



# The Jewish Education Center Of Cleveland's Óã -- a newsletter for educators

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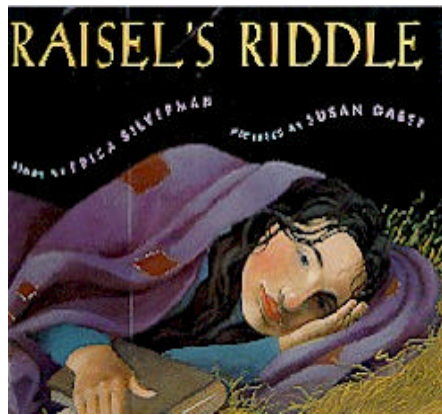
## Í éøãÔ (*Purim*)

**Queen Esther, the Morning Star, by Mordicai Gerstein. (NY: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2000.)**

Gerstein is noted for his fanciful retellings of Biblical stories. Here, however, he relates the story of Esther in a version fairly faithful to the original text. The embellishments are all in the pictures -- and what a delight they are as they dance across the pages! Esther is beautiful, Mordicai is noble, King Ahasuerus is lazy and complacent, and Haman -- a scoundrel through and through! The personalities of the characters are reflected in the pictures; children reading this will know who the good guys are. Recommended for kindergarten -- grade 2.



**Raisel's Riddle, by Erica Silverman. (NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999).**



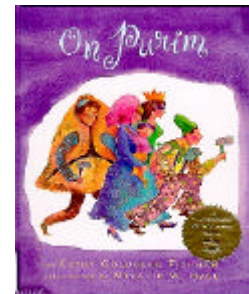
This is a story with a Cinderella theme, set during Í éøãÔ (*Purim*). Raisel, a mistreated servant girl, wins the heart of the rabbi's son through both her beauty and her knowledge of ããî ìú (*Talmud*). When he seeks the girl who has left nothing but a riddle behind at the *Purim* ball, Raisel proves she is the girl who disappeared by answering this riddle:

*"What's more precious than rubies, more lasting than gold  
What can never be traded, stolen, or sold  
What comes with great effort and takes time, but then —  
Once yours, will serve you again and again?"*

Handsome illustrations enhance the story. Recommended for grades 2 – 4.

**On Purim, by Kathy Goldberg Fishman. (NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2000).**

On Purim is the most recent in a series of books about holidays that Fishman has written and Melanie W. Hall has illustrated. It is for primary grade children and it relates both the Í éøãÔ story and its meaning. The story is centered around a family's celebration, the point of view is child-like, the narrative is concrete, the warm-colored illustrations are engaging, and the overall effect is charming! Recommended for grades 1 – 3.



-- New Purim Stories are reviewed by Linda R. Silver, JECC Librarian

## **New Ellison Dies For í éøåô**

The Teacher Center has four new dies that can be use to decorate your classroom -- and your students.

- **Masks:**

Pre-cut in two different sizes. Quickly cut a template for your students and let them decorate their own masks!



- **Gift bag:**

This die cuts a template that is easily folded into a small gift bag for Úåðî Çâì ùî (*Mishloah Manot*, sending gifts of food).

- **Crown:**

This die cuts beautiful crowns that may also be used for a bulletin board border.



### **Updated Teacher Center Games and Big Books:**

Come in and check out the big book, Purim, Purim What Do You See.

The updated graphics make this book even easier to assemble.

í éøåô board games include: íÙåùì ãòöî (*Mitz'ad Lashushan*, March to Shushan), Purim Go Fish, and Purim Pins.

*-- Compiled by Ronna Fox and Marci Rogozen,  
Teacher Center Co-Directors*

## **Websites**

These Jewish holiday web sites have í éøåô background information, games, family activities, quizzes, and recipes.

Jewish Holidays.com (<http://www.jewishholidays.com>)

Orthodox Union – The Jewish Calendar (<http://www.ou.org/chagim>)

UAHC – The Jewish Parent Page (<http://www.uahcweb.org/educate/parent>)

Virtual Jerusalem – The Jewish Year (<http://www.vjholidays.com>)

*-- Compiled by Maury Greenberg, Director of Technology Resources*

## **Videos**

**Alef..Bet..Blast-Off! The Whole Megillah. Distributed by Ergo, 1998.**

**(30 minutes in color)**

David and Rachel just aren't in the mood to celebrate í éøåô this year, until they find themselves in ancient Persia, face-to-face with the evil Haman. Mitzvah Mouse and brave Queen Esther save the day. The use of puppets is appealing to youngsters in this fun video. Recommended for grades 2 – 4.

Ha ra'ashan. Distributed by New York Bureau Of Jewish Education, 1977.

(10 minutes in color animation)

Although this is not a new video, it is, nonetheless, one of the few films using easy-to-understand Hebrew vocabulary to tell a special í éøåô story. *Ha ra'ashan* is about a young boy who finds a noisemaker that only sounds when the name of Haman is spoken. The secret of the *gragger* is revealed in a catchy melody with which children can sing along. A teacher guide is available. This is a fine supplement to Hebrew language studies.

*-- Reviewed by Bonnie Shapiro,  
Ratner Media & Technology Center Associate*