

# Purim at Home



Purim – the most festive Jewish holiday – was supposed to be the most tragic. Wicked Haman decreed that the Jews were to be killed on the 13th of Adar. Then everything turned 180° – *VNahafoch Hu* – and the Jews were victorious instead on the 14th.

פורים

But Purim wasn't a Hollywood-like miracle where G-d manifestly saved the Jews. Instead, Jews also saved themselves with Mordechai's defiance, Esther's courage, and the Jews' determination to take a united stand. *These* we celebrate on Purim.

## Four Mitzvot of Purim (all begin with Mem - מ)

Though we don't light candles or make Kiddush on the holiday, we celebrate Purim in the following ways in shul and at home. These traditions originate from Megillat Esther itself and remind us that life is richer when experienced with other people.

### 1. **M**egillat Esther (Book of Esther - מְגִילַת אֶסְתֵּר)

Listen to the Book of Esther, which tells the Purim story, at night and morning. Shake those groggers to drown out wicked Haman's name!

### 2. **M**ishteh (Feast - מִשְׁתֵּה)

Enjoy a meal with good food and drink. Perform silly skits (spiel) to draw laughs in the spirit of merrymaking.

### 3. **M**ishloach Manot (Sending food to one another - מִשְׁלוח מָנוֹת)

Send at least two separate foods to at least one person; the more the better! This gesture expresses the joys of friendship and community.

### 4. **M**atanot LaEvyonim (Gifts to the poor - מַתָּנוֹת לְאֶבְיוֹנִים)

Give Tzedakah to at least two people (or organizations that help the poor). This gesture reminds us that our joy should be shared with others.

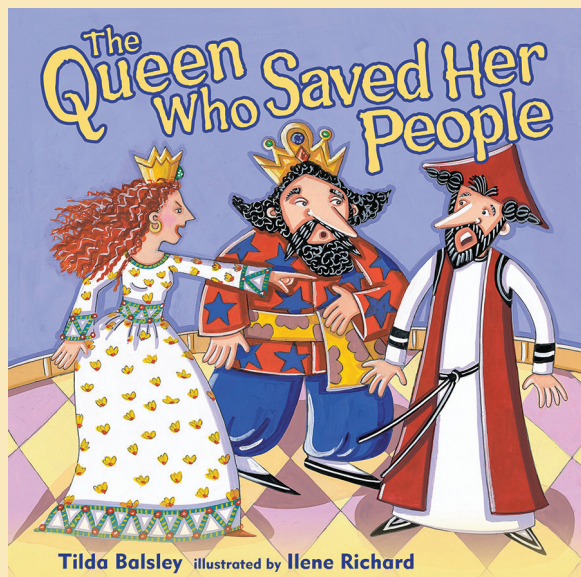






# Purim Books for Families

The following books are available in our Pinsof Children's Reading Room in the Maxwell Abell Library



## The Queen Who Saved Her People

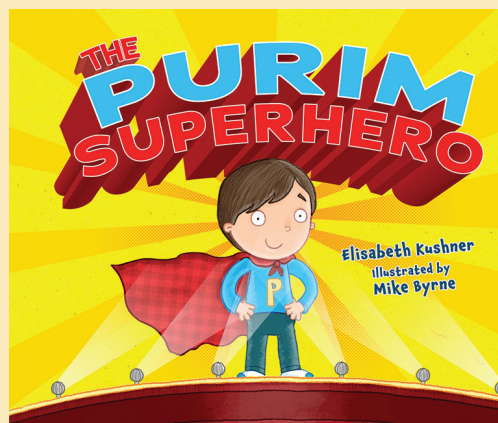
by Tilda Balsley, illustrated by Ilene Richard

This rhyming retelling of the story of Esther, the Jewish girl who became queen, is so much fun to read-aloud.

## Is it Purim Yet?

by Chris Barash, illustrated by Alessandra Psacharopulo

Join a family as they celebrate the bravery of Queen Esther and the joy of being together.



## The Purim Superhero

by Elisabeth Kushner, illustrated by Mike Byrne

Nate wants to dress as an alien for Purim but his friend wants him to wear a superhero costume, so Nate seeks guidance from his Daddy and Abba, who advise that being yourself makes you stronger.

## Purim is Coming!

by Tracy Newman

In this new board book, a family and their dog celebrate Purim with the megillah reading, a parade, hamantaschen, and a carnival.

