

= Eric Cartman =

Eric Theodore Cartman is one of the main characters in the animated television series South Park , created by Matt Stone and Trey Parker , and voiced by Trey Parker . Cartman , generally referred to by his surname , is one of four central characters in South Park , along with his friends Stan Marsh , Kyle Broflovski , and Kenny McCormick . Cartman first appeared , originally named Kenny , in prototypical form in a 1992 animated short Jesus vs. Frosty , and a 1995 animated short Jesus vs. Santa , and first appeared on television in the pilot episode of South Park , " Cartman Gets an Anal Probe " , on August 13 , 1997 .

Cartman is an elementary school student who lives with his mother in the fictional town of South Park , Colorado , where he routinely has extraordinary experiences atypical of a small town . Cartman has been portrayed as aggressive , prejudiced , arrogant , and narcissistic since his character 's inception ; Stone and Parker describe the character as " a little Archie Bunker " . These traits are significantly augmented in later seasons as his character evolves , and he begins to exhibit extremely psychopathic , sociopathic and manipulative behavior , and also be depicted as highly intelligent , able to execute morally appalling plans and business ideas with success .

Cartman is considered to be the most popular character on South Park . Parker and Stone state that he is their favorite character , and the one with whom they most identify . South Park has received both praise and criticism for Cartman 's politically incorrect behavior . Prominent publications and television channels have included Cartman on their lists as one of the most iconic television and cartoon characters of all time .

= = Role in South Park = =

Eric Cartman attends South Park Elementary as part of Mr. Garrison 's class . During the show 's first 58 episodes , Cartman and the other main characters are in the third grade , after which they move on to the fourth grade . He is an only child being raised by Liane Cartman , a promiscuous single mother . In " Cartman 's Mom Is Still a Dirty Slut " (1998) , Liane Cartman claims to be a hermaphrodite when she also claims to be the father of Cartman and that she did not know the woman who gave birth to Cartman . However , the season 14 (2010) episode " 201 " later reveals that Liane actually is his mother , and that his true biological father is Jack Tenorman , a fictional former player for the Denver Broncos whom Cartman arranged to be killed in the season five (2001) episode " Scott Tenorman Must Die " , making Cartman and Scott Tenorman half @-@ brothers and putting Liane 's intersexual identity in question .

Among the show 's main child characters , Cartman is distinguished as " the fat kid " , and his obesity is a continuing subject of insults and ridicule from other characters throughout the show 's run . Cartman is frequently portrayed as an antagonist or villain whose actions set in motion the events serving as the main plot of an episode . Other children and classmates are alienated by Cartman 's insensitive , racist , xenophobic , anti @-@ semitic , lazy , self @-@ righteous behavior , but are occasionally influenced by his obtrusive , manipulative , and propagandist antics .

Kyle , who is Jewish , is often the target of Cartman 's slander and anti @-@ Semitic insults . The two have shared an enmity since the show 's beginnings , and their rivalry has become significantly more pronounced as the series has progressed , with Cartman even routinely exposing Kyle to physical endangerment . Kyle has intentionally endangered Cartman as well by convincing him in " Fatbeard " to go to Somalia in hopes that he will be killed . However , at other times , Kyle is an enthusiastic participant in Cartman 's schemes and Cartman is sometimes seen actually being nice to Kyle in some instances . Parker and Stone have compared the relationship to the one shared by Archie Bunker and Michael " Meathead " Stivic on the 1970s sitcom All in the Family . Kyle has a tendency to make what he thinks are safe bets with Cartman , and often loses these bets when the improbable actions promised by Cartman are accomplished . Cartman 's motivation in this regard is not merely monetary gain , but an obsession with scoring a victory over Kyle , a fixation that ultimately plays a major part in a subplot to the three @-@ part episode " Imaginationland " (season 11 , 2007) . This obsession has also proven itself to actually trump other goals Cartman wishes to

achieve , for instance , in " Christian Rock Hard " Cartman makes a bet with Kyle that he can make a platinum album before Kyle can . After recruiting Butters and Token , Cartman creates a Christian rock band called " Faith + 1 " and " writes " Christian songs by merely taking love songs and replacing words such as " baby " with " Jesus " (which humorously implicates sexual relations with Jesus) . Against all odds , the band becomes largely successful , managing to sell over a million copies (and potentially gain millions of dollars) . However , since Christian rock bands cannot truly get a platinum album (which is not true in real life) , Cartman loses the bet . Despite having amassed a large fan base as well as a large , steady income , Cartman only becomes enraged since he was unable to win a bet with Kyle . Careless in his anger accepting the " Myrrh " album in front of a large Christian crowd , Cartman goes into an Anti @-@ Christian rant which drives away all of the fans as well as profits . In " You 're Getting Old " , the final episode of the first half of South Park 's 15th season , it is suggested that Kyle and Cartman may be developing a genuine friendship , possibly due to the void left by Stan 's apparent departure . Cartman 's resentment of Stan is usually reserved for when Cartman proudly proclaims his hatred for both Stan and Kyle as a duo , and his contempt for Stan as an individual is usually limited to his annoyance with Stan 's sensitivity , affection for animals , and the relationship Stan shares with Wendy .

Despite being intolerant of other cultures , Cartman displays an aptitude for learning foreign languages . In the episode " My Future Self n ' Me " when he starts " Parental Revenge Corp " , he speaks Spanish to his Latino workers , though he may have learned the language merely from a practical standpoint in order to better exploit a labor pool . He also knows German , and once spoke a few phrases while dressed up as Adolf Hitler while promoting the extermination of Jews to an oblivious audience that did not speak German . Cartman can also be seen speaking broken German with an American accent in Season 15 Episode 2 " Funnybot " . Conversely in one episode (" Major Boobage ") Cartman acts as an Oskar Schindler character for the town 's cats , a rare case of a subplot based on Cartman 's altruism .

Cartman frequently teases Kenny for being poor , and derides Kenny 's family for being on welfare . He will also use an awkward pause during a conversation as an opportunity to casually remind Kenny that he hates him . Cartman 's mischievous treatment of Butters Stotch , and the relationship the duo shares has received significant focus in the more recent seasons of the series . This reflects Parker 's interest ; the scenes between the two are the ones he most enjoys writing .

Several episodes center around Cartman 's greed and his get @-@ rich @-@ quick schemes , although his numerous attempts to attain wealth generally fail . His extreme disdain for hippies serves to satirize the counterculture of the 1960s and its influence in contemporary society , reflecting Parker 's real @-@ life antipathy towards hippies . Though the role is customarily taken by Stan or Kyle , Cartman will occasionally be the one to reflect on the lessons learned during the course of an episode with a speech that often begins with " You know , I 've learned something today ... " .

= = Character = =

= = = Creation and design = = =

A precursor to Cartman 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 . In the short , Cartman was actually named " Kenny " , and the catchphrase " Oh my God , they killed Kenny ! " was exclaimed when the character representing Cartman was killed by an evil snowman . The character was composed of construction paper cutouts and animated through the use of stop motion . When commissioned 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 this short , his character first appears as he does in the series , and is given the name " Cartman " , while the character of Kenny appears as the character is depicted today and given Cartman 's moniker from

the previous short . Cartman next appeared on August 13 , 1997 , when South Park debuted on Comedy Central with the episode " Cartman Gets an Anal Probe " .

In keeping with the show 's animation style , Cartman 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 one direction , and his movements intentionally jerky . Ever since the show 's second episode , " Weight Gain 4000 " (season one , 1997) , Cartman , 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 .

Cartman is usually depicted wearing winter attire which consists of a red coat , brown pants , yellow gloves / mittens , and a yellow @-@ brimmed turquoise knit cap tapered with a yellow pom @-@ pom . He has parted brown hair , and he is seen without his hat more often than the other characters with distinctive headwear . As he is overweight , his body is wider , his hands noticeably larger and his head is a more elliptical shape in contrast to the circular heads of the other children . An additional curved line on his lower face represents a double chin .

Although he had originally voiced Cartman without any computer manipulation , Parker now does so by speaking within his normal vocal range with a childlike inflection . The recorded audio is then edited with Pro Tools , and the pitch is altered to make the voice sound like that of a fourth grader . Parker says to achieve the effect of Cartman 's voice , he simply uses the same technique when voicing Stan while " adding a lot of fat to it " .

= = = Development = = =

Cartman is partially named after and based on Matt Karpman , a high school classmate of Parker who remains a friend of both Parker and Stone . Cartman is also inspired by All in the Family patriarch Archie Bunker , who is himself inspired by Alf Garnett from Till Death Us Do Part , the original British version of All in the Family . Parker and Stone are big fans of All in the Family . They state that creating Cartman as a " little eight @-@ year @-@ old fat kid " made it easier for the two to portray a Bunker @-@ like character after the introduction of political correctness to late @-@ 20th century television . While developing the character , Parker noted that everyone either remembers " an annoying fat kid in their pasts " , or " they were the annoying fat kid " . Stone has observed that " kids are not nice , innocent , flower @-@ loving little rainbow children [...] they don 't have any kind of social tact or etiquette , they 're just complete little raging bastards " .

In the season five (2001) episode " Scott Tenorman Must Die " , Cartman is tricked into buying the pubic hair of local eighth @-@ grader named Scott Tenorman for \$ 16 @.@ 12 . He then successfully executes an elaborate scheme to publicly humiliate Scott in front of his favorite band Radiohead , by getting Scott 's parents killed and then tricking Scott into eating them . The show 's writers debated during production of the episode whether or not the incident would be " a step too far , even for Cartman " . Parker felt that the act could sufficiently be the culmination of Cartman 's sociopathic behavior , and would " [set] a new bar " by portraying Cartman as being capable of performing anything short of murder . Fans reacted by ranking it as Cartman 's " greatest moment " in a 2005 poll on Comedy Central 's website . It is later revealed in the season fourteen episode " 201 " that Jack Tenorman , Scott 's father , was a football player for the Denver Broncos and Cartman 's father . Dr. Alphonse Mephesto also admits that he lied about Cartman 's mother being a hermaphrodite .

Parker and Stone , despite being the basis for Stan and Kyle , insist that Cartman is their favorite character , and the one with whom they identify the most .

= = = Personality and traits = = =

Cartman is foul @-@ mouthed (as are his friends) as a means for Parker and Stone to portray how they believe young boys really talk when they are alone . According to Parker , Cartman does not possess the " underlying sweetness " of the show 's other child characters . Cartman is shown at times to be completely amoral and remorseless . Cartman 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 .

Cartman is sensitive and in denial about his obesity . Often reasserting Liane 's notion by exclaiming " I 'm not fat , I 'm big @-@ boned ! " and will just as often either threaten to bring harm to anyone who mocks his weight or curse them out in aggravation . He has also had people killed , such as when he drove his psychiatrist 's wife to suicide after enduring a long tirade about his weight . He views himself as more mature than his fellow friends and classmates , and often grows impatient with their company ; despite claiming to be more mature , he will often break down crying childishly and pathetically whenever he feels defeated . This often leads to loud arguments , which in earlier seasons typically end with Cartman peevishly saying " Screw you guys ... I 'm going home ! " and then leaving . In an action King 's College philosophy professor David Kyle Johnson describes as " directed either toward accomplishing his own happiness or the unhappiness of others " , Cartman often feigns actual friendship with his classmates when needing a favor . The lack of a true father figure in his life , and Liane 's promiscuity and drug use have caused repressed psychological hardship in Cartman 's life . As a parent , Liane often spoils Cartman , and is largely ineffectual as a disciplinarian . Cartman sometimes commands his mom to do tasks for him , but more often resorts to pleading with her in an ingratiating tone . When neither method works , he resorts to excessive and indecipherable whining , to which Liane usually succumbs . Parker has noted that this is the primary cause for Cartman 's behavior , stating that Cartman is " just a product of his environment " .

We always had this thing where Cartman 's mother was so sweet ? she was always so sweet to him and giving him whatever he wanted . And I don 't know if it 's worse in L.A. than most places in the country ? I hope so ? but [we 've met] so many parents who were just so desperately trying to be friends to their kids . And it was the thing we really picked up on . And it was just like , ' These [people] are making these really evil kids ' .

? Trey Parker , discussing Liane 's role in shaping Cartman 's personality in an interview with NPR

Cartman thrives on achieving ascendancy over others , and exerts his will by demagoguery and by demanding that others " Respect my authoritah ! " Cartman has several times declared that his dream is getting " Ten million dollars " . He has shown initiative in taking a businesslike approach to earning money , starting his own " hippie control " and " parental revenge " operations , as well as a Christian Rock and a boy band , a basketball team of crack babies (parody of the NCAA) and his own church .

Cartman 's anti @-@ Semitism , while mostly limited to mocking Kyle , culminates in the season eight (2004) episode " The Passion of the Jew " . In the episode , Cartman , after watching The Passion of the Christ numerous times , deifies the film 's director , Mel Gibson , and starts an official Gibson fan club , praising Gibson for " trying to express ? through cinema ? the horror and filthiness of the common Jew " . Cartman 's interpretation of the film influences him to dress up as Adolf Hitler and lead other fan club members (who are oblivious of Cartman 's actual intentions) in a failed effort to engage in a systematic genocide of the Jews similar to that of the Final Solution . In the season 10 (2006) episode " Smug Alert ! " , Cartman anonymously saves Kyle 's life in an effort to get him and his family to return to South Park from San Francisco , revealing that he craves the animosity shared between the two . And in " Coon vs. Coon and Friends " (season 14 , 2010) , Cartman directs the " evil god " Cthulhu to destroy " most of the synagogues " . However , in the 16th season episode " Jewpacabra " Cartman revealed he had converted to Judaism after a hallucinogenic dream . As of season 19 , it is unsure whether he has retained this trait or whether it was simply a plot point in that one episode .

Upon hearing his classmates tell him that they hold him in the lowest regard possible and that they could not possibly think any worse of him , a stubborn Cartman misinterprets this act as their attempt to make him feel better , and convinces himself that everyone thinks he is the " coolest kid in school " . In the season 13 (2009) episode " Fishsticks " , Cartman subconsciously believes that he helped in creating a joke that quickly becomes a nationwide sensation , despite the fact that the character Jimmy Valmer writes the joke without any assistance . Carlos Delgado of If Magazine

noted this as " Cartman being so egotistical that he manipulates the past to serve his own purposes "

Little is shown concerning Cartman 's romantic interests , as for the most part , his attitude towards females is sexist . However , at least in one episode (" Chef Goes Nanners ") , Cartman develops an attraction to Wendy , which is apparent from the end of episode when Wendy describes her temporary infatuation towards Cartman as ' sexual tension ' and even though Cartman agrees in front of Wendy , he sighs with sorrow at being alone again . During a period when he was physically unable to control his speech and he repeatedly blurted hidden feelings , he expressed a romantic interest in classmate Patty Nelson , a side character who has not been seen before or since .

Though he is commonly portrayed as ignorant , Cartman is shown at least twice (" My Future Self n ' Me " and " Pandemic ") to be able to speak fluent Spanish (and German) .

In certain episodes , Cartman is shown to think of himself as a skilled fighter , only to be beat up by Wendy , Token , Stan , and Kyle at different times . However , when Cartman thinks he has some sort of authority , such as being the Coon or the hallway monitor , he displays various martial arts knowledge and proves to be able to beat up various other characters such as Clyde and Bradley .

= = Cultural impact = =

Cartman is a South Park fan favorite , and is often described as the most famous character from the series . With a headline to their online written version of a radio report , NPR declared Cartman as " America 's Favorite Little \$ @ # & * % " . " Respect my authoritah ! " and " Screw you guys ... I 'm going home ! " became catchphrases and , during the show 's earlier seasons , were highly popular in the lexicon of viewers . His eccentric enunciation of " Hey ! " was included in the 2002 edition of The Oxford Dictionary of Catchphrases . Stone has said that when fans recognize him or Parker , the fans will usually do their imitation of Cartman , or , in Parker 's case , request that he do Cartman 's voice .

In 2005 , Comedy Central ran a three @-@ night marathon of episodes showcasing what voters had deemed to be his " 25 greatest moments " . A two @-@ disc DVD collection entitled " The Cult of Cartman " , which Comedy Central described as " 12 classic episodes with Cartman at his very worst ! " , was released in 2008 .

In a 1999 poll conducted by NatWest Bank , eight and nine @-@ year @-@ old children in the United Kingdom voted Cartman as their favorite personality . This drew the concern of several parent councils who were expecting a character from a television show aimed at children to top the list , to which Stone responded by claiming the results of the poll were " upsetting to people who have an idyllic vision of what kids are like " . Parker and Stone have always asserted that due to Cartman 's actions and dialogue , his appearances in South Park are not meant to be viewed by younger children , and they note that the show is certified with TV ratings that indicate its intention for mature audiences .

While some in the Jewish community have praised the show 's depiction of Cartman holding an anti @-@ Semitic attitude towards Kyle as a means of accurately portraying what it is like for a young Jew to have to endure prejudice , other Jews have blamed South Park and Cartman for having found themselves surrounded by " acceptable racism " . On November 20 , 2008 , a Facebook group titled " National Kick a Ginger Day , are you going to do it ? " surfaced , suggesting abuse towards redheads . Thousands of internet users signed up as a member of the group , and reports of a feared increase of bullying of red @-@ headed students across Canada soon followed . The group 's administrator , a 14 @-@ year @-@ old from Vancouver Island , said the group was only intended as a joke , and apologized for the offense it caused . The group was inspired by the season nine (2005) episode " Ginger Kids " , in which Cartman incites prejudice towards those with red hair , pale skin , and freckles , a group he calls " Gingers " and claims are inherently evil and without souls .

Other characters commonly express lessons learned from the antagonistic actions Cartman commonly provokes ; this has resulted in these characters giving their opinions on issues such as hate crime legislation , civil liberties , excessive religious devotion , the stem cell controversy ,

anabolic steroid use , the " right to die " debate , and prejudice . In the season 10 (2006) episode " Cartoon Wars Part II " , Cartman , planning to exploit the public 's fear of terrorism , seeks to get the Fox television series Family Guy , a program he despises , permanently removed from the airwaves when Fox plans to air an episode despite its inclusion of a cartoon likeness of Muhammad . This leads Kyle to give a short speech about the ethics of censorship , which reiterates Parker and Stone 's sentiments of " Either it 's all okay , or none of it is " in regards to whether or not any subject should remain off @-@ limits to satire . Both Cartman 's commentary and the commentary resulting in response to his actions 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 Johnson uses Cartman 's actions and behavior as examples when discussing the logical problem of moral evil , and another essay by College of Staten Island professor Mark D. White cited the season two (1998) episode " Chickenlover " , in which Cartman is temporarily granted law enforcement powers , in its discussion regarding the command theory of law and what obligates a citizen to obey the law . 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 Cartman 's perspectives within the framework of popular philosophical , theological , political , and social concepts . Parker and Stone downplay the show 's alignment with any particular political affiliation , and deny having a political agenda when creating an episode . In response to the focus on elements of satire in South Park , Parker has said that the main goal of the show is to portray Cartman and his friends as " kids just being kids " as a means of accurately showcasing " what it 's like to be in [elementary school] in America " .

= = = Recognitions = = =

TV Guide ranked Cartman at number 10 on their 2002 list of the " Top 50 Greatest Cartoon Characters " , 24th on TV Guide 's " 25 Greatest TV Villains " , 198th on VH1 's " 200 Greatest Pop Culture Icons " , and 19th on Bravo 's " 100 Greatest TV Characters " television special in 2004 . When declaring him the second @-@ scariest character on television (behind only Mr. Burns of The Simpsons) in 2005 , MSNBC 's Brian Bellmont described Cartman as a " bundle of pure , unadulterated evil all wrapped up in a fat ? er , big @-@ boned ? cartoony package " who " takes a feral delight in his evildoing " . In 2014 , IGN ranked Cartman first place on their list of " The Top 25 South Park Characters " , commenting that he was " the obvious choice " of number one and that " sometimes the obvious choice is also the right one . " The website stated that despite Cartman being " one of the worst human beings in the history of fiction [...] he 's the most loathsome character we 've ever loved . " IGN concluded by calling him " the biggest contribution to the world of animated characters that South Park has made ? and that 's saying something . "

= = In other media = =

Cartman has a major role in South Park : Bigger , Longer & Uncut , the full @-@ length film based on the series , and appeared on the film 's soundtrack singing the same musical numbers performed in the movie . As a tribute to the Dead Parrot sketch , a short that features Cartman attempting to return a dead Kenny to a shop run by Kyle aired during a 1999 BBC television special commemorating the 30th anniversary of Monty Python 's Flying Circus . Cartman is also featured in the documentary film The Aristocrats , telling his version of the film 's titular joke to Stan , Kyle , and Kenny , and in " The Gauntlet " , a short spoofing both Gladiator and Battlefield Earth that aired during the 2000 MTV Movie Awards .

For their 2007 Snakes & Arrows tour , the rock band Rush commissioned a short , video introduction for the song " Tom Sawyer " . Cartman , dressed in a long wig to look like singer Geddy Lee , sings his own , personal , version of the song 's lyrics prompting the usual outrage from Kyle . The video can be seen on the band 's Snakes & Arrows concert video .

In 2002 , Cartman became the main protagonist of a series of promotional videos for the Los Angeles Kings of the NHL , which are played on the big @-@ screen TVs inside of Staples Center where the character ridicules the mascots of rival teams and reacts to various aspects of the game .

Short clips of Cartman introducing the starting lineup for the University of Colorado football team were featured during ABC 's coverage of the 2007 match @-@ up between the University of Colorado and the University of Nebraska .

In Plants vs. Zombies 2 : It 's About Time , the plant Winter Melon , has a costume of a hat resembling Eric Cartman 's .

In 2008 , Parker , as Cartman , gave answers to a Proust Questionnaire conducted by Julie Rovner of NPR .

Parker performs as Cartman on tracks for Chef Aid : The South Park Album and Mr. Hankey 's Christmas Classics . Cartman also appears in five South Park @-@ related video games : In South Park , Cartman is controlled by the player through the first person shooter mode who attempts to ward off enemies from terrorizing the town of South Park . In South Park : Chef 's Luv Shack , a user has the option of playing as Cartman when participating in the game 's several " minigames " based on other popular arcade games . In the racing game South Park Rally , a user can race as Cartman against other users playing as other characters , while choosing to place him in any of a variety of vehicles . In South Park Let 's Go Tower Defense Play ! , Cartman can be selected as a playable character used to establish a tower defense against the game 's antagonists . In South Park : The Stick of Truth , Cartman is the leader of one of two tribes in South Park , at war over the Stick of Truth . Cartman is later a selectable companion character in this JRPG @-@ style game .

A cover of " Poker Face " was released as DLC for the Rock Band video game series in 2010 based on the version heard in the episode , " Whale Whores " , released the same day as the original , featuring Cartman on lead vocals .