

= Stan Marsh =

Stanley " Stan " Marsh is a main character in the animated television series South Park . He is voiced by and loosely based on series co @-@ creator Trey Parker . Stan is one of the show 's four central characters , along with his friends Kyle Broflovski , Kenny McCormick and Eric Cartman . He debuted on television when South Park first aired on August 13 , 1997 , after having first appeared in The Spirit of Christmas shorts created by Parker and long @-@ time collaborator Matt Stone in 1992 ( Jesus vs. Frosty ) and 1995 ( Jesus vs. Santa ) .

Stan is a third , then fourth @-@ grade student who commonly has extraordinary experiences not typical of conventional small @-@ town life in his fictional hometown of South Park , Colorado . Stan is generally depicted as friendly , knowledgeable , helpful , and relaxed . He often shares with his best friend Kyle a leadership role as the protagonist of the show . Stan is unreserved in expressing his distinct lack of esteem for adults and their influences , as adult South Park residents rarely make use of their critical faculties .

Like the other South Park characters , Stan is animated by computer in a way to emulate the show 's original method of cutout animation . He also appears in the full @-@ length feature film South Park : Bigger , Longer & Uncut ( 1999 ) , as well as South Park @-@ related media and merchandise . While Parker and Stone portray Stan as having common childlike tendencies , his dialogue is often intended to reflect stances and views on more adult @-@ oriented issues and has been frequently cited in numerous publications by experts in the fields of politics , religion , popular culture , and philosophy .

= = Role = =

Stan lives in South Park at 2001 Bonanza Street with his parents Randy and Sharon Marsh . Randy is a geologist , and Sharon is a secretary at a rhinoplasty clinic . Stan 's family includes his 12 @-@ year @-@ old sister Shelley , who bullies and beats him , and his centenarian grandfather , Marvin , who calls Stan " Billy " and who previously begged Stan to help him commit suicide . Stan attends South Park Elementary as part of Mr. Garrison 's fourth grade class . During the show 's first 58 episodes ( 1997 through the season 4 episode " 4th Grade " in 2000 ) , Stan and the other main child characters were in the third grade . His birthday is listed as October 19 ( the same day as co @-@ creator Trey Parker ) , 2001 on his Facebook page during the season 14 episode " You Have 0 Friends " . Stan is frequently embarrassed and / or annoyed by his father 's antics and frequent acts of public drunkenness . Stan 's relationship as nephew to his uncle Jimbo received moderate attention in the show 's first two seasons .

Amongst the show 's main characters , Kyle is defined as being the only Jewish kid , Cartman is recognized by his obesity , greed , and bigotry , and Kenny is notable for being poor and frequently dying ; as opposed to having a prominent distinguishing trait , Stan is portrayed ( in words of the show 's official website ) as " a normal , average , American , mixed @-@ up kid " .

Stan is modeled after Parker , while Kyle is modeled after Stone . Stan and Kyle are best friends , and their relationship , which is intended to reflect the real @-@ life friendship between Parker and Stone , is a common topic throughout the series . The two do have their disagreements , but always reconcile without any long @-@ term damage to their friendship . As is the case with his other friends and classmates , Stan is frequently at odds with Cartman , resenting Cartman 's behavior and openly mocking his weight . Stan also shares a close friendship with Kenny , while Kenny professes that Stan is one of " the best friends a guy could have " . Stan can understand Kenny 's muffled voice perfectly , and typically exclaims the catchphrase " Oh my God ! They killed Kenny ! " , following one of Kenny 's trademark deaths , allowing Kyle to follow up with " You bastards ! " Stan is the only character in the group to have had a steady girlfriend , Wendy Testaburger , and their relationship was a recurring topic in the show 's earlier seasons . Despite reconciling and declaring to be a couple again in the season 11 ( 2007 ) episode " The List " after Wendy had dumped him in the season seven ( 2003 ) episode " Raisins " , their relationship has received relatively less focus in recent seasons . As a running gag , a nervous Stan often vomits whenever Wendy approaches to

kiss or speak to him . In many episodes , Stan contemplates ethics in beliefs , moral dilemmas , and contentious issues , and will often reflect on the lessons he has attained with a speech that often begins with " You know , I learned something today ... " .

= = Character = =

= = = Creation and design = = =

An unnamed precursor to Stan first appeared in the first The Spirit of Christmas short , dubbed Jesus vs. Frosty , created by Parker and Stone in 1992 while they were students at the University of Colorado . The character was composed of construction paper cutouts and animated through the use of stop motion . When asked three years later by friend Brian Graden to create another short as a video Christmas card that he could send to friends , Parker and Stone created another similarly @-@ animated The Spirit of Christmas short , dubbed Jesus vs. Santa , in which Stan also appeared . Stan next appeared on August 13 , 1997 , when South Park debuted on Comedy Central with the episode " Cartman Gets an Anal Probe " .

In the tradition of the show 's animation style , Stan is composed of simple geometrical shapes and primary colors . He is not offered the same free range of motion associated with hand @-@ drawn characters ; his character is mostly shown from only one angle , and his movements are animated in an intentionally jerky fashion . Ever since the show 's second episode , " Weight Gain 4000 " ( season one , 1997 ) , Stan , like all other characters on the show , has been animated with computer software , though he is portrayed to give the impression that the show still utilizes its original technique .

Stan is usually depicted in winter attire which consists of a brown jacket , blue denim jeans , red gloves / mittens , and a red @-@ brimmed blue knit cap adorned with a decorative red pom @-@ pom . In the rare instances Stan is seen without his cap , he is shown to have shaggy black hair . He was given his full name in the season one episode " An Elephant Makes Love to a Pig " , sharing his surname of " Marsh " with Parker 's paternal step @-@ grandfather . While originally voicing Stan without any computer manipulation , Parker now speaks within his normal vocal range while adding a childlike inflection . The recorded audio is then edited with Pro Tools , and the pitch is altered to make the voice sound more like that of a fourth grader .

Stan 's birthday is October 19 , which is Trey Parker 's birthday , except Stan 's year of birth is 1987 .

= = = Personality and traits = = =

Stan is foul @-@ mouthed ( a trait present in his friends as well ) as a means for Parker and Stone to display how they claim young boys really talk when they are alone . In responding to certain situations , particularly during earlier seasons , Stan often exclaims " Dude , this is pretty fucked up right here " . While Stan is cynical and profane , Parker still notes that there is an " underlying sweetness " to the character , and Time magazine described Stan and his friends as " sometimes cruel but with a core of innocence " . He is amused by bodily functions and toilet humor , and his favorite television personalities are Terrance and Phillip , a Canadian duo whose comedy routines on their show @-@ within @-@ the @-@ show revolve substantially around fart jokes .

Stan is an avid animal lover . He is highly against his uncle Jimbo 's hunting , and was also known to commit to vegetarianism after feeling compassion for baby calves in a farm , even going as far to hide them in his room to protect them from being slaughtered . Later , he was forced to quit vegetarianism because of a severe illness he developed , however , he still fights for animal rights , becoming a member of PETA in " Douche and Turd " as well as saving whales and dolphins in " Whale Whores " .

The only adult on the show that Stan consistently trusted was Chef , the cafeteria worker at his school , as Stan generally holds the rest of the show 's adult population in low regard due to their

tendency to both behave irrationally when subjected to the scams , cults , and sensationalized media stories of which he is often skeptical , and engage in hypocritical behavior . He doubts the legitimacy of holistic medicine , declares cults to be dangerous , and regards those claiming to be psychic mediums as frauds , specifically by declaring John Edward to be " the biggest douche in the universe " .

After turning ten years old , Stan was diagnosed with cynicism , which in the series is treated as a serious medical disorder where the sufferer sees nothing but feces instead of people and animals and hear Flatulence noises during music and voices . Stan 's friendships with the other main characters ended , his parents divorced and he moved out of his home . This episode formed a cliffhanger and set off widespread speculation that the series was coming to an end , but the premiere of the second half of the season resolved the arc as Stan was erroneously diagnosed with Asperger 's Syndrome and discovers Jameson Irish Whiskey cures cynicism . After struggling to repair his life , he finally explains he doesn 't want things to go back to normal , when his parents get back together and his life is repaired , although the end of the episode implies Stan may be permanently bound to whiskey to continue an everyday life .

= = Cultural impact = =

In 2014 , Stan was ranked by IGN at third place on their list of " The Top 25 South Park Characters " , commenting that he " often acts as the voice of reason in the midst of the show 's insane events , and in many ways he 's more mature than his father Randy . " The website concluded that " his history as one of the more stable and thoughtful characters in the series made him the perfect choice for the voice of Trey and Matt 's own creative / professional frustrations . "

Stan frequently offers his perspective on religion , and he was at the center of one of the most controversial episodes of the series , " Trapped in the Closet " ( season nine , 2005 ) , where he was recognized as the reincarnation of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard before denouncing the church as nothing more than " a big fat global scam " .

In the show 's nineteen seasons , Stan has addressed other topics such as homosexuality , hate crime legislation , civil liberties , parenting , illegal immigration , voting , alcoholism , and race relations . His commentary on these issues have been interpreted as statements Parker and Stone are attempting to make to the viewing public , and these opinions have been subject to much critical analysis in the media and literary world . The book *South Park and Philosophy : You Know , I Learned Something Today* includes an essay in which East Carolina University philosophy professor Henry Jacoby compares Stan 's actions and reasoning within the show to the philosophical teachings of William Kingdon Clifford , and another essay by Southern Illinois University philosophy professor John S. Gray which references Stan 's decision to not vote for either candidate for a school mascot in the season eight ( 2004 ) episode " Douche and Turd " when describing political philosophy and the claimed pitfalls of a two @-@ party system . Essays in the books *South Park and Philosophy : Bigger , Longer , and More Penetrating* , *Blame Canada ! South Park and Contemporary Culture* , and *Taking South Park Seriously* have also analyzed Stan 's perspectives within the framework of popular philosophical , theological , and political concepts .