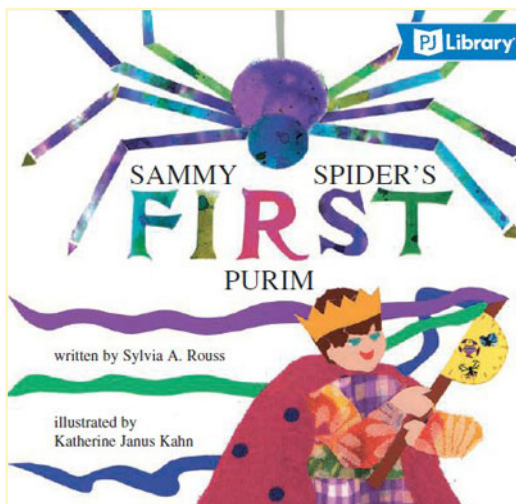


# Sammy Spider's First Purim

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{ **What's your noise?** }

## Serious Fun

Purim is fun, but at its heart lies a serious story. Long ago, a young woman named Esther married the king of ancient Persia but hid that she was Jewish. When the king's evil minister, Haman, plotted to destroy the Jews, Esther revealed her Jewish identity and saved her people. Today, Esther is remembered for her bravery. And Haman? Well, there's a tradition of drowning out his name by making as much noise as possible during the reading of the Megillah (the Book of Esther). So, get ready – it's going to get loud! To learn more, visit [pjlibrary.org/sammyspiderspurim](http://pjlibrary.org/sammyspiderspurim).

## HANDS ON!

### Make Josh's Grogger

A grogger can be as simple as a paper plate shaker like the one Josh uses in this book. You can make your own.

- Supplies:
- Paper plate
- Markers, crayons, or other art supplies
- Buttons, dried beans, or dried rice
- Stapler
- Stick
- Ribbons

Decorate the bottom side of the paper plate. Fold the plate in half, with the decorated side facing out. Place buttons inside of the folded plate (other filling ideas: small pebbles, uncooked pasta or rice – feel free to experiment!). Fold the plate closed around the stick and staple it shut. Tie ribbons on the end of the stick. Shake, shake, shake on Purim -- or anytime you feel like making some noise!

### Make Some Noise!

Josh Shapiro has fun making his colorful Purim grogger (or gregger -- a noisemaker) in this story, but Sammy is shaken up by the experience! The rowdy tradition of using groggers to make noise on Purim dates all the way back to the Middle Ages. Different customs abound. Some communities knock stones together or stamp feet when Haman's name is read. Pounding wooden boards with hammers is another option. Pretty much anything goes – cowbells, drums, bicycle horns, kazoos, musical instruments....This is one day when kids are encouraged to be as loud as possible.

### Tasty Triangles

If only Sammy had crawled inside the hamantaschen instead a grogger! These triangular cookies are a classic Purim treat. Hamantaschen can be filled with chocolate, apricot, poppy, raspberry...almost anything! Many families bake hamantaschen and then give them to friends and neighbors in mishloach manot (Purim baskets). Delicious food – both in the making and eating – creates wonderful holiday memories.

## TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

**WHAT** is your favorite costume to dress up in?

**WHAT** loud noises do you like? Are there any loud sounds you don't like? Which ones?

**IMAGINE** you are a spider like Sammy. Where in your house would you spin a web? What would you be able to see from your web?