

# קול בית-הספר

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The Story of Purim

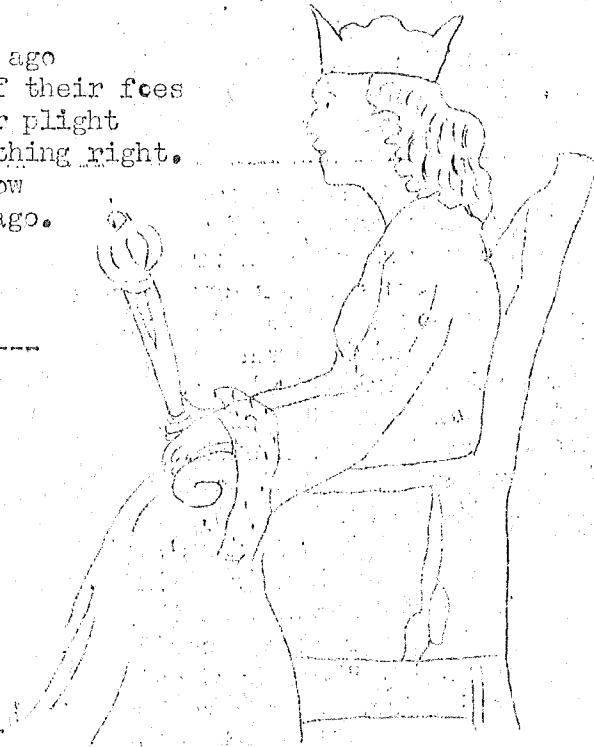
Once upon a time there was a girl named Esther. She lived with her cousin Mordecai. Her mother and father were dead. One day there was great noise in the streets. The servants of the King said "Every maiden must go to King Ahasuerus's Palace and there he will choose a wife". They placed her on a white 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

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

Jane Shalek Grade 2

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 "Megillath 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

"Haman Tashen"

Purim Now and Then

Here, in brief, is the story of Purim.

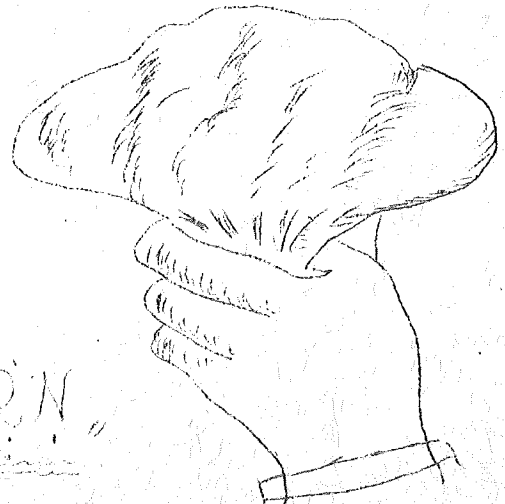
The king's royal messengers come galloping down the street. At every door they stop to read the royal announcement. "Vashti the king's wife has been hanged because she refused to show off before his friends. Vashti has been slain". The proclamation went on to say that the King Achashveras was looking 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



### 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.

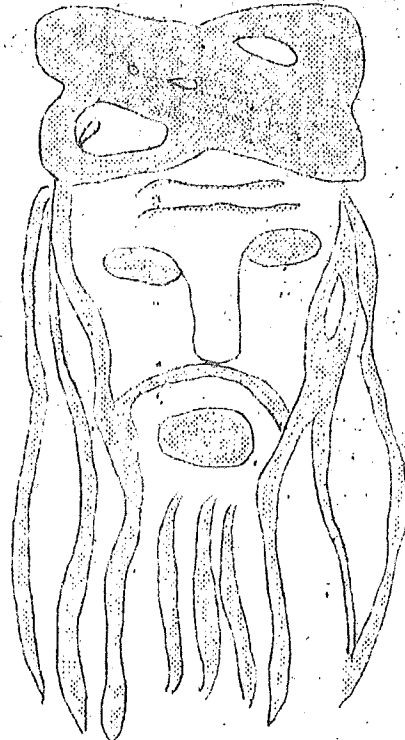
We must not forget about the way we celebrate Purim. We must not forget about all the people, Mordecai, the lovely Esther, King Ahasueros, and especially the wicked Haman. Queen Vashti, of course, played a part too. It all seems like a play although it isn't. It's only our own Jewish History.

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 Lown 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 Shovuos)
  - b. Megillath Eicho - Lamentations  
(Read on Tisho-B'ov)

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.

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.

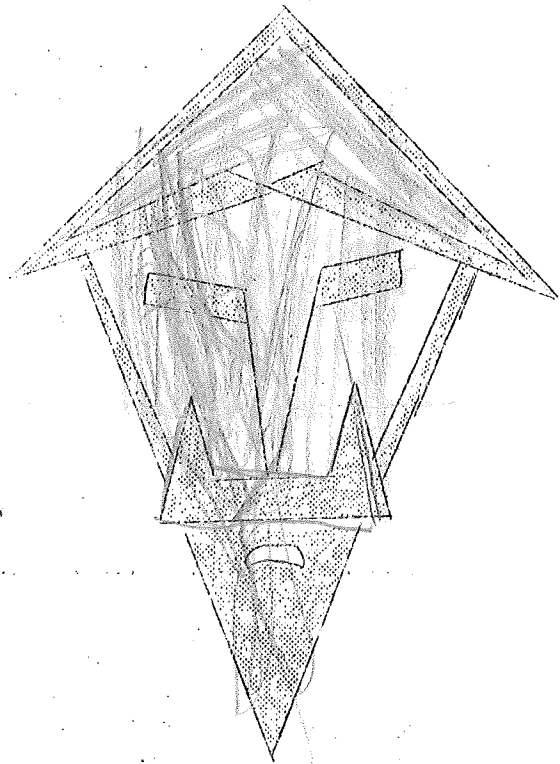
Queen Esther and King Ahasueros  
 reigned long after  
 And today on Purim there's song and  
 laughter.

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

By Susan Bean Grade 3

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 Frank-  
 fort 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 through-  
 out 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.



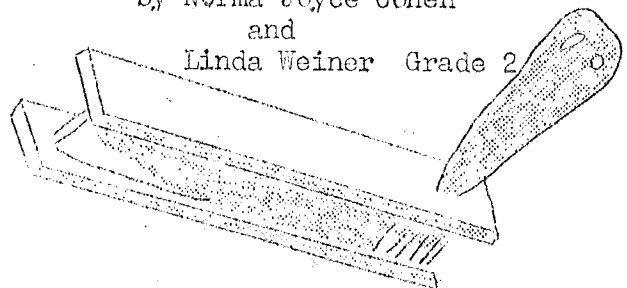
Purim Day

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.  
 Hamantashen we will soon eat  
 And all the things for a good treat.

by Norma Joyce Cohen

and

Linda Weiner Grade 2



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

