

= New Kid on the Block =

" New Kid on the Block " is the eighth episode of The Simpsons ' fourth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on November 12 , 1992 . After meeting his new neighbor , Laura , Bart develops a crush on her , only to later discover that she has a boyfriend , Jimbo Jones , whom he attempts to scare off so that he can have a relationship with Laura . Meanwhile , Homer sues the Sea Captain Horatio McCallister after being kicked out of his all @-@ you @-@ can @-@ eat restaurant while still hungry . It was written by Conan O 'Brien and directed by Wes Archer .

= = Plot = =

The Simpsons ' neighbors , the Winfields , decide to relocate because of Homer 's regular inappropriate behavior . Bart and Lisa explore the Winfield 's house while it is empty and up for sale , but Bart scares Lisa away from the basement with stories . Bart turns around to see his new neighbor , Laura Powers . Surprised , he falls down in shock and is helped back up by her and the pair become acquainted . Bart instantly develops a crush on her .

After Marge visits Ruth Powers to welcome her to the area , she tells Marge that she is divorced , and the two become friends . Meanwhile , after seeing a television advertisement about The Frying Dutchman 's all @-@ you @-@ can @-@ eat offer , Homer insists that Marge come dine with him , so he arranges for Laura to babysit Bart and Lisa . Homer quickly earns himself the ire of the Sea Captain , devouring nearly every morsel of food in the buffet , and is eventually forced to leave despite not being sated . Much to Marge 's embarrassment , Homer sues the restaurant for deceptive advertisement . Lionel Hutz is employed by him to represent him in court and the case is successful after Hutz convinces the mostly overweight jury that a similar buffet mishap could befall them . To avoid further legal trouble , the Sea Captain and Homer eventually agree that Homer shall be displayed in the restaurant as " Bottomless Pete : Nature 's Cruellest Mistake " to draw in more customers to the restaurant and offset the cost of his eating .

Meanwhile , Bart is delighted at having Laura babysitting him and attempts to impress her . She later asks him to come to his treehouse , as she has important news . She tells him she is dating Jimbo Jones , which upsets Bart . When Laura invites him over to the household , Bart , in an attempt to break the pair up , prank @-@ calls Moe 's Tavern , giving his name as Jimbo Jones , and telling Moe where he lives . Mistakenly believing Jimbo was the one who had been pranking Moe throughout the entire series , he races into the Simpson house with a kitchen knife looking for Jimbo , causing Jimbo to cry and plead for his life . Afterwards , Laura breaks up with him for not being the tough " outlaw " she thought he was . Laura tells Bart that she would date him if he were old enough to grow a mustache and the episode ends with the pair laughing after prank @-@ calling Moe again .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Conan O 'Brien and directed by Wes Archer . The episode 's original subplot was intended to include American actor and comedian Don Rickles as a guest star presenting a comedy show and Homer laughing excessively at his jokes , until Rickles ridicules him . The pair were intended to start fighting and end up having to go to court . Despite O 'Brien and other production staff being sure that Rickles would appear in the episode , he was reportedly upset by the concept of the storyline , as he did not wish to be portrayed as a " mean guy " .

When attending a Fox Broadcasting Company publicity event in New York with Rupert Murdoch , show producer Matt Groening was introduced by Murdoch to Rickles . Rickles began shouting at Groening , accusing him of spying on his Las Vegas act and using material from that for the episode . The cast actually had been receiving recordings from Rickles from the 1950s to use as ideas on how to get the style for his animatic portrayal . Another side story the writers produced was for Homer to become an outstanding barber and hair dresser , but this was never used .

" New Kid on the Block " features first time appearances from Laura Powers , Ruth Powers , and

The Sea Captain . Hank Azaria based the Sea Captain 's voice on that of actor Robert Newton .

= = Cultural references = =

The courtroom scene in which numerous sacks of letters to Santa Claus are delivered to court is a parody of the 1947 film *Miracle on 34th Street* .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " New Kid on the Block " finished 23rd in ratings for the week of November 9 ? 16 , 1992 , with a Nielsen rating of 14 @.@ 4 , equivalent to approximately 13 @.@ 4 million viewing households . It was the highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , beating *Beverly Hills , 90210* . Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , the authors of the book *I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide* commented that it was " a fun episode , introducing the Powers family [ and featuring ] the last appearance of the Winfields " . In a 2008 article , *Entertainment Weekly* named Sara Gilbert 's role as Laura Powers as one of the sixteen best guest appearances on *The Simpsons* .