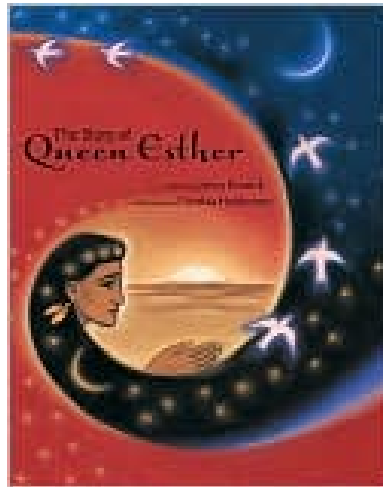




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Purim Resources

Highlighted Book

Koralek, Jenny. ***The Story of Queen Esther***. Grand Rapids, MI : Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009.

A wonderful re-telling of the Jewish girl who became queen of Persia and saved her people from death. Bold, richly colored, Persian-inspired illustrations by Grizelda Holderness.

Print Materials

Adelson, Leone. ***The Mystery Bear: A Purim Story***. New York: Clarion, 2004.

This humorous story is a delight to read aloud to classes. A hungry bear cub awakens from his winter nap and finds a *Purim* party with lots of food. As he eats his fill, none of the guests realize he is really a bear, except one little boy. When the bear acts bear-like, the "Purimshpielers" scatter and Little Bear lumbers off to find his mother. (For preschool – grade 2).

Blitz, Shmuel. ***The Artscroll Children's Megillah***. Artscroll Youth Series. New York: Mesorah, 2003.

This *Megillah* was published in conjunction with the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland. It is in *Hebrew* and English.

Bredeson, Carmen. ***Purim. Rookie Read about Holidays***. New York: Children's Press, 2003.

This book is full of color photos as well as a brief text to introduce the holiday of *Purim*. (For preschool – grade 2).

dePaola, Tomie. **Queen Esther**. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986.

This is a retelling of the *Megillat Esther* by the famous author Tomie dePaola. Note: there is no mention of Queen Vashti. (For preschool - grade 2).

Fishman, Cathy Goldberg. **On Purim**. New York: Atheneum, 1999.

The story relates both the *Purim* story and its meaning. The story is centered on a family's celebration. The point of view is child-like. Melanie Hall illustrated with warm-colors. (For preschool – grade 2).

Gelman, Rita Golden. **Queen Esther Saves Her People**. New York: Scholastic, 1998.

The striking page layouts showcase Persian-inspired illustrations, matching the story in detail. (For grades 1 – 4).

Gerstein, Mordicai. **Queen Esther, the Morning Star**. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000.

This version of the story of Esther is fairly faithful to the original text. The personalities of the characters are reflected in the pictures. Esther is portrayed as brave, Mordecai as noble, King Ahasuerus as lazy and complacent, and Haman as a scoundrel. (For kindergarten – grade 2).

Goldin, Barbara Diamond. **Cakes and Miracles: A Purim Tale**. New York: Viking, 1991.

Hershel is blind and feels sad that he cannot help his mother bake *hamentashen*. A visit from an angel helps him realize that he does not need eyes to see. (For kindergarten – grade 4).

Gottlieb, Wendy Ruth. **Purr-im Cat**. New York: Pitspopany, 2007.

This fun book contains photographs of cats dressed up for *Purim* with English and *Hebrew* captions. (For preschool – grade 4).

Grishaver, Joel Lurie and Hearshen, Carrie. **Purim. The Whole School Holiday Curriculum**. Los Angeles: Torah Aura, 2004.

- I: *The Symbols of Purim*. This lesson shows the *scroll of Esther*, *groggers*, *hamantashen* and different costumes. It introduces the *mitzvot* of *Purim* as well. (For grades 1-2).
- II: *The Story of Purim*. (For grades 2-3).
- III: *A Purim Story: The Purim Project*. This lesson focuses on the *mitzvot* of *mishlo-ah manot* (sending gifts) and *matanot l'evyonim* (giving gifts to the poor). (For grades 3-4).
- IV: *Mitzvot*. (For grades 4 -5). This lesson introduces the background and the blessing before hearing the *Megillah*.
- V: *Foods of Purim*. (For grades 5 -6).
- VI: *Illuminated Megillot*. This lesson teaches that because the *Megillah* is a book without God's name and a farce; it can be illustrated. (For grades 6-7).
- VII: *Our Purim Problem*. This lesson acknowledges that drinking alcohol is part of the *Purim* celebration for many Jewish people. However, the lesson discusses how drinking alcohol should be done in moderation. (For grades 7-8).

Hoffman, Amalia. **Purim Goodies**. Israel: Gefen Kidz, 2007.

This is based on a story by Sholom Aleichem. When two young maids are sent to deliver *mishlo-ah manot* baskets, they can not resist the tempting smell of fresh-baked *Purim* goodies. And so they completely gobble up the *hamentashen*. When these mischievous young maids attempt to deliver the *Purim* goodies to the families of their employers' best friends, there are only leftovers on the tray. This book contains some *Yiddish* vocabulary and a *hamantashen* recipe. (For grades 1 – 4).

JECC. ***Fingerprints: Discovering Jewish Life***. Cleveland, OH: JECC, 2008.
The curriculum includes a *Purim* unit for early childhood. (For preschool).

JECC. ***We Will Do and We Will Listen!*** Cleveland, OH: JECC, 2003.
(For grades 3 – 5).

- ***A Holiday Curriculum with a Focus on the Cycles of Jewish Life***. The *Purim* section discusses performing the 4 *mitzvot* that connect Jews all over the world.
- ***A Holiday Curriculum with a Focus on Responsibility***. The *Purim* section explains how the characters showed responsibility to promote the freedom and future of the Jews.
- ***A Holiday Curriculum with a Focus on Freedom***. The *Purim* section focuses on freedom of speech. Esther was unable to approach the King at her own will. She had the courage to stand up for her people.

Jewish Parenting: Talking about Purim. Los Angeles: Torah Aura, 2005.
A booklet that offer parents basic information about *Purim*.

Karp, Molly. ***Esther. The Write Stuff***. Los Angeles: Torah Aura, 2009.
An instant lesson that summarizes the *Megillat Esther*. (For grades 7 – 12).

Kropf, Latifa Berry. ***It's Purim Time!*** Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2005.
This is part of an excellent series containing photographs of a preschool class celebrating holidays. (For preschool and kindergarten).

Levy, Sharon. ***Chag Purim: Chag Gadol LaYehudim/Purim: Holiday, Laughs, a Joyous Holiday***. Israel: Ofarim, 2008.
This is a *Hebrew* comic book. (For grades 3 – 6).

The Queen of Persia: An Illustrated Adaptation of an Ancient Story. Chicago, IL: Shazak, 2004.

This is a comic strip version of the Queen Esther story, with quizzes between each chapter. A video, DVD and CD-Rom of the same title are also available. (For grade 2 – 6).

Pollack, Gadi. ***Purim Shpiel***. Israel: Feldheim, 2003.

The events of the *Megillat Esther* are presented using *midrashic* sources, with humorous details added in the style of a *Purim* play. It is in graphic novel format. (For grades 4 – 8).

Rouss, Sylvia. ***Sammy Spider's First Purim***. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Copies, 2000.
Sammy Spider watches Josh and his mom prepare for *Purim* by baking *hamantashen*, creating a costume and making a *grogger*. Illustrated by Katherine Janus Kahn. (For preschool – grade 2).

Schotter, Roni. ***Purim Play***. Boston, MA: Little Brown & Co., 1998.

A description through a play rehearsal, the story of *Purim* is filtered through the personalities and perspectives of several children and their reactions to an elderly neighbor asked to play Haman. (For kindergarten – grade 2).

Silverman, Erica. ***Raisel's Riddle***. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1999.

This is a *Purim* story with a Cinderella theme. Raisel, a mistreated servant girl, wins the heart of the rabbi's son through both her beauty and her knowledge of *Talmud*. The Rabbi's son seeks the girl, who has left nothing but a riddle behind at the *Purim* ball. By answering a riddle, Raisel proves she is the girl who disappeared. (For grades 1 – 4).

Simpson, Lesley. ***The Purim Surprise***. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben/Lerner, 2004.

A picture book about a little girl and her mother who have moved to a new city and decide to deliver *mishlo-ah manot* to all of their new neighbors which results in a *Purim* surprise party for Naomi on her birthday. (For preschool – grade 2).

Spring Holidays. Jewish & Me. Springfield, NJ: Behrman House, 2009.

Activity books for young children containing information about spring holidays including *Purim*. (For preschool – grade 2).

Steinberg, Paul. ***Celebrating the Jewish Year: The Winter Holidays: Hanukkah, Tu b'Shevat, Purim***. Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 2007.

The guide contains stories, essays, poems, anecdotes, and rituals about the history of each holiday, as well as its theological, ethical, agricultural, and seasonal importance and interpretation. There is a chapter on *Purim*. (For adults).

Topek, Susan Remick. ***A Costume for Noah: A Purim Story***. Kar-Ben, 1995.

This is the best book of the series about Noah a boy in a Jewish preschool. Noah ponders all the choices he has for a *Purim* costume. Finally, he settles on a "big brother" costume, after his mom has a new baby. (For preschool).

Watts, Irene N. ***A Telling Time***. Vancouver, BC: Tradewinds, 2004.

A grandmother tells her granddaughter about the last *Purim* she spent in Vienna. She was one of a group of children who visited the rabbi's study to hear the story of Esther. German soldiers come to arrest the rabbi but give him a few minutes longer to finish the story. Then, the rabbi walks the children out onto the snow covered street and then miraculously vanishes. Thus, the deliverance of the Jews on *Purim* is related to the deliverance of the rabbi from the Nazis. Kathryn E. Shoemaker beautifully illustrates the story. (For grades 5 – 8).

Wolkstein, Diane. ***Esther's Story***. New York: Morrow Junior Books, 1996.

This version of the *Purim* story is told by Esther herself. The dramatic full-page illustrations are inspired by Persian art. (For grades 2 – 4).

Zeluf, Sarah. ***Mi Rotzeh Lihiyot Mah: Who Should I Be for Purim?*** Israel: Samuel Simson Ltd., 2008.

This book is in *Hebrew*. Illustrated by Hila Maoz. (For grades 2 – 4).

Zolkower, Edie Stoltz. ***When It's Purim***. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben, 2009.

An adorable rhyming board book that shows animals making *hamantashen* and *mishlo-ah manot* baskets. (For preschool).

Audio-Visual

Avni, Fran. ***Latkes and Hamentashen: Chanukah and Purim in Song and Story***.

Lemonstone Records, 1995.

Audio CD. A collection of contemporary songs which bring to life the main characters of *Hanukkah* and *Purim*.

Compilation #515. Ergo, 2003. VHS, 109 minutes.

In this compilation of film students' short films, there is a 26 minute segment *Purim* about the holiday of *Purim* as it is celebrated in Israel. (For grade 11 – adult).

Esther. People of the Book. Geshar Foundation-Alona ABT, 1994. VHS, 24 minutes, ages 12 and up.

This is perhaps the best production in this Geshar series of videos, fusing hysterically comical caricatures of the *Purim* story with its deeper level of historical perspective. The dramatized recreations create a backdrop for serious exploration of the Jewish condition in the *Diaspora* - the need to mask the convictions of one's faith, the desire to demonstrate loyalty to authority in exchange for protection, and at times, becoming the victim of persecution based on prejudice and personal whim. The program convincingly relates how at *Purim*, God moves off the center stage, and we play a role in determining our destiny, even as God watches behind the curtain. Educators can challenge older students to identify analogues to the *Purim* story in our history. In this context, the program adeptly keys into chapter 3:8 in *Megillat Esther* to unravel the dynamics of anti-Semitism. (For grades 7 – 12).

Festival of Purim in Israel. New York: BJENY. VHS, 18 minutes.

The festival of *Purim* in Israel touches upon all the important aspects of the holiday, including its historical background, ceremonial objects, and modes of celebration by Israel's diverse population. It has an upbeat tempo and features a colorful montage of holiday images. A teacher's guide is available. (For grades 2 – 8).

Purim in Story and Song/ Tu B'shevat: New Year for the Trees. *Jewish Holidays on Video.* Ulpanei Scala/Israel Music, n.d. VHS

The story of both holidays accompanied by *Hebrew* songs.

Purim Shpiels. Springfield, NJ: ARE, 2005.

The following CD ROMs are available. (For grades 4 – 8).

- Krauss, Gary. ***Star of David Wars: The Purim Menace.***
This *shpiel* is a parody of the "Star Wars" films.
- Krauss, Gary. ***Esther Powers: International Queen of Mystery.***
This *shpiel* is a parody of the film, *Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery.*
- Rubin, Yaffa. ***Middle East Side Story.***
This *Purim Shpiel* is particularly well suited to a large-scale production, with extensive scenery, costumes, props, and musical accompaniment. It is based closely on the Broadway play and film, "West Side Story," with lyrics written to the original music from that production.
- Schoenwald, Jessie. ***A Western Ester.***
This is a Western style play for *Purim*.

Purim Rock, New York: JeMM Production, 1999. DVD, color animation, sound track in English or Hebrew

This film is a 21st century rock opera animated with claymation. (For grades 3 – 8).

Queen Esther. New York: Hanna Barbera, 1992. VHS, 30 min., color

This well-done video is a Hanna-Barbera animated story of Queen Esther. (For grades 2 – 5).

Queen Esther, Far Away and Long Ago. Mysteries of the Bible. New York: A&E Home Video, 1994.

VHS, 50 minutes. This is a well-crafted video that embraces both the drama of the story as well as scholarly inquiry into the many problematic components of the narrative. The program is anchored in textual references and contains comments from biblical scholars (mostly from Episcopalian Divinity Schools) who provide valuable insight into the story and who are largely respectful of rabbinic commentary. It properly emphasizes the question of whether and by what means Esther risks her life to reveal her Jewish identity and help her people. The film includes a connection to Hitler's specific attempts to abolish *Purim* in the 20th century, and to the universal message of moral responsibility that the *Megillat Esther* embraces. (For grade 9 – adult).

The Story of Esther. The Children's Heroes of the Bible. Vanguard Video, 1987.
VHS, 23 min.

This animated version of *Megillat Esther* tells the story of *Purim* in a straightforward manner. (For kindergarten – grade 3).

The Whole Megillah. Alef..Bet..Blast-Off. Teaneck,NJ: Ergo, 1998.

VHS, 30 minutes.

David and Rachel just aren't in the mood to celebrate *Purim* this year.. that is, until they find themselves in ancient Persia, face-to-face with evil Haman. Mitzvah Mouse and brave Queen Esther save the day. (For preschool – grade 2).

Electronic Resources

Aklah. Purim for Children. <http://www.aklah.com/holidays/purim/purim.php>

This section contains children's activities, blessings, a play, readings, recipes, etc.

Babaganewz. <http://www.babaganewz.com/>

Fun *Purim* features such as photographs of *Purim* in Israel, a *hamantashen* recipe, a *High School Musical* themed *Megillah* with downloadable lyrics, a "Jewpardy Game," etc.

If You Were Here: Holiday Celebrations in Israel

The Early Childhood Department of the Jewish Agency for Israel has posted online information about how young children in Israel celebrate the Jewish holidays. There are slide shows and printed information.

JECC Ratner Media & Technology Center.

<http://www.jecc.org/RatnerMediaCenter/index.htm>

Type in the term, "*Purim*" in the subject search to view all the resources available at the RMC.

JECC Teacher Center.

<http://www.jecc.org/TeacherCenter/TeacherCenter.aspx>

To see materials available from the JECC's Teacher Center on *Purim* use the catalog found at this webpage. Users must create logins first. Then, type "Holidays" for subject and type "*Purim*."

Jewish Agency for Israel. Jewish Zionist Education. Purim.

<http://www.jewishagency.org/>

The *Purim* section of the website contains programming ideas, history, concepts and geography of the holiday, a *Hebrew* corner, etc.

Jewish Outreach Institute. <http://www.joi.org/celebrate/purim/index.shtml>

Background information about *Purim* for people learning about Judaism and interfaith families.

Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. Purim. <http://jrf.org/purimC>

Interesting articles that are interesting interpretations of the holiday.

Lookstein Center. <http://www.lookstein.org/resources/purim.htm>

Purim lesson plans, activities and articles created by Lookstein Center staff or contributed by Jewish educators.

Orthodox Union. <http://www.ou.org/holidays/purim>

This section is rich with information about *Purim*. It includes summaries of the *Megillat Esther*, explanations of the *mitzvot* and customs on *Purim*, *Purim* audio lessons, children's activities and recipes.

Shema Yisrael. Purim. <http://www.shemayisrael.com/purim/>

An Orthodox website which contains explanations of *Purim* laws and traditions.

Union for Reform Judaism. Purim. <http://urj.org/holidays/purim/>

This section of the URJ website explains the significance of *Purim*. There are links to "Holiday Happenings" for early childhood and "The Parent Page."

The United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism. Purim.

<http://www.uscj.org/Purim5811.html>

There are articles about *Purim* as well as access to the Jewish Theological Seminary electronic *Holiday Packet* filled with stories, recipes and activity ideas.