season 10. Fox. ↑ 22.0 22.1 22.2 McCann, p. 117 ↑ Swartzwelder, John; Silverman, David (4 February 1990). "Bart the General". The Simpsons. episode 5. season 1. Fox. ↑ Groening, Matt (20 November 1988). "The Bart Simpson Show". The Simpsons shorts. episode 32. season 3. Fox. ↑ Swartzwelder, John; Silverman, David (18 March 1990). "Life on the Fast Lane". The Simpsons. episode 9. season 1. Fox. ↑ McCann, p. 38 ↑ Maxtone-Graham, Ian; Reardon Jim (13 February 2000). "Alone Again, Natura-diddily". The Simpsons. episode 14. season 11. Fox. ↑ Vitti, Jon; Moore, Rich (25 March 1990). "Homer's Night Out". The Simpsons. episode 10. season 1. Fox. ↑ Kaiser, Rowan (2012-05-14). "The Simsons "Ned 'n Edna's Blend"". The A.V. Club. 73726/. Retrieved 2012-05-21. ↑ Kogen, Jay and Wallace Wolodarsky; Lynch, Jeffrey with Brad Bird (24 October 1991). "Like Father, Like Clown". The Simpsons. episode 6. season 3. Fox. ↑ Cohen, Joel H.; Kruse, Nancy (2003-12-07). "Today I Am a Clown". The Simpsons. episode 6. season 15. Fox. ↑ Greaney, Dan; Scott III, Swinton O. (7 December 1997). "Realty Bites". The Simpsons. episode 9. season 9. Fox. ↑ Jean, Al; Polcino, Mike (13 May 2001). "Children of a Lesser Clod". The Simpsons. episode 20. season 12. Fox. ↑ Jean, Al and Mike Reiss; Archer, Wesley (11 February 1990). "Moaning Lisa". The Simpsons. episode 6. season 1. Fox. ↑ Gimple, p. 64 ↑ Hauge, Ron; Anderson, Bob (21 December 1997). "Miracle on Evergreen Terrace". The Simpsons. episode 10. season 9. Fox. ↑ Martin, Jeff; Archer, Wesley (21 February 1991). "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?". The Simpsons. episode 15. season 2. Fox. ↑ O'Brien, Conan; Archer, Wesley (12 November 1992). "New Kid on the Block". The Simpsons. episode 8. season 4. Fox. ↑ Groening, Matt (10 January 1988). "Grampa and the Kids". The Simpsons shorts. episode 19. season 2. Fox. ↑ Collier, Jonathan; Kirkland, Mark (21 November 1991). 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the cover. The cover and a three-page picture spread, as well as a story inside entitled The Devil in Marge Simpson, commemorated the 20th anniversary of The Simpsons,[93] but as also part of a plan to appeal to younger readers, a decision which has been criticized due to a page in which the character is depicted nude.[94] Darine Stern's picture on the October 1971 cover served as the inspiration for Playboy's November 2009 cover.[95] ^ Homer's age also fluctuates throughout the series. See Homer Simpson#Age. ^ "Convenience Airways". The Simpsons. Season 36. Episode 8. December 8, 2024. Fox. ^ Groening 2010, p. 1099. ^ Turner 2004, pp. 78–79. ^ a b Turner 2004, pp. 239–240. ^ a b Jean, Al; Reiss, Mike; Simon, Sam; Silverman, David (January 31, 1991). "The Way We Was". The Simpsons. Season 02. Episode 12. Fox. ^ Martin, Jeff; Lynch, Jeffrey (December 26, 1991). "I Married Marge". The Simpsons. Season 03. Episode 12. Fox. ^ Selman, Matt; Kirkland, Mark (January 27, 2008). 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Richmond, Ray; Gimple, Scott M.; McCann, Jessie L.; Seghers, Christine; Bates, James W. (eds.). Simpsons World: The Ultimate Episode Guide: Seasons 1–20 (1st ed.). HarperCollins. ISBN 9780061711282. Marge Simpson on IMDb Portal: The Simpsons Retrieved from " Fictional character from The Simpsons This article is about the cartoon character. For the filmmaker, see Bart Simpson (filmmaker). Fictional character Bart SimpsonThe Simpsons characterFirst appearance"Good Night"The Tracey Ullman ShowApril 19, 1987Created byMatt GroeningDesigned byMatt GroeningVoiced byNancy CartwrightIn-universe informationFull nameBartholomew Jo-Jo SimpsonOccupation4th-grade student at Springfield Elementary SchoolFamily Homer Simpson (father) Marge Simpson (mother) Lisa Simpson (sister) Maggie Simpson (sister) Relatives Abe Simpson (grandfather) Mona Simpson (grandmother; deceased) Clancy Bouvier (grandfather; deceased) Jacqueline Bouvier (grandmother) Patty Bouvier (aunt) Selma Bouvier (aunt) Herbert Powell (half-uncle) Abbey (half-aunt) Home742 Evergreen Terrace, Springfield, United StatesNationalityAmerican Bartholomew Jo-Jo "Bart" Simpson is one of the main characters in the American animated television series The Simpsons who is part of the titular family. Bart made his television debut in the short "Good Night" on The Tracey Ullman Show on April 19, 1987. Cartoonist Matt Groening created and designed Bart while waiting in the lobby of James L. Brooks's office. Initially called to pitch a series of shorts based on his comic strip Life in Hell, Groening developed a new set of characters. Unlike the other Simpson family members, who were named after Groening's relatives, Bart's name is an anagram of brat. After two years on The Tracey Ullman Show, the Simpson family received their own series, which premiered on Fox on December 17, 1989. Bart has appeared in every episode of The Simpsons except "Four Great Women and a Manicure". Always ten years old, Bart is the eldest child and only son of Homer and Marge Simpson and the brother of Lisa and Maggie. Known for his mischievousness, rebelliousness and disrespect for authority, Bart's most iconic traits include his chalkboard gags in the opening sequence, prank calls to Moe's Tavern, and catchphrases like "Eat my shorts", "¡Ay, caramba!", "Don't have a cow, man!", and "I'm Bart Simpson, who the hell are you?". Bart has also appeared in The Simpsons'-related media, including video games, the 2007 film version of the series, The Simpsons Ride, commercials, comic books, and an extensive line of merchandise. Nancy Cartwright, Bart's voice actor, intended to audition for the role of Lisa, and Yeardley Smith auditioned for Bart. Smith's voice was deemed too high-pitched for a boy, while Cartwright found Lisa less appealing as a character and opted to try out for Bart—a role she felt better suited her. Bart was the show's protagonist during its first two seasons, giving rise to "Bartmania", which spawned Bart-themed merchandise touting his rebellious persona and pride in underachieving. Those traits were criticized by parents and educators, who viewed him as a negative influence on children. By the third season, Homer became the show's figurehead character and the series shifted its focus to the family as a whole, although Bart remains a breakout character. He is considered one of the most iconic fictional television characters of the 1990s, and has been described as an American cultural icon; several critics have included him on their lists of the greatest fictional characters of all time. Time named him one of the 100 most important people of the 20th century, and Entertainment Weekly named him Entertainer of the Year in 1990. Cartwright has received accolades for her portrayal of Bart, including a Primetime Emmy Award in 1992 and an Annie Award in 1995. In 2000, Bart and the rest of the Simpson family were honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Simpsons employs a floating timeline, in which characters either do not age or age minimally; the show is always presumed to take place in the present year.[1][2] Always ten years old,[3] Bartholomew,[4] best known by his short-form name Bart, is the eldest child and only son of Homer and Marge Simpson;[5][6] he has two younger sisters, Lisa and Maggie.[7] In several episodes of The Simpsons, events have been tied to specific times, though these timelines are sometimes contradicted in later episodes. In "I Married Marge" (season three, 1991), Bart's birth is placed in the early 1980s.[8] In "Simpsorama" (season 26, 2014), Bart states his birthday as February 23,[9] while The Bart Book by series creator Matt Groening lists it as April 1.[4] In "Bart's Birthday" (season 36, 2024), Bart, in a hypothetical series finale, celebrates his eleventh birthday, much to his dismay, as he has always identified as being ten years old.[10] Bart lived with his parents in Springfield's Lower East Side before the family purchased their first home.[11] When Lisa was born, Bart initially felt jealous of the attention she received but soon warmed to her when her first word turned out to be "Bart".[11] Bart's first day of school occurred in the early 1990s. Initially excited, his enthusiasm was quickly crushed by an indifferent teacher, prompting Marge to worry about him. During recess, Bart befriended Milhouse and began entertaining classmates with gestures and rude jokes. Principal Skinner warned Bart, "You've just started school, and the path you choose now may be the one you follow for the rest of your life! Now, what do you say?" Bart replied, "Eat my shorts".[12] However, the episode "That 90's Show" (season 19, 2008) contradicted much of this timeline, revealing that Homer and Marge were childless during the early 1990s.[13] Bart's hobbies include skateboarding,[14] watching television—particularly The Krusty the Clown Show and its segment The Itchy & Scratchy Show[15]—reading comic books, especially Radioactive Man,[15] playing video games,[16] and causing general mischief.[17] His favorite movies are Jaws and the Star Wars trilogy, while his favorite board games include Hippo in the House, The Game of Lent, and Citizenship.[18] Throughout the series, Bart has been a student at Springfield Elementary School, where he is part of Edna Krabappel's fourth-grade class.[19][20] Although too young for full-time work, Bart has taken on several part-time jobs over the years. He works as a bartender at Fat Tony's social club in "Bart the Murderer" (season three, 1991);[21] as Krusty the Clown's assistant in "Bart Gets Famous" (season five, 1994);[22] as a doorman in Springfield's burlesque house, the Maison Derrière, in "Bart After Dark" (season eight, 1996);[23] and briefly owns his own factory in "Homer's Enemy" (season eight, 1997).[24] Matt Groening (pictured in 2009) conceived Bart in 1987. Matt Groening conceived Bart and the rest of the Simpson family in 1987 while waiting in the lobby of producer James L. Brooks's office.[25][26] Groening was invited to pitch a series of animated shorts for The Tracey Ullman Show and initially planned to adapt his comic strip, Life in Hell. Realizing that adapting the strip would require him to relinquish publication rights, he decided to create something new.[27] Groening sketched a concept for a dysfunctional family,[28][29] naming the characters after members of his family.[30][31] For the rebellious son, he chose "Bart", an anagram of brat,[32][33] instead of his own name because he felt that "Matt" would not "go over well in a pitch meeting".[34][35] Bart's middle initial "J" is an homage to the animated characters Bullwinkle J. Moose and Rocket J. Squirrel from The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show, who were named after creator Jay Ward.[36][37] Although numerous interpretations of his middle initial have been given, Groening said that Bart's full middle name is "Jo-Jo", which was chosen by Cartwright during a recording session.[38][39] According to The Oregonian, Bart was conceived as "a much milder, troubled youth given to existential angst who talks to himself"; the character was changed due to Nancy Cartwright's voice acting.[40] Groening has credited numerous sources as inspirations for Bart's character. His older brother, Mark Groening, influenced Bart's rebellious attitude. Mark introduced him to a variety of comics, including Mad (when it was still a comic), Donald Duck, Uncle Scrooge, Little Lulu, and Tales From the Crypt; all were sources of inspiration for Matt.[41] Bart was envisioned as an exaggerated version of a typical misbehaving child, combining the extreme traits of characters such as Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.[42] Groening described Bart as "what would happen if the son of Eddie Haskell [from Leave It to Beaver] got his own show".[43] He was disappointed with the premise of Dennis the Menace, which inspired him to create a character who was genuinely mischievous.[44] Bart first appeared with the Simpson family on April 19, 1987, in The Tracey Ullman Show short "Good Night".[45][46] On December 17, 1989, the shorts were developed into The Simpsons, a half-hour series on the Fox Broadcasting Company,[47][48] where Bart and the Simpson family became the central characters.[49] Bart in his first televised appearance in "Good Night" The Simpson family was designed to be easily recognizable in silhouette.[50][51] The characters were initially crudely drawn because Groening submitted rough sketches to the animators, expecting them to refine the designs, but they simply traced over his drawings.[52] Bart's early design, featured in the first shorts, included hair with spikes of varying length;[53] this was later standardized to nine spikes of equal length. Groening primarily worked in black-and-white at the time and, without considering the eventual use of color, designed Bart's spikes to look like an extension of his head.[54] This design feature is not replicated in other characters, although some background characters in the first few seasons shared his spiky hairline.[55] Bart's head was described by director Mark Kirkland as a basic rectangular shape resembling a coffee can. Homer's head is also rectangular, with a dome on top, while spheres define the heads of Marge, Lisa, and Maggie.[56] In the season-seven (1995) episode "Treehouse of Horror VI", Bart, alongside Homer, was first rendered as a three-dimensional character in the episode's "Homer3" segment. The computer animation was by Pacific Data Images. Designing Bart's 3D model, the animators did not know how they would depict his hair; realizing that vinyl Bart dolls were in production, they purchased one to use as a model.[57] Nancy Cartwright (pictured in 2007) voices Bart. Bart's voice is provided by Nancy Cartwright,[58][59] who also voices several other child characters on The Simpsons who include Nelson Muntz,[60][61] Ralph Wiggum,[61] Todd Flanders,[62] and Kearney Zzyzwicz.[63] After Dan Castellaneta and Julie Kavner were cast as Homer and Marge due to their roles on The Tracey Ullman Show,[64] the producers held auditions for Bart and Lisa. Yeardley Smith initially auditioned for Bart, but casting director Bonita Pietila felt that her voice was too high-pitched. Smith recalled, "I always sounded too much like a girl. I read two lines as Bart, and they said, 'Thanks for coming!'".[65] She was subsequently cast as Lisa instead.[66] On March 13, 1987, Cartwright auditioned for Lisa.[67] Discovering that Lisa was described only as the "middle child", with little personality at the time, she became interested in Bart, who was characterized as "devious, underachieving, school-hating, irreverent, [and] clever".[67][68] Groening allowed her to audition for Bart, and offered her the role immediately after hearing her read.[69] Cartwright is the only one of the six primary Simpsons cast members who had formal voice-acting training before joining the show.[70] According to The Guardian, Cartwright's speaking voice has "no obvious traces of Bart".[71] The voice she uses for Bart came naturally to her, since she had incorporated elements of it on shows like My Little Pony, Snorks, and Pound Puppies.[71][72] Cartwright described Bart's voice as easy to create: "Some characters take a little bit more effort, upper respiratory control, whatever it is technically. But Bart is easy to do. I can just slip into that without difficulty".[71] She typically records five or six takes of each line for variety, allowing producers more options to work with.[69] Even in flashforward episodes, Cartwright continues to voice Bart; in the episode "Lisa's Wedding" (season six, 1995), Bart's voice was electronically pitched lower to reflect his age.[73] Despite Bart's fame, Cartwright is seldom recognized in public. When she is recognized and asked to use Bart's voice in front of children, she declines because it "freaks [them] out".[74] During the first season of The Simpsons, Fox Network barred Cartwright from interviews to avoid the revelation that Bart was voiced by a woman.[75] Cartwright was paid US$30,000 per episode for her work on The Simpsons until 1998.[76][77] A pay dispute arose that year, during which Fox threatened to replace the six main voice actors and began preparing for new casting.[78][79] The conflict was resolved, and Cartwright's salary increased to $125,000 per episode.[80][81] The voice cast pushed for higher wages in 2004, seeking $360,000 per episode.[82][83] The dispute was soon settled, and Cartwright's pay was increased to $250,000 per episode.[84][85] In 2008, further negotiations increased the cast's salaries to about $400,000 per episode.[86][87] Fox demanded production-cost reductions in 2011, threatening to cancel the series if costs were not cut. In response, Cartwright and the other main cast members agreed to a 30-percent pay reduction, lowering their per-episode earnings to just over $300,000.[88] Cartwright was paid $315,000 per episode by 2016, which, according to Variety, made her one of the highest-paid voice actors.[89] In the opening sequence of many episodes of The Simpsons, the camera zooms in on Springfield Elementary School, where Bart is shown writing lines on a chalkboard. This scene, known as the "chalkboard gag", varies by episode.[90] The messages often include political humor, such as "The First Amendment does not cover burping",[91] pop culture references like "I can't see dead people",[92] and meta-commentary such as "I am not a 32-year-old woman" or "Nobody reads these anymore".[90] The animators create the gags quickly, and they sometimes reflect current events.[93] In the episode "Homer the Heretic" (season four, 1992), the chalkboard gag read "I will not defame New Orleans"; it was an apology for a controversial song in the previous week's episode, "A Streetcar Named Marge", which described the city as a "home of pirates, drunks, and whores".[94][95] An early hallmark of Bart's character was his prank calls to Moe's Tavern, where he would ask owner Moe Szyslak for a fictitious person with a gag name.[17] Moe would try to find the person, eventually realizing it was a prank and (unaware that Bart was the caller) responding with angry threats. The calls were inspired by the Tube Bar recordings, a series of prank calls to bar owner Louis "Red" Deutsch (whose profane reactions influenced Moe's violent temperament).[96] The calls first appeared in "Homer's Odyssey" (season one, 1990), the third episode to air.[97] It became increasingly difficult for the writers to create new fake names and Moe's responses, leading to the pranks being phased out as a regular feature by the fourth season;[98][99] however, they have occasionally resurfaced in later episodes.[100] The catchphrase "Eat my shorts" originated as an ad-lib by Cartwright during one of the show's early table readings, inspired by an incident during her high-school years.[101] While performing with the marching band at Fairmont High School, the group chanted "Eat my shorts" instead of their usual cheer ("Fairmont West! Fairmont West!")[102] The phrase may also refer to The Breakfast Club (1985), in which John Bender says it to Principal Vernon.[103] Bart's other notable catchphrases include "¡Ay, caramba!" and "Don't have a cow!".[104][105][106] The former was inspired by a Portuguese flamenco dancer;[107] the latter, popularized during the 1950s, originated from the British phrase "Don't have kittens".[107] Both were prominently featured on merchandise such as T-shirts during the show's early seasons.[108][109] Another catchphrase, "Cowabunga", was borrowed from Chief Thunderthud of The Howdy Doody Show.[110] Bart's nude scene in The Simpsons Movie (2007). Bart frequently appears nude in The Simpsons, often by mooning.[109] In The Simpsons Movie (2007), he skateboards nude.[111][112] Although various objects obscure his genitalia throughout the scene, his penis is briefly visible.[113] This scene was among the first created for the film, but producers were initially concerned that it might result in an R rating.[113] However, the Motion Picture Association of America ultimately rated the film PG-13 for "irreverent humor throughout".[114][115] The scene was later recognized by Entertainment Weekly as one of 30 Unforgettable Nude Scenes.[116] Bart's disregard for authority has been compared to America's founding fathers, and been described as a modern fusion of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.[117] In his book Planet Simpson, Chris Turner characterizes Bart as a nihilist who has the philosophical view that life lacks inherent meaning, purpose, or value.[118] Bart's rebellious nature makes him disruptive at Springfield Elementary School, where he identifies as an underachiever.[119][120] He frequently clashes with his teacher, Ms. Krabappel, and Principal Skinner.[121][122] Bart acknowledges his poor performance at school: "I am dumb, okay? Dumb as a post! Think I'm happy about it?"[123] Much like his father, his mental processes are often illogical and absurd;[124] he once believed that if he reincarnated as a butterfly, he could burn the school down without suspicion, imagining he could hold a gas can as a butterfly.[125] Bart thinks that writing his name in wet cement will leave people wondering how he did it in hardened cement.[126] "Brother's Little Helper" (season eleven, 1999) reveals that Bart has attention deficit disorder.[127] His intelligence may be impacted by the hereditary "Simpson gene", which affects males in his family.[128] Despite his misbehavior and selfishness, he has moments of integrity and compassion and occasionally helps Ms. Krabappel and Principal Skinner.[129][130] Bart is a really good boy. He's just mischievous. He's not bad, like characters who followed him such as [Eric] Cartman (South Park) or Beavis and Butthead. Bart can do some nasty things, but they seem so tame, by today's standards. What was shocking 19 years ago, when the show started, isn't the least bit shocking today. Bart hasn't changed.—— Nancy Cartwright[131] Bart's mischievous nature and Homer's often-negligent, incompetent behavior create a turbulent, volatile, and abusive relationship between them.[132][133] Bart frequently calls Homer by his first name rather than "Dad",[134] and Homer often refers to him dismissively as "the boy".[135][136] Homer's short temper leads to cartoonishly-violent outbursts, such as impulsively strangling Bart.[137][138] Marge is the more caring, understanding and nurturing parent,[139][140] although she acknowledges that Bart is "a handful"[141] and is often embarrassed by his antics.[142] In the episode "Marge Be Not Proud" (season seven, 1995), Marge struggles with adjusting her parenting style after Bart is caught shoplifting; she becomes more distant to avoid over-mothering, which causes Bart to feel guilty and try to make amends.[143] Despite his rebellious attitude, Bart occasionally endures humiliation to please his mother.[144] Marge frequently defends him, understanding his complexity.[133][145] She describes him as her "special little guy",[146] saying, "I know Bart can be a handful, but I also know what he's like inside. He's got a spark. It's not a bad thing [...] of course, it makes him do bad things".[142] Bart shares sibling rivalry with his younger sister, Lisa.[147] Although they often disagree—sometimes physically—they have a deep bond and care for one another.[147] Bart often apologizes when he goes too far and recognizes Lisa's superior intellect, frequently seeking her advice about problems.[148][149] He is a popular "cool kid" at school,[150] and has many friends;[151] his closest is Milhouse Van Houten.[152] His influence on Milhouse is often negative, leading them into mischief.[153] In "Homer Defined" (season three, 1991), Milhouse's mother forbids him from playing with Bart due to his bad influence; Bart is unfazed until he realizes how much he values their friendship, and Marge convinces Mrs. Van Houten to reconsider.[142] Bart is a fan of the children's television host Krusty the Clown, and has stated that "I've based my whole life on Krusty's teachings"; his room is filled with Krusty merchandise.[154][155] Bart helps Krusty a number of times, thwarting Sideshow Bob's attempt to frame Krusty for armed robbery in "Krusty Gets Busted" (season one, 1990),[155] reuniting Krusty with his estranged father in "Like Father, Like Clown",[156] and helping Krusty relaunch his career with a comeback special in "Krusty Gets Kancelled".[157] Bart's initial confrontation with Sideshow Bob in "Krusty Gets Busted" sparks a long-term rivalry. The writers developed Bob as an intelligent, obsessive antagonist, inspired by the dynamic between Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner.[158] Bart became one of television's most popular characters in 1990, sparking a cultural phenomenon known as "Bartmania".[159][160][161] He became the most prominent Simpsons character on merchandise, particularly T-shirts; during the early 1990s, millions of Bart-themed T-shirts were sold.[162] Bart's rebellious persona led some American public schools to ban T-shirts with sayings such as "I'm Bart Simpson. Who the hell are you?" and "Underachiever (and proud of it, man!)".[163][164] A T-shirt with the latter caption is in the National Museum of American History.[165] The popularity of Simpsons merchandise was a commercial success, generating $2 billion in revenue in its first 14 months of sales.[166] Bart's appeal also inspired a thriving black market for counterfeit merchandise, particularly T-shirts. The items featured Bart with various slogans and redesigns, including "Teenage Mutant Ninja Bart", "Air Simpson Bart", and "RastaBart".[167] Although Groening generally tolerated bootleg merchandise, he objected to a series of "Nazi Bart" shirts with Bart in Nazi uniforms or as a white power skinhead.[168] 20th Century Fox sued the creator of the offensive designs, who agreed to cease production.[169] Michael Jackson (pictured in 1984) provided backing vocals for "Do the Bartman". Bart was described as "television's king of 1990",[170] "television's brightest new star",[171] and an "undiminished smash".[172] He was one of the most popular write-in candidates in the 1990 United States congressional, senatorial and gubernatorial elections, second in a number of areas only to Mickey Mouse among fictional characters.[173][174] In the 1990 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Bart debuted as one of the giant helium-filled balloons for which the parade is known.[175] This was noted in The Simpsons episode "Bart vs. Thanksgiving", which aired the day of the parade, where Homer tells Bart: "If you start building a balloon for every flash-in-the-pan cartoon character, you turn the parade into a farce!". Behind and unbeknownst to Homer, the television briefly shows a Bart Simpson balloon.[176][177] The album The Simpsons Sing the Blues was recorded in September 1990 and released in December. It peaked at number three on the Billboard 200,[178] and was certified double platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America.[179] The first single from the album was the pop rap song "Do the Bartman", performed by Cartwright and released on November 20, 1990. The song was written by Bryan Loren, a friend of Michael Jackson (who provided backing vocals on the track).[180] Jackson was a fan of The Simpsons (especially Bart),[181] and had called the producers offering to write Bart a single and make a guest appearance on the show.[182] Jackson guest-starred in the episode "Stark Raving Dad" (season three, 1991) with the pseudonym John Jay Smith.[183] Although "Do the Bartman" was never released as a single in the United States, it was successful in the United Kingdom; it was the number-one song from February 16 to March 9, 1991, and was the year's fifth-best-selling song.[184] It sold half a million copies, and was certified gold by the British Phonographic Industry on February 1, 1991.[185] Bart has been described as one of the most iconic television characters of the 1990s,[186][187][188] and is considered an American cultural icon.[189][190][191] In 1990, Entertainment Weekly named him Entertainer of the Year, writing that "Bart has proved to be a rebel who's also a good kid, a terror who's easily terrorized, and a flake who astonishes us, and himself, with serious displays of fortitude".[192] In 1998, Time included Bart on the magazine's list of the 100 most important people of the 20th century, the only fictional character on the list.[193][194] He had appeared previously on the cover of Time's December 31, 1990, issue.[195] In 1996, Bart was named 48th on TV Guide's list of "50 Greatest TV Stars of All Time".[196] In 2002, he and Lisa were ranked eleventh on TV Guide's "Top 50 Greatest Cartoon Characters of All Time" list.[197] In 2022, Paste writers ranked Bart the 26th-greatest cartoon character of all time.[198] From entertainment critics, Bart has received mostly positive reviews. Screen Rant's Dan Peeke praised him as the "best main character" in 2020, calling him "relatable" and saying that "everyone can relate to at least some element of his personality".[151] In a 2024 review, Darryn King of Vulture called Bart a "back-talking, trouble-making, prank-calling, cherry-bomb-detonating, and, yes, graffiti-tagging cartoon creation, who was at the time fast becoming a cultural icon".[199] A 2023 Collider review said that the episode "Bart Gets an 'F'" was a "turning point for the show, show

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