

The Voice Behind Bart Simpson

Part 1

Bart Simpson and Nancy Cartwright are two of a kind. Some even say they're one in the same! If you've seen *The Simpsons*, you already know TV's most famous underachiever. Now meet Nancy Cartwright: actress, writer, wife, mom, and—you guessed it—the mouth behind the loudmouth!

"I love being the voice of Bart," Nancy says in her book, *My Life as a 10-Year-Old Boy*. She's been the voice behind Springfield's brattiest fourth grader for over 15 years. "It has been a dream come true," she writes.

Part 2

As a child, Nancy began playing with her voice and making funny sound effects. Then, she took an acting class at a summer youth theater. By the time Nancy was a teen, she knew that she wanted to do cartoon voices. In high school, a speech teacher recognized Nancy's talents. Nancy built her confidence in speech contests, where she performed stories full of characters. Each character's voice sounded totally different.

"The coolest thing about this kind of activity is that it gives you permission to do all the things that you aren't supposed to be doing: acting silly and creating weird voices," Nancy writes. "I am sure that Bart was in there somewhere."

Part 3

In 1987, Bart came out with a bang. Nancy had made a successful career during and after college doing voice-overs and acting. One day, she was asked to audition for a new cartoon.

Nancy was supposed to read for Lisa Simpson's voice, but she thought Lisa's brother was more her type and read for him. "Bart came to me immediately," Nancy recalls. "I never had a doubt."

Nancy had found her inner voice, and it was saying, "Cowabunga!" Matt Groening, the cartoon's creator, hired her on the spot. Nancy became Bart's voice, soon to be recognized by fans everywhere.

Today, *The Simpsons* is a huge hit. It has been on the air longer than any animated show in TV history. It looks like Bart (and Nancy) will be saying, "Cool, man!" for a long time to come!

Resource Links

1 RDI Book 1: p. 349

SAM Keywords: Sequence

Use with page 291.



Sequence of Events

Things that happen in a story or in real life are called **events**. A **sequence** is the order in which events take place. Try these ideas to help you keep track of the order of events in a text.

- Watch for time-order words, such as *first*, *next*, *after*, *then*, and *finally*.
- Look for clues that show that something might be happening out of order.

Write one event in each box in order.

Passage: _____

A vertical sequence of four empty rounded rectangular boxes, each connected to the one below it by a downward-pointing arrow. This graphic organizer is designed for students to write a sequence of events from a passage in order.

Resource Links

 RDI Book 1: p. 419

SAM Keywords: Sequence

Use with pages 290 and 291.