

= Lost Our Lisa =

" Lost Our Lisa " is the twenty @-@ fourth episode in the ninth season of the American animated television series The Simpsons . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on May 10 , 1998 . The episode contains the last appearance of the character Lionel Hutz . When Lisa learns that Marge cannot give her a ride to the museum and forbids her to take the bus , she tricks Homer into giving her permission . After Lisa gets lost , Homer goes looking for her and the two end up visiting the museum together . The episode is analyzed in the books Planet Simpson , The Psychology of the Simpsons : D 'oh ! , and The Simpsons and Philosophy : The D 'oh ! of Homer , and received positive mention in I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide .

= = Plot = =

Bart and Milhouse visit a joke shop . Meanwhile , Marge and Lisa plan a trip to the Springsonian Museum so they can see the Egyptian Treasures of Isis exhibit and the Orb of Isis . Marge has to take Bart to a doctor instead , since he has superglued various novelty items to his face . Since this is Lisa 's last chance to see the exhibit , she phones Homer to ask him if she can take the bus . He seems uncertain , which prompts her to trick him into letting her take the bus .

However , once on the bus , Lisa realizes she is on the wrong bus and is dropped off in the middle of nowhere . During his lunch break at work , Homer has a conversation with Lenny and Carl . He tells them that he let Lisa ride the bus alone . Lenny and Carl point out the error of his judgment , and Homer leaves work to go look for her . He heads to the museum and ends up in downtown Springfield . He uses a cherry picker to get up higher . Homer and Lisa spot each other , but the vehicle 's wheels creak backwards and it rolls down a hill . It slides off the edge of a pier at the harbor into a river . Lisa tells the drawbridge operator to close the bridge so Homer can grab on . His head is caught between the two closing halves and he survives with nothing more than a few tire marks across his forehead .

With Homer and Lisa re @-@ united , he tells her that it is all right to take risks in life . The two decide to go to the museum after all , by illegally entering since it is now closed . While there , they make a fascinating discovery that the Orb of Isis is a music box which had gone overlooked by scientists and museum staff . Lisa concludes that what her father said about risks was right ? until the alarm goes off and guard dogs chase them out of the building .

= = Production = =

Writer Mike Scully came up with the idea for the plot because he used to live in West Springfield , Massachusetts and he would ask his parents if he could take the bus to Springfield , Massachusetts and they finally agreed to let him one day . The production team faced several challenges during development of this episode . The animators had to come up with a special mouth chart to draw Bart 's mouth with the joke teeth in . The pile of dead animals in the back of Cletus ' truck originally included dead puppies , but the animators thought it was too sad , so they removed them . Scully used to write jokes for Yakov Smirnoff so he called him up to get the signs in Russian . Dan Castellaneta had to learn proper Russian pronunciation so he could speak it during the chess scene in which he voiced the Russian chess player .

In the season 9 DVD release of the episode , The Simpsons animators use a telestrator to show similarities between Krusty and Homer in the episode . This episode contains the last showing of character Lionel Hutz . He is seen standing at the bus stop with Lisa , but does not speak . Due to Phil Hartman 's death , the recurring characters of Lionel Hutz and Troy McClure were retired .

= = Themes = =

In his book Planet Simpson , Chris Turner cites Lisa 's experiences on the bus as an example of "

satirical laughs scored at the expense of Lisa 's idealism " . " Lost Our Lisa " is cited in The Simpsons and Philosophy : The D 'oh ! of Homer along with episodes " Lisa the Iconoclast " , " Lisa the Beauty Queen " , and " Lisa 's Sax " , in order to illustrate Homer 's " success bonding with Lisa "

In The Psychology of the Simpsons : D 'oh ! , the authors utilize statements made by Homer in the episode to analyze the difference between heuristic and algorithmic decision @-@ making . Homer explains to Lisa , " Stupid risks are what make life worth living . Now your mother , she 's the steady type and that 's fine in small doses , but me , I 'm a risk @-@ taker . That 's why I have so many adventures ! " The authors of The Psychology of The Simpsons interpret this statement by Homer to mean that he " relies on his past experiences of taking massive , death @-@ defying risks and winding up okay to justify forging ahead in the most extreme circumstances " .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Lost Our Lisa " finished 45th in ratings for the week of May 4 ? 10 , 1998 , with a Nielsen rating of 7 @. @ 8 , equivalent to approximately 7 @. @ 6 million viewing households . It was the fourth highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , following The X @-@ Files , Ally McBeal , and King of the Hill .

Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood write positively of the episode in their book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide : " A smashing episode , loads of good jokes and clever situations ... and best of all , Lisa working intelligently . The teaming up of father and daughter has rarely been more enjoyable and lovely . Gives you a warm feeling . " A review of The Simpsons season 9 DVD release in the Daily Post notes that it includes " super illustrated colour commentaries " on " All Singing , All Dancing " and " Lost Our Lisa " .