

Is It Purim Yet?

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What brings you joy?

Time for Fun

Purim, which celebrates the story of how the biblical Queen Esther's bravery saved the Jews of Persia, is especially fun for children. The family in this book takes part in classic Purim activities: they bake hamantaschen (triangular filled cookies), give away Purim baskets, shake groggers (Yiddish for "noisemakers") as they listen to the Megillah (the Book of Esther), and dress in costume. The kids in this story dress up as characters from the story of Purim. For a child-friendly version of the story, visit pjlibrary.org/purim.

HANDS ON!

Make a Quick Scarf Costume!

Purim costumes can be very elaborate, but they don't have to be. You can make simple, fun costumes with almost no prep. Just grab a scarf and transform yourself into...

A superhero. Tie one end of the scarf around your neck and let the scarf trail behind you. Wear a tight-fitting shirt and leggings to complete the look, then strike a super pose.

A bride. Attach a white scarf to your hair with a ponytail holder. An extra-long white T-shirt belted around the waist completes your wedding look.

A horse. Tuck the top of the scarf in the back of your waistband for your tail. Wear gloves and socks for your hooves, and get on all fours.

Spring Fling

Purim falls in the Jewish month of Adar, which is the reason for this saying: "When you enter Adar, joy increases." Adar arrives between mid-February to mid-March and immediately precedes the month of Nisan, which brings the springtime holiday of Passover. As the scenes in this book show, it's not just Purim that's on its way -- it's spring, too. After a long winter, anticipating spring can increase our joy.

The Fab Four

The story of Purim is all about turning a bad situation around into a good one. The Megillah mandates four mitzvot (Hebrew for "commandments" or good deeds) for celebrating the miraculous turn-around, and each of them appears in this book: 1. Listen to the story of Purim together. 2. Share a big meal. 3. Deliver mishloach manot (gift baskets) to neighbors and friends. 4. Give matanot la'evyonim (donations to the poor) to those who need help. Even when doing just one of these, joy is certain to increase!

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

THE family in this book does many things to get ready for Purim. Which of these activities do you like to do?

HAVE you ever dressed in costume? Who do you like to dress up as?

THE family in this book makes strawberry and prune hamantaschen for Purim. If you were making hamantaschen, what filling would you use?