

Lisa Simpson

Lisa Marie Simpson (born May 9, 1981)^[9] is the elder daughter and middle child of the **Simpson family** and one of the two tritagonists (along with Marge,) of *The Simpsons*. She was named after a train called *Lil' Lisa* on her parents' 1st anniversary; in "**Homer and Lisa Exchange Cross Words**", she called herself **Lisa Bouvier** after estranging herself from **her father** after he bet against her in a crossword tournament.

Lisa Simpson is a charismatic 8-year-old girl who exceeds the standard achievement of the intelligence level of children her age. Not to everyone's surprise, she is also the moral center of her family. In her upbringing, Lisa lacks parental involvement of **Homer** and **Marge**, which leads to hobbies such as playing saxophone and guitar, riding and caring for horses, and interest in advanced studies. In school, Lisa's popularity is affected by those who view her as a geeky overachiever, which leaves her with only a few friends. She focuses on her goals and strives to reach her potential, and at the age of eight, she is already a member of **Mensa** with an IQ of 159. Her lack of parental involvement also leads to her lashing out at those who she deems lower than her or even above her. She has extreme jealousy from time to time and will do whatever it takes to reclaim her title as the smartest; but only if she deems it necessary. Otherwise, she's the intelligent and rational one who usually thinks things through.

Lisa Marie Simpson



Biography

Lisa is quite eclectic in her knowledge and is notably more concerned with world affairs and problems than her cohorts, which has led her to alienate herself from her peers. Lisa also deeply values her integrity, sometimes at the expense of others' needs and happiness, as demonstrated when she cheats on a test in *The Wind in the Willows* to attain her highest grade of A-plus, but later admits her dishonesty to an unreceptive **Principal Skinner** despite the fact that such a grade allowed the school to gain the extra income it 'desperately' needs. (She later regrades the test as an F.^[10]) Also, Lisa was willing to tell everyone about Bart faking his own kidnapping to go to a rap concert (despite the fact that absolutely everybody involved in the case was better off) just because she could.

Despite her intellect, Lisa has received detention, like her brother Bart, quite a number of times, often because of her rebellious and sometimes bitter attitude and antisocial behavior that is capable of deeply embarrassing authority figures. Although her rebellion against social norms is usually constructive, Lisa can be crazy, cruel, and rebellious at times. When she believes herself to be right, she won't admit that others could be as well and will often force her beliefs onto people. Notably, her increasing sense of moral righteousness regarding her vegetarianism leads her to proselytize, culminating in her spiteful disruption of a "meat-based" barbecue prepared by Homer (an act she comes to rue).^[11] At times, Lisa appears to resist certain situations merely for the sake of resisting them, not because of any genuine ideological opposition. She appears to enjoy breaking the norm for its own sake; in one time, she triumphantly declares that she, a girl, would like to join the football team. When it is revealed that there are already girls on the team, she declares her distaste for a sport that would use a pig's skin to make its ball. When it is revealed that the ball is actually synthetic and the proceeds of buying it go in part to charity, she is at a loss for words and runs off visibly upset.^[12] She also seems to dislike having her intellect challenged, which is evident on occasions such as when she was temporarily promoted to the third grade or when Miss Hoover gave her a B+ on her final grade for conduct and actually caused her physical harm because of it. Lisa's first word was Bart at two years of age.

Despite her high IQ, cuteness, and beauty, Lisa does have typical childhood issues, sometimes requiring adult intervention. She once tricked **Homer** into allowing her to ride the bus alone, only to become hopelessly lost. After his coworkers **Lenny** and **Carl** point out that he allowed his daughter to ride a bus by herself, Homer comes to her rescue.^[13] Lisa has a Jewish imaginary friend named **Rachel Cohen** who "just got into Brandeis University." Even with a high intellect, Lisa displays personality traits typical for her age, including obsessing over getting a pony, being addicted to TV, and fighting with Bart. Lisa once got addicted to secondhand smoke to maintain an impressive level of ballet competence; Homer tries to prevent the addiction unsuccessfully, and in the end, Lisa overcomes the addiction herself through means of "**Hello Kitty**" nicotine patches.^[14] She also displays a surprising amount of skill in driving, especially for her age, sometimes even taking the wheel whenever Homer ended up distracted from driving.^[15]

In "The Girl Who Slept Too Little", she struggled with nightmares after a cemetery was moved next to the Simpsons' house. She overcame her fear after spending a night in the cemetery and realized that it was acceptable to suffer from fear despite her intelligence. It was revealed in this episode that Lisa largely had to raise herself due to Homer and Marge dealing with Bart's antics thus ensuring a lack of nurturing for her. Lisa has been known in earlier seasons to have a bit of a sassy attitude.

Like Bart and most siblings in families, Lisa has been known to tease Bart herself, examples such as crushes Bart has developed, or advice on writing to someone (in this one case, his teacher), even just plain sassing him for attention. Deep down inside, Lisa loves her brother deeply.

Appearance

Lisa has yellow skin, blue eyes (although the pupils look like 2 black dots just like the other characters), and a blonde "starfish" hairstyle that is styled into points and matches the color of her skin. She doesn't have any visible hairline. She's usually seen wearing a short, strapless vermillion dress with a zigzag hem, matching orange Mary-Jane shoes, and a white pearl necklace (given to her by Marge). She's 4'2" tall.^[16]

She has had two different outfits for church and family outings: a magenta long-sleeved dress with a ruffled collar and magenta pumps for church and a baby pink short-sleeved tutu dress with a darker pink belt, dark pink collar, and pink Mary-Jane shoes; and she occasionally wears a matching wide-brimmed hat. At night, she dresses in a turquoise nightgown with a frilly white collar and matching cuffs, as well as turquoise slippers. When Lisa swims, she wears a magenta or red swimsuit.

Her hair has been styled out of its star shape a few times, such as in "[The President Wore Pearls](#)", "[22 Short Films About Springfield](#)", "[Teenage Mutant Milk-caused Hurdles](#)", and "[Last Traction Hero](#)". It is also shown to be about chin or sometimes shoulder length. In future appearances as an adult and teenager, her hair "points" are usually worn in a styled-back fashion.

Lisa inherited her father's chubby fingers, which somewhat affects her dexterity. She seems to be self-conscious about her body; if what has been said in several episodes is to be believed, she has a very fat posterior, with several characters in a few episodes making fun of how fat it is, most notably in "[Sleeping with the Enemy](#)" and "[Lisa's Belly](#)".

Personality

Lisa is an innovative, insightful, a sometimes tomboyish and extremely intelligent girl, far exceeding the standards of a second grader especially in Springfield. Part of her intelligence is due to being so dissociated from her idiotic father whilst growing up and it was strongly implied that her brains were a result of her grandmother; Homer could never keep up with his daughter's startling intelligence due to his slow wit and stupidly, his laziness and their contradicting vices and opinions caused a strained relationship and she practically grew up without a father figure, specifically not a model one (although Homer probably wouldn't have been much help even if he was involved in Lisa's life). As intelligent as she is, her family never encouraged her gifts, and her school lacked the resources to blossom her IQ further but overall, Lisa has the most promising future. Since she was a baby, Lisa has displayed intellectual independence from changing her own diapers and solving mathematical solutions when she was only an infant. She could be classified as a child prodigy.

Her overall role in the Simpson family is depicted as the voice of reason. Despite her young age, Lisa is a good girl and has a strong sense of right, wrong, and morality; and she is always there to contradict Homer, Bart and on one occasion Marge whenever they do something reckless, idiotic or illegal, doing her very best to sway them to the path of the righteous due to fearing greatly for her father and brother's immortal soul but her standing as an outsider in her own family cause her to be ignored despite her best intentions. In an argument, Lisa's ethical and logical viewpoint almost always gives her the moral high

ground, her family also realizes that Lisa is usually right whenever they do something immoral but Homer's tendency to ignore her, uses the excuse of age to send her to her room when they realize that they are in the wrong. In earlier seasons, however, Lisa has been depicted as intelligent yet not as mature due to her squabbling and physical fights with Bart, but she has developed into a more practical being yet her young age also makes her sense of right and wrong slightly malleable at times as she has shown to engage in childish and reckless behavior, proving herself to be like any other Simpson but more grounded and mature. Despite her above-average intelligence, she displays tendencies average for kids her age, such as obsessing over celebrities and playing with dolls.

Despite her young age, Lisa is extremely passionate about ideologies and other social movements. She has been shown to support PETA (although she ate eggs and dairy) and the Free Tibetan movement, is highly against animal cruelty and has adopted a diet of vegetarianism from Season 7; she would later on become a full-on vegan. She encourages the idea of feminism, women's rights, and the crusade against objectification and stereotypes of women. Lisa's role models and ideals are based on Mohandas Gandhi's enforcement of nonviolent pacifism and Emmeline Pankhurst.

While her social movements are generally considered to be heroic, Lisa's reasoning is not solely to make the world a better place. A life of being shunned and ignored by her family has developed attention-seeking traits and a desire to be heard, once going to a dig site solely for the basis to complain about it, an area where she is usually ignored further. She used to force her beliefs on others due to a sense of self-righteousness and moral superiority specifically her vegetarianism, but Apu also taught her a degree of tolerance for others' beliefs. Lisa is against the ignorance on others' behalf, believing the truth is the truth and is unable to be dissuaded no matter what it was, which she learned from Marge. Without anyone else caring she continued to pester that the town founder, **Jebediah Springfield** was in actuality a murderous pirate and only refrained herself from revealing the truth when she realized how it brought the town together.

At her school, Lisa is considered to be a nerd because of her bookish and quiet nature. A teacher's pet and proud of it, she's depicted as an introvert with few friends and those she does have are as much as a nerd as she is. Her lack of popularity is generally purposeful yet her lack of social skills and different hobbies to what is considered fun to the rest of the girls leads her to want more friends. On one example she changed her personality to fit a more rebellious nature like Bart and actually gained an entourage of friends at the Flanders beach house but when her true academic nature was revealed, they continued to befriend her due to viewing her as a kind, gentle person rather than just a nerd. Lisa has had a few boyfriends, though all of them were brief, despite her status as a geek such as Nelson Muntz, Ralph Wiggum and Colin.

Extremely nonathletic, she fails at sports completely, and her liberal stance and high intelligence gives her little bonding ground with her peers and Homer who is also passionate about sports and connects with Bart more for this reason. Lisa is so weak that she could barely through a piece of paper into a rubbish can that was one away. However, she also displayed an uncharacteristic level of hand-eye coordination when she caught an incoming hockey puck from Apu and proved herself to be an extreme

hockey player when she was a goalie. This non-athleticness is further shown when she joins a ballet team where the other members of the team have a smoking addiction. Initially, Lisa denounces them claiming to not be allowed to smoke. She then begins to inhale the second-hand smoke, before eventually becoming addicted to cigarettes. The episode ends with her addicted to nicotine. Even showing her nicotine patches in the last few seconds. This implies that she never actually got help with her addiction and continues to be an addict. However, most likely, as it is never further mentioned, that she is still addicted. The nicotine patches were never shown again.

Similar to Bart, Lisa's high academic intelligence and her desire to go far in life is greatly driven by her future goals. Bart never focused on his book work as he and basically everyone else knew that he would amount to very little when he grew up whereas this is the opposite for Lisa who saw the potential in her life to achieve fantastic goals. When her career aptitude test came back that she would likely become a housewife when she grew up and her music teacher told her she could never achieve her dream of a jazz musician on account of "stubby fingers", crushed her dreams. After this, the quality of Lisa's work and behavior declined drastically as Bart's improved exponentially after his career aptitude came back that he would become a police officer, such as refusing to go to band practice, encouraging the bad girls to deface Skinner's puma statue and being rude to her teachers. She went as far to steal everybody's Teacher's Editions, a line that *even Bart Simpson* would not cross. Lisa would have undoubtedly become as an even worse rebel than that of her brother if Bart hadn't taken the blame for her crime. That said the prospect of a dull future also encourages Lisa to study further rather than immediately omit defeat as she did her very best to not become a housewife like Marge when their paths became very similar.

Overall, though, Lisa's tendency to lash out towards her family is based on the beliefs that they don't understand her rather than actual spite. This proves to be true as jazz is the only thing that expresses her inner thoughts and how she is feeling whilst her family only silence her creativity further due to their great annoyance of her saxophone. She often embraces relationships with other paternal figures that encourage her to embrace her passions to fill the void that her real lazy and uninterested father left. When she became depressed in the second season and none of her family seemed to understand the reason behind this, opened up more to the troubled jazz musician, Bleeding Gums Murphy who told her to sing what she felt helped her emotional state greatly. She became deeply close to her substitute teacher, Mister Bergstrom who again noticed and encouraged her intelligence to blossom. Over time, Lisa, although embarrassed by her family, is no longer ashamed to be a Simpson.

One of her negative traits would be her penchant for narcissism. In one of her daydreams, she envisioned herself as bringing about world peace and being revered by world-famous scientists, chanting in her presence "we're not worthy". She prides herself on her intelligence and integrity but if her ego is at risk, displays a willingness to breach her morals such as sabotaging her rival Alison's diorama at the school fair, humiliating her in front of her peers. Even so, Lisa's conscience is too strong to commit an unethical act and not punish herself such as giving herself an F for her test which she cheated in and apologizing to Alison for her act of sabotage.

She's one of the few characters in Springfield who doesn't have a signature trademark or catchphrase, shown specifically at the end of "[Bart Gets Famous](#)" when Marge, Bart, Homer, Nelson, Ned Flanders, Mr. Burns and Barney all do their trademark catchphrases, waiting for her to do anything, Lisa dryly replies "if anyone needs me, I'll be in my room", leading Homer to ask "what kind of catchphrase is that?"

Intelligence

It's mentioned that Lisa has an IQ of 159.^[17] She's a high-ranking member of Mensa Springfield. Lisa demonstrates an early intelligence by changing her own diaper as an infant. When unable to attend school due to a teachers' strike, she suffered a sort of "school withdrawal" as she has an emergency box in case of a teacher strike. She begins to panic when she can only think of two synonyms to the word "stop". She constantly wants people to "grade her" as Marge gave her an "A" just to make her stop whining and invents a perpetual motion machine that Homer describes that it just "keeps going faster and faster". He goes on to chastise her, saying, "In this house, we obey the laws of [thermodynamics](#)!"^[18] Like the rest of her paternal family she can pick up language fairly quickly, she was able to learn fluent Italian from Milhouse in a fairly short amount of time.

Beliefs

Lisa's political convictions are generally leftist and rather liberal. She is a vegetarian and a supporter of the Free Tibet movement. Lisa yells "Free Tibet!" after winning the school spelling bee. An "End Apartheid" poster can be seen in her bedroom in episodes from the early 1990s. She, like her mother, supported Democrat Mary Bailey over Right-Winged [Mr. Burns](#); the duo revealed that Mr. Burns was a liar and Mary Bailey wins in a landslide, the only known supporters being [Waylon Smithers](#), Bart, and Homer. While still supportive of the Christian church she was raised in, Lisa is now a practicing [Buddhist](#) following her decision to follow the [Noble Eightfold Path](#).^[19] Though apparently not an adherent, she mentions that she considers Wicca "very empowering".^[20] She also appears to be a big believer in science, even stating in one episode when she was scared of the graveyard outside her bedroom, that she only believed in science.

Vegetarianism

Lisa turned ovo-lacto vegetarian due to ethical reasons.^[11] This was also hinted in a flash forward in which we see Lisa as a vegetarian in the future.^[21] On [Paul McCartney](#)'s demand, she has stayed vegetarian still. According to the episode, "[The Real Housewives of Fat Tony](#)," Lisa occasionally has trouble adhering to the lifestyle and has needed vitamins for extra protein. She also finds the foods to taste bland, she is desperate enough for tasty vegetarian foods she would force Bart to locate highly valuable truffles so she could eat them instead of selling them for a lot of money. However, she will always stick to her opinion that eating animals is wrong. She has made servers protest for animal rights, though her family is strongly against her opinions.

Music

Lisa's musical abilities are extensive: she sings with a powerful voice (she once entered a singing competition and won) and has been seen playing the acoustic six-string,^[22] electric bass guitar, accordion and piano proficiently. But her great love is playing jazz on her baritone saxophone. Her musical inclinations were nurtured by her relationship with the late jazz musician **Bleeding Gums Murphy**. She most likely inherited her musical ability from Homer, who is also musically inclined. She can also play the trumpet in some intros as well as violin, tuba, and french horn.



Independent Learning

She is fluent in Italian (learned from **Milhouse Van Houten** before going to Italy), as well as some French and German verbs (with the help of a German verb wheel^[23]), as well as Spanish. In "**The Great Simpsina**" she studied under the great Raymondo to become a skilled magician.

Life as a student

Lisa attends **Springfield Elementary School** alongside students such as Bart Simpson and Milhouse Van Houten, and alongside other gifted pupils, like **Martin Prince** and **Database**, she is one of the most academically advanced students at the school, and is often praised by staff members for her achievement. She is normally well-behaved; however, despite this, she has received detention twice: from **Dewey Largo** and an unnamed teacher (in "**Grift of the Magi**" and "**Lisa's Date with Density**", respectively).