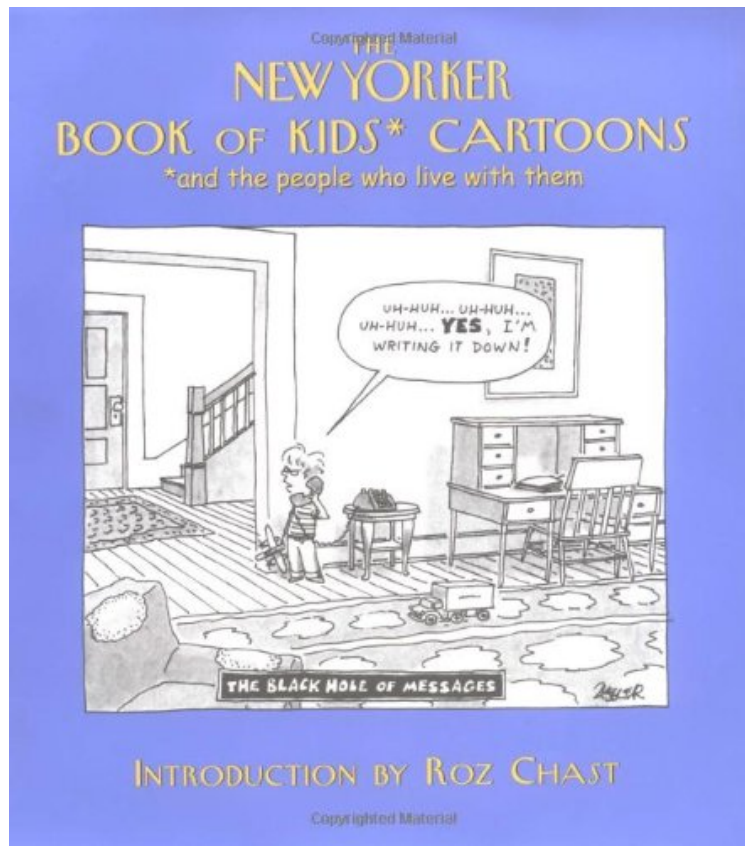


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## The New Yorker Book of Kids Cartoons

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**From Brand: Bloomberg Press : The New Yorker Book of Kids Cartoons** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Yorker Book of Kids Cartoons:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. SO funnyBy Brooklyn MomWe've had this book for 4 1/2 years (someone with a wry sense of humor gifted it to us when our daughter was born) and it still makes us laugh everytime we flip it open. It's a great gift for new parents or for someone who marries into an existing family with young kids.24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Warning: World-Class Guffaws, Chuckles, and Belly Laughs!By Donald MitchellBefore reviewing this book, let me note that the cartoons contain several examples of foul language. If such things offend you, skip those pages or the book.I have read all of The New Yorker collections of subject-oriented cartoons, and found this collection to be by far the funniest one! The average quality of each cartoon is unusually good, as well. While many of the other collections either lack introductions or have limited, lame ones, this collection is anchored by a superb introduction.As Roz Chast points on in her witty, illustrated introduction, "kids actually do say the darndest things." So do their parents. Ms. Chast's introduction is the best one I have ever read for a book of cartoons. She touches on the subject from the perspective of having been a child, reading The New Yorker for the cartoons as a child, being a cartoonist looking for ideas, and as a parent. She sees the family as a Bottomless Pit. You

will learn the details about the day she threw a hot dog and said an off-color word. The volume contains 11 cartoons by her among the 126 in the book. The volume has an appropriately heavy dose of the brilliant work of Robert Weber (14), Barbara Smalls (8), Lee Lorens (7), and Jack Ziegler (7). The humor typically builds by having kids saying what adults would, or vice versa. Other themes include having grown-up children speaking as though they were still 2 or 3, and anthropomorphizing animals with human speech. Some of the best work well simply with the gag lines . . . and then are enhanced by the cartoon. My favorite example of this is "I guess we'd be considered a family. We live together, we love each other, and we haven't eaten the children yet." The cartoon shows lots of guppies swimming in a fish bowl. Some of the humor is bittersweet, especially when it touches on divorce. Two small children in nursery school are working at a table. One turns to the other and asks, "So, what's your custody deal?" Some of the most original offerings are those that take a female perspective where many will not have considered before. For instance, a mother and young daughter are looking out of an office window at a factory. "Someday, sweetheart, all of this will belong to your ex-husband and his attorney." In another one, a little girl tells her father, "I love you too, Daddy, but it just kills me that you're a man." Parents also turn themselves in for their follies. A child is reading and looks over at his father watching television and asks, "Dad, can you read?" One of the up-to-date offerings has a child annoying his father wondering when they will get there. But the twist is that the child is asking his questions from the back seat of an SUV using a cell phone. Parent-teacher communications are hysterically translated. "Creative" becomes "Not too bright." "He's doing fine" becomes "What's your kid's name again?" After you finish enjoying this fine volume, I suggest that you think about how you can relieve the stress you feel with your family with laughter! Look for the humor in every situation. Laughter is good for you!

Wish kids came with instructions? At least you can take heart—and have a laugh—in the knowledge that the little dears confound and amuse all of us. Nothing captures our rollicking relationship with them—and theirs with the adult world—quite like New Yorker cartoons. The magazine's brilliant cartoonists (a good number of whom are rumored to have never completely left childhood behind) lead us from the hospital nursery, through toddlerhood, into the school years and beyond—to that long-lasting challenge of being an adult with parents. Selected by Robert Mankoff, cartoon editor of *The New Yorker*, this collection brings together 126 great cartoons (from artists including George Booth, Roz Chast, Leo Cullum, William Hamilton, Gahan Wilson, Jack Ziegler, and many more). The introduction from the one-and-only Roz Chast gives us a riot of insight and delight—which, come to think of it, is not a bad description of childhood.

**About the Author** Robert Mankoff is the cartoon editor of *The New Yorker*, president of The Cartoon Bank, a wonderful cartoonist in his own right, and, oh yeah, a dad. He has published numerous collections of his own work and is the editor of a half-dozen collections of New Yorker cartoons. Roz Chast is a national treasure. She has published a number of books and illustrated the books of others. Many of us look forward eagerly to her appearances in *The New Yorker*. She is the mother of two children an experience that just maybe influences her work.