

קול בית-הספר

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The Story of Purim

Once upon a time there was a girl named Esther. She lived with her cousin Mordecai. Her mother and father were dead. One day there was great noise in the streets. The servants of the King said "Every maiden must go to King Ahasuerus's Palace and there he will choose a wife". They placed her on a white horse and went away. The King fell in love with the girl called Esther and they got married. One day Mordecai saved the King's life. He heard two servants making a plot against the King. Mordecai told Esther. She told King Ahasuerus and the plot was stopped. The King had a Prime Minister whose name was Haman. When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow down to him, he was going to kill the Jews on the 13th day of Adar. Esther was very sad. Mordecai told her to ask the King for help. Now one could not enter the King's room unless he was called. She prayed for 3 days and dressed up in her clothing. She went to the King. He said, "Come in and let me feast my eyes on you". She went in and said, "I want to dine with you and I have something to ask you". They dined and Esther said "Let me dine with you tomorrow, and I will tell you what I want". That night the King could not go to sleep. He asked a servant to read him a story. The story told about a man saving the King's life. King Ahasuerus asked Haman what a good reward would be. Haman thinking the reward was for himself, said, "Let him dress up in the finest clothes and be led through the city". So Haman led Mordecai through the city. That night at the feast the Queen said, "Please do not let me die". Haman made a gallows to hang Mordecai and Haman got hung instead."

Roger Tatken
Grade 1

In Shushan

It was a night in Shushan a long time ago
Where the Jews were unhappy because of their foes
But Mordecai and Esther heard of their plight
and hurried to the King to make everything right.
Now we Jews today should certainly know
that Purim honors the brave of long ago.

Carla Marcus
Grade 1

The Festival of Purim

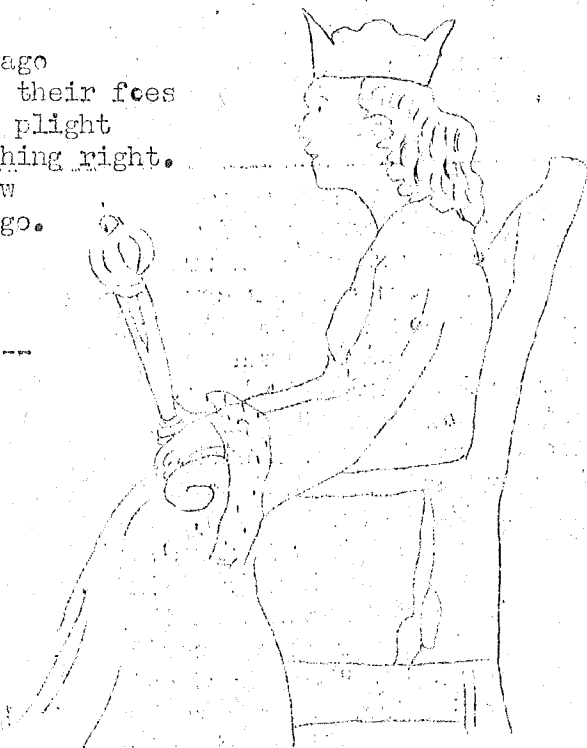
Purim is a happy time.
Every year at Purim time
the Megillah is read
to remind us of how Mordecai
and Queen Esther saved the
Jews from the wicked Haman

Heward Zack Grade 1

Purim Holiday

Purim is a happy holiday
As happy as can be
Every child loves Purim
Just as you and me

Jane Shalek Grade 2



Purim comes but once a year,
We wish that it would stay
Sometimes we do say
Why must Purim go away

Questions:

1. What does the Hebrew word Purim mean?
2. On what Hebrew date does the festival of Purim fall?
3. In what section of the Bible is the story of Purim recorded?
4. What does the Hebrew word "Megillah" mean?
5. By the way: How many Megilloth do we have in our Bible?
6. Name the main characters of "Megillah Esther".
7. How is the Purim Festival observed in the Synagogue?
8. What is a "Gregger" and when do we use it?
9. What does "Mishloach Manoth" mean?
10. What is the "Purim Seudah"?
11. What are "Haman-Tashen"?
12. What other "Purims" some Jewish communities do have besides the main Purim?
13. What does the word "Adloyada" mean, and where is the Adloyada celebrated?
14. Our Rabbis of the Talmud are quoted as saying: "Should all other festivals cease to be observed (In the days of Messiah), the Festival of Purim will never be annulled".
Why has Purim assumed such a special significance in our Jewish life?
15. What double lesson has the Purim episode taught the Jews?

"Queen Esther"

Esther was a maiden fair
With long dark silky hair,
And with Mordecai her cousin bold
The Jews together she did hold
Haman was a wicked man
Mordecai he tried to hang,
Esther told the King of this
and he granted her a wish.
A party Esther wished to have
And invite Haman the bad,
The King she told of Haman's plot
And that he also had drawn lots.
The King asked Haman when they met
What wealth a great man could get,
The King said, "Lead Mordecai"
Then you'll hang on the gallows high!

Stephanie Wiener
Grade 5

Purim Now and Then

Here, in breif, is the story of Purim.

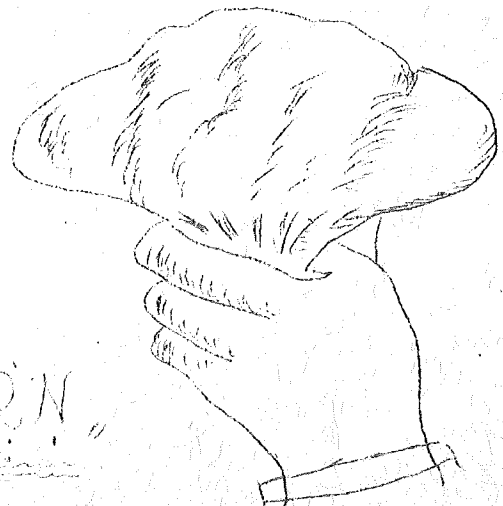
The king's royal messengers come galloping down the street. At every door they stop to read the royal announcement. "Vashti the kings wife has been hanged because she refused to show off before his friends. Vashti has been slain". The proclamation went on to say that the King Achashveras was looking for a new wife. But of course nobody was too over-anxious to wed him despite the rich rewards to be received because of the fate of Vashti. Esther, a beautiful Jewish girl, became the new queen of Persia, and never revealed that she was a Jewess until it was necessary to save her people from the gallows of the villain, Haman.

Of course the Jewish people of Persia were saved, Haman was destroyed, and all things turned out for the best. But there's still a lot more that you can do for Israel right now than just let out a sigh of relief and turn on the television--such as find a J.N.F. box and start filling it up--way up! Don't get me wrong now. I don't mean to rush right out and plant five or six forrests in Israel. I just mean that if thirty people would give just 5¢ mind you, a great big and valuable tree would spring up in Eretz Yisroel (Israel) And believe me--Israel needs that nickel a lot more than you do.

So next time you want that new electric blanket or air-conditioner, say this little verse to yourself:

It's good for you honey
But Israel needs the money.

by Joel Goldberg Grade 3



"Haman Tashen"

The Story of Purim

Once upon a time there was a girl named Esther, and she lived with her cousin for her mother and father were dead. One day the king, Ahasueros, commanded all the unmarried maidens of the country to go to the palace, for the king was to choose his queen. Esther was chosen queen. Sometime after they were married Mordecai overheard a plot to kill the king, Ahasueros. Mordecai told Esther about the plot. Esther saved the king Ahasueros's life. The king thought Mordecai deserved a reward for saving his life. Now Haman was plotting to kill the Jews. He told the king that there were people in his land who did things differently than he did, and thought they should be hung. The king told him to do as he thought would be best. After much planning Haman finished the plot. Now Esther heard about the plans, and went to king Ahasueros asking him and Haman to a banquet, then she thought it would be best to wait, so she invited them to a feast and asked King Ahasueros to save her people. The king soon found out and Haman was hung on his own gallows the next day.

Susan Silverhart Grade 1

Many Kinds of Purim

When we celebrate Purim we hear only the famous story of Esther but there are many other Purim stories.

There is one story about a cruel governor in Egypt. Not only was he cruel to the Jews but also to his own people. One day he went to bathe as usual and was stabbed, not by a Jew but by one of his own people. All the people rejoiced and it was a Purim celebration for them.

In Israel the children get dressed up and go from house to house acting out the play of Purim. The children have a plate with food, fruit and candies covered with a cloth and when they knock on the door, the people in the house take something from the plate and put something else in. Sometimes they put money in the Blue Box, a gift for Israel. This is called Mishloach-Manoth.

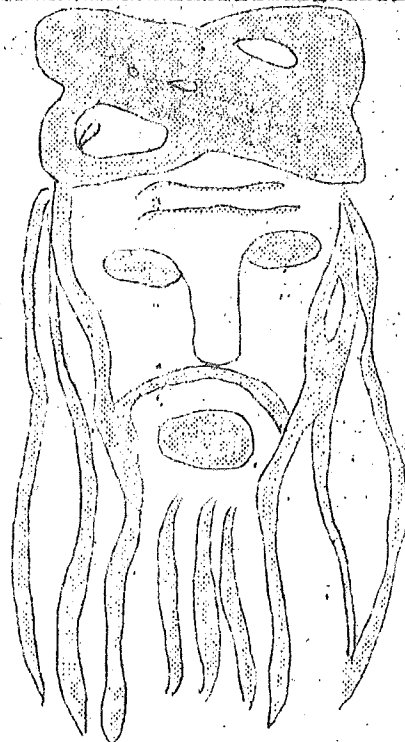
We must not forget about the way we celebrate Purim. We must not forget about all the people, Mordecai, the lovely Esther, King Ahasueros, and especially the wicked Haman. Queen Vashti, of course, played a part too. It all seems like a play although it isn't. It's only our own Jewish History.

Marta Miller Grade 2

Purim

Purim is a happy holiday for the Jews because they were saved from great trouble. Foolish Ahasueros listened to bad Haman when Haman wanted to destroy the Jews. The Lord sent Esther to help him save the Jewish people. When Ahasueros, the King held out his golden scepter to her, when she came before him, Esther knew all would be well with the Jews. And it was. That is why we celebrate Purim.

Judith Lowen Grade 2



Answers to questions on page 3

1. "Lots"
2. The fourteenth day of Adar.
3. Megillath Esther - the Book of Esther.
4. A scroll of parchment.
5. Five;
 - a. Megillath Ruth (Is is read on Shavuot)
 - b. Megillath Eicha - Lamentations
(Read on Tisho-B'ov)

Purim

When Purim comes we're happy and gay
Think about the story of this holiday
Remember Esther so loyal and true
and her cousin Mordecai, a pious Jew

Haman was a very wicked man
He said he'd kill every Jew in the land
But Esther told the king that,
as a Jewess she would stay
Together with her people, come what may.

The Answers (continued)

- c. Kohleth-Ecclesiastes
(Read on Succoth)
- d. Shir-Hashirim - Song of Songs
(Read on Pesach)
- e. Megillah Esther
(Read on Purim)
6. Esther, Mordecai, Ahasueros, Haman Vashti.
7. By reading the Megillah at the evening and morning services.
8. A noise maker. The children whirl the gregger during the reading of the Megillah, whenever Haman's name is mentioned.
9. Sending of gifts.
10. Purim Feast.
11. Special triangular shaped cake, filled with poppy seeds.
12. The "Cairo-Purim". The Jews of Cairo (Egypt) were saved from a cruel wicked Egyptian ruler, in Adar, 1514.
"Vincenz-Purim". The Jews in Frankfurt were saved from a german Haman in Elul, 1614.
13. The name of the Purim carnival in Tel-Aviv, Israel.
14. Because the fate of Israel throughout the generations is symbolized in the story of Purim.
15. a. Not to place too great reliance (confidence) on the goodwill of the ruler of any land.
b. Not to despair, when the situation appears to be extreme, dangerous and hopeless.

Hamantashen

Hamantashen Hamantashen,
Yum Yum Yum.
And in the oven there is such a hum
And when it comes out
We all seem to shout
Happy Purim to all
To big and to small;
by Bonnie Margolin Grade 2

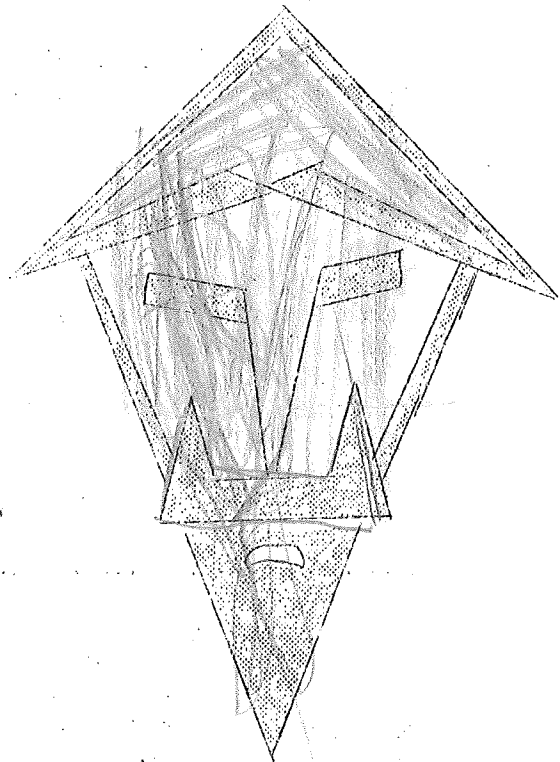
When King Ahasueros heard her, he
decreed
That Haman would hang for his wicked deed.

So the Jews were saved on this holiday
And Haman was hanged much to his dismay.

Queen Esther and King Ahasueros
reigned long after
And today on Purim there's song and laughter.

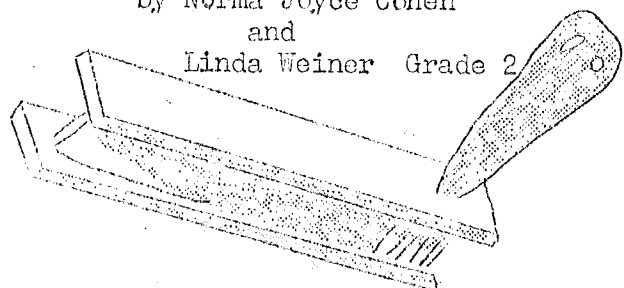
This story proves it's worthwhile
to fight
For Justice and honor and all things
that are right.

By Susan Bean Grade 3



Purim Day

We all dress up on Purim Day
All are happy, all are gay.
This holiday comes but once a year,
And everyone is filled with cheer.
Homantashen we will soon eat
And all the things for a good treat.
by Norma Joyce Cohen
and
Linda Weiner Grade 2



What the Book of Esther means to a Jewess

Did you ever think what would have happened to the Jewish nation if it had not been for the bravery and courage of Esther? In our reading of Jewish history we have found that most of our heroes are men, but at this time God had planned for a woman to save our nation. And doesn't it feel good to say when Purim comes around, that a Jewess saved our nation, and maybe some day we could be as brave as she? There has always been a Haman in Jewish history. Many have wanted to wipe out our people, but God has always come to our rescue. Because of this we have become a mighty nation.

By Alison Smalley Grade 2

Lincoln, Washington and Esther

Lincoln, Washington, and Esther. To me those three names have a lot in common. Oh, yes, it's true that Esther lived in the days of ancient Persia, George Washington lived in colonial times, and Abe Lincoln lived in the days of the Civil War, but their actions, seem to point out a very similar way of thinking. What made Queen Esther dare to go before the king without being sent for? "Oh", you'll probably say, "I know the answer to that right off. She did it because she knew that Haman was going to hang the Jews and she wanted to save them".

But we can come back to that later.

Let's move onto George Washington. What force made George Washington stay with his troops all through that long and cold winter at Valley Forge? Especially when it would have been so simple for a rich General to desert his nation and escape to France—escape to France and escape King George's hangmen!

What about Abraham Lincoln? What prompted him to go in front of the public at Ford's Theatre on that fateful night right after he'd received at least eighty letters threatening his life?

I'm not an expert, but it doesn't take an expert to explain those three people. Esther risked her life to save the rest of her people even if it meant getting hung. Washington stayed at Valley Forge because he wanted the colonists to have freedom just as much as he wanted it himself. His bravery won him one of the greatest honors a man can have—being president of the United States of America. Let us get back to Lincoln. I'll tell you why he gave his life at Ford's Theatre. He wanted to please the Public. Thereby tying the North and the South together with a stronger rope.

All I can say is let's hope that modern Israel and modern America can turn out the kind of men and women that they did in their younger days.

by Joel Goldberg Grade 3

The Festival of Purim

Purim is a Jewish festival to honor the deliverance of the Jews from Haman, the minister of Ahasueros

Haman was a very wicked man who wanted to destroy the Jews.

Esther became the queen of King Ahasueros. Esther and Mordecai, her cousin, stopped Haman from destroying the Jews. Haman was discharged by the King and Mordecai succeeded him. Esther got permission from the King to destroy all those who attacked her people on the day Haman chose for the destruction. There was much joy among the Jews.

Every year to celebrate the deliverance of our people we offer prayers of thanks for Esther's loyalty to her people.

by Margery Gould Grade 1

Purim

Purim is a Jewish national holiday celebrated on the 14th day of Adar. It commemorates the story of Mordecai's triumph over Haman, and the part played by Esther in turning the 13th day of Adar, the day chosen by Haman for the destruction of the Jews, into a day followed by feasting. First we will read the Megillah (Scroll of Esther) in the Synagogue in the evening and

morning services. Every time Haman is mentioned, we will roll our gragers and stamp our feet to drown out the hateful name. We will recite the "Al Hanisim". In the evening we shall eat Homantashen and the other delicious foods prepared for the Purim Seudah. But Purim will not be Purim without the "Shalach Manot". It is the day for gift-giving and for the remembrance of the poor.

Joshua Zdanowitz Grade 3

No Hamans Shall Triumph!

We all know the story of Purim, of Esther the Jewess, of King Ahasueros, of Mordecai, and of the bad Haman. Speaking of Haman, he was not the only person that tried to expel the Jews. There have been Hamans in every century. Hitler, for instance, killed so many of our Jews.

At the present time, the Egyptians, Arabs, and Syrians are acting like Hamans towards our little state of Israel.

But once God said that many would try to banish the Jews from the face of the earth, but none would succeed.

by Ellen Winner, Grade 2

Queen Esther

(to the tune of "Yankee Doodle")

Chorus:

Oh, Esther was among the Jews,
But became queen of Persia,
And if you think that was unlucky
for you I've got some news.

Solo:

Yes, Esther was the queen,
Though her religion was a secret
It all started when the king,
With some friends met

Chorus:

He ordered Vashti to come down
Her figure to show off
But Vashti simply refused
His orders did she scoff

Chorus:

O Achverosh was fit to be tied
His messengers all cried
The king needs a wife-a good head,
The old one is dead.

Chorus:

So then did Esther become the queen,
But the good she did for her people
Even her cousin Mordecai
Could not have forseen.

by Joel Goldberg Grade 3



Do you know the meaning of these Hebrew sentences:

1. כבודי לא פחדתי
2. 28 פרסתי את מלכותי
3. 3 בכה ואלה לא יכלו
4. 4 אהבתי את אלהי אבותי
5. 5 ואלה ביהודים
6. 6 ברח להצטרף אליהם
7. 7 אלהי בחולות עזרתי להם
8. 8 אלהי אלהי אלהי
9. 9 אלהי אלהי
10. 10 אלהי אלהי

GIVE FOR ISRAEL