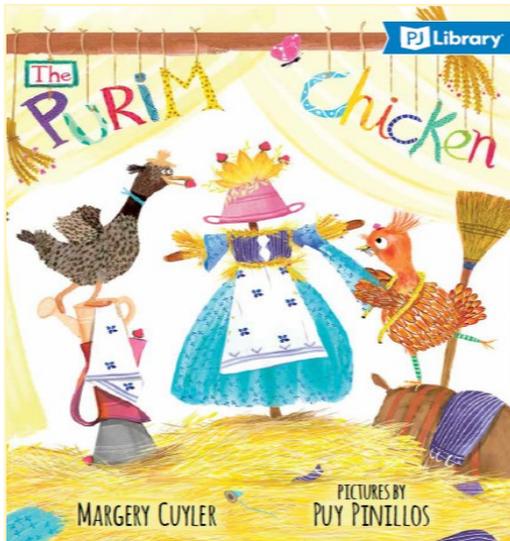


The Purim Chicken

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{ When do you feel brave? }

A Story of Courage

The holiday of Purim is a lot of fun, but the story of Purim is filled with danger. Back in the fourth century BCE, a young woman named Esther married the Persian king, but hid that she was Jewish. When the king's fox-like minister, Haman, plotted to destroy the Jews of Persia, Esther had to decide whether to stay silent or speak up on behalf of her people -- and share their fate, whatever it might be. Esther mustered the courage to tell the king the truth about who she was -- and saved her community in the process, just as Cluck summons her bravery to save Quack. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/purimchicken

HANDS ON!

Make a Grogger

When a community gathers together to listen to the story of Purim read aloud, it's traditional to shake groggers, noisemakers, to drown out the sound of the name of Haman, the villain of the Purim story. A grogger can be anything that makes noise. Here's a simple one you can make with items in your recycling bin.

Supplies:

- Small empty cardboard box
- Art supplies -- paint, stickers, etc.
- Dried beans (macaroni or rice works, too)
- Tape

Use your art supplies to decorate your cardboard box as you like. Fill the box about a third of the way up with dried beans. Tape the box shut. Now, the next time you hear that sly fox Haman's name, shake, shake, shake!

Play Time

The animals in this story take part in classic Purim activities. They dress in costume, create groggers to make noise during the reading of the Megillah (the Book of Esther), and look forward to eating hamantaschen, triangular Purim cookies. And of course, they put on a play! Presenting a spiel (Yiddish for "play") has been a Purim custom since the 14th century. A spiel is often silly and playful -- and it can give unsung heroes like Cluck a chance to shine.

Mad Skills

Sometimes life casts us in roles we don't expect, and how we perform them is a test of our character. It's a lucky thing that we all have our own unique skills, since we never know when they will come in handy. For Cluck, practicing loud "clucks" ended up being a useful weapon when she scared away the fox. Who knows? Maybe you'll use your musical skills to cheer up a sick friend or your baking skills to welcome someone new to your neighborhood.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

WHEN Cluck doesn't get the part she wants in the Purim play, she's disappointed. How does she make the best of it? What do you do when things don't go your way?

IN the Purim story, Queen Esther hides her Jewish identity for a long time. Have you ever kept a secret about yourself? How did you feel about it?

CAN you think of a time when you were scared but chose to act bravely? What happened?