

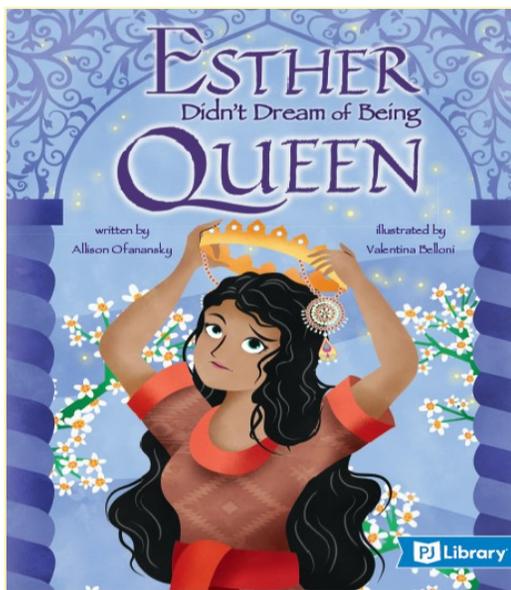
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{ When do you stand up for what's right? }



HANDS ON!

Make Hamantaschen

You may notice that in this book, Haman always wears a hat -- and it's almost the shape of a triangle. According to tradition, Haman did indeed have a triangular shaped hat, which is why hamantaschen, the classic Purim cookies, are shaped like triangles.

Making hamantaschen is a lot of fun. You can find recipes at pjlibrary.org/purim.

Traditional hamantaschen fillings are prunes and poppyseeds; many families like to use a little strawberry jam or even chocolate chips.

Once the dough is ready, here's how to make the triangular "hats":

Roll out your dough so it's very thin.
Use a round cookie cutter or the top of a drinking glass to cut out circles in the dough.
Place a little bit of your favorite filling in the center of each circle.

Pinch the circles together on three sides, creating a triangle.

Bake as your recipe directs. Happy Purim!

Fun and Games

Purim, a carnival holiday arriving in early spring, is a celebration. People dress in costume, bake and share treats, gather together to listen to the Megillah (Book of Esther) being read aloud, and make lots of noise. But the story in the Megillah is not all fun and games. As this retelling shows, the story of Purim is a tale of how a community faced peril, and how one woman's bravery saved the day. To learn more, visit pjlibrary.org/estherdidntdream.

A Different Kind of Fairy Tale

"I'm not Cinderella," Esther tells us at the start of this book. Fairy tales lead to happy endings for a prince and princess, but Esther's bravery leads to a happy ending for her entire community. Her decision to utilize her power, face her moment of truth, and risk her life for her people is what the ancient sage Rabbi Hillel had in mind when he said: "If I am not for myself, who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?" Even when life isn't a fairy tale, we can all try to be brave and stand up for others when it matters.

Modesty

Queen Esther is often celebrated for her bravery -- it took courage for her to reveal her identity to the king. But this version of the Purim story highlights her modesty (in Hebrew, tz'niut). While others vie to be chosen as the new queen, Esther hides from the king's guards for three years. When she is finally brought to the palace, she doesn't put on fancy clothes or fix her hair. She just wants to be herself -- and eventually, her willingness to reveal who she really is saves the day.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR KIDS

WHY do you think Esther isn't interested in becoming the queen? How would you feel if you were in Esther's position?

ESTHER doesn't enjoy dressing up, but lots of people do, at least sometimes. How do you feel about dressing up?

ESTHER bravely tells the king that she is Jewish. Why does she do it? What happens?