

The Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education's

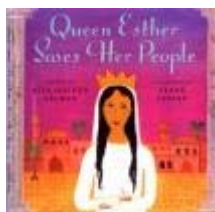


SELECTED PURIM LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Seidman Educational Resource Center
Nancy M. Messenger,
Director of Educational Resources

SELECTED BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

- *Adelson, Leone, illustrated by Naomi Howland. *The Mystery Bear: A Purim Story*. New York, NY: Clarion Books, 2004.
When he awakens from hibernation, Little Bear's hunger leads him to a house where a Purim celebration is taking place. Age: 5 - 8.
- *Blitz, Shmuel, illustrated by Tova Katz. *The Artsroll Children's Megillah*. Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 2003.
Accompanying the colorfully illustrated full English and Hebrew text of the Megillah, this book includes fascinating tidbits of *halahkic* and *midrashic* information, entitled "A Closer Look" and "Did You Know" sections. It also contains the traditional blessings recited before and after the reading of the Megillah, as well as selected laws of Purim. Age: 8 -adult.
- Fishman, Cathy Goldberg. *On Purim*. New York, NY: Atheneum Books, 2000.
A family's preparations for Purim help explain the story and traditions of the holiday. Age 7 - 9.



- Gelman, Rita Golden. *Queen Esther Saves Her People*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press, 1998.
A retelling of the Purim story with beautiful full-color illustrations. It concludes with a section entitled "A Purim Notebook" that tells, on a child's level, about the traditions of the Purim celebration. Age: 7 - 9.

- Gerstein, Mordicai. *Queen Esther the Morning Star*. New York, NY: Simon and Shuster, 2000.
Retells the story of how Esther, a beautiful Jewish girl, became the Queen of Persia and saved her people from death at the hands of the evil Haman. Colorful illustrations. Age: 7 - 9.
- Goldin, Barbara Diamond. *Cakes and Miracles: A Purim Tale*. New York, NY: Viking Penguin, 1991.
Young, blind Hershel finds that he has special gifts he can use to help his mother during the Jewish holiday of Purim. Age: 7 - 9.
- Kress, Camille. *Purim!* New York, NY: UAHC Press, 1998.
A very simple board book with brief captions and lovely pictures for very young children, illustrating "Purim is a Time for . . ." Age: Preschool.

Kropf, Latifa Berry, with photographs by Tod Cohen. *It's Purim Time!* Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2005.

Watch youngsters dress up and act out the story of Purim, eat hamentaschen, deliver *shalah manot*, and make their own recycled groggers (instructions included) in this photo essay book. Age: 3-5.

*Lewis, Joe. *How to Present a Purim Play, with Six Original Plays and One Chanukah Play* by Miriam Lewis. Oak Park, MI: The Singlish Publication Society, 2002.

A collection of five irreverent Purim plays (and one Hanukkah play) for performance by children. The book is packed with lots of practical advice for "directors." Age: 8-13.

*Pollack Gadi. *PurimShpiel: The Events in the Book of Esther Presented in the Light of Midrashic Sources, with the Addition of Humorous Details and Whimsical Touches in the Spirit of the Traditional "Purim Play."* Jerusalem/New York: Feldheim Publishers, 2003.

The events in the Book of Esther, presented in the light of *midrashic* sources, with the addition of humorous details and the spirit of the traditional "Purim play."

Accompanied by whimsical illustrations. For all ages.



Rouss, Sylvia A. *Sammy Spider's First Purim*. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 2000.

A young spider wants to join in as Josh and his mother bake *hamentaschen*, make a costume, and spin the *grogger*, in celebration of Purim. Age: Preschool.

Scherman, Nosson and Meir Zlotowitz. *Artscroll Youth Megillah: Fully Illustrated with the Complete Text, Simplified Translation and Comments*. Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, 1988.

This Megillah contains large, bright illustrations, full clear Hebrew text and English translation, as well as a brief summary for young readers and brief commentary for older ones. Age: 9+.

*Schram, Peninnah, illustrated by Tammy L. Keiser. *The Purim Costume*. New York, NY: URJ Press, 2004.

Is Esther the heroine of Purim? This picture book takes a fresh look at the traditional tale of ancient Persia through the eyes of a modern-day child. Age: 5 - 8.

Silberman, Shoshana. *The Whole Megillah* (Almost)*. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, Inc., 1990.

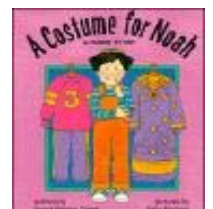
Abridged English version with selected commentaries and questions to spark discussion. Selected Hebrew verses with trope marks. Includes a brief play with stage instructions, music and costume suggestions. Age: 9 - 11

*Simpson, Lesley. *The Purim Surprise*, illustrated by Peter Church. Minneapolis, MN: Kar-Ben Publishing, 2003.

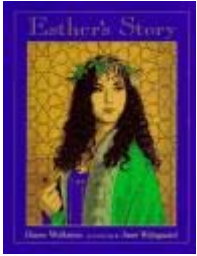
Having moved to a new city just before Purim, Naomi reluctantly agrees to help deliver *shalah manot*, Purim treats, to total strangers while worrying that her mother has forgotten her seventh birthday. Age: 5 - 8.

Topek, Susan Remick. *A Costume for Noah: A Purim Story*. Rockville, MD: Kar-Ben Copies, 1995.

A young child's Purim story introducing the terminology of the holiday - and the notion of dressing up. Age: Preschool.



Touger, Malka, Adapter. *Esther: Me'am Lo'ez for Youth*. New York, NY: Moznaim Publishers, 1989.
Lively and imaginative retelling of the Book of Esther, based upon the 18th century Ladino commentary, the *Me'am Lo'ez*, including *midrashim*, anecdotes, legends and folklore. Age: 9 - 11.



Wolkstein, Diane. *Esther's Story*. New York, NY: Mulberry Books, 1995.
Retold in the first person, "Esther's Story" is woven from the Biblical account, legends, and the author's interpretations. The detailed illustrations are captivating and recreate a Persian milieu. Age: 9 - 11.

SELECTED BOOKS FOR PURIM FOR ADULTS



Apisdorf, Shimon. *The One Hour Purim Primer: Everything a Family Needs to Understand, Celebrate and Enjoy Purim*. Baltimore, MD: Leviathan Press, 1995.
This booklet provides a condensed outline of the Megillah, as well as specific guides for celebrating Purim. Because of the connection between Purim and masks, a final chapter describes the time when the people of Israel were forced to wear gas masks during the Gulf War.

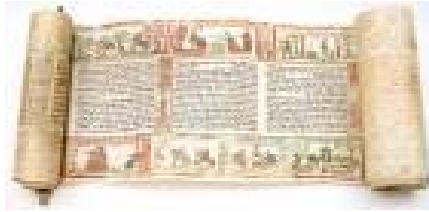
Berlin, Adele, Editor. *The JPS Bible Commentary: Esther*. Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 2001.
A number of enlightening introductory essays, including "When and Where was the Book of Esther Written?" and "Esther and Biblical Women." Contains the Hebrew text of Megillat Esther with English translation, plus extensive commentary by Adele Berlin, and a number of introductory essays. Reference citations and a bibliography are also provided.

Cahn, Yoel T. *Links Beyond Time: The Book of Esther in Light of the Life of Yoseph*. Southfield, MI: Targum Publishers, 1995.
The book links the parallels between the lives of Esther and Joseph, their backgrounds and achievements. It also links the similarities of language in these respective Biblical texts and the insights they reveal.

Gold, Avie. Purim: *Its Observance and Significance - A Presentation based on Talmudic and Traditional Sources*. Brooklyn, NY: Mesorah Publications, Ltd., 1993.
Purim - its observance and significance, based on Talmudic and traditional Orthodox sources. Includes the full Hebrew text of the Megillah, with English translation.

Goodman, Philip. *The Purim Anthology*. Philadelphia, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, reissued 2003.
The classic collection of Purim resources, covering the history and celebration of Purim with selections from prose, poetry and scripture. Special sections with songs, recipes and children's stories complete the volume.





Rotenberg, Shlomo. " . . . *At These Days of Purim*": *The Miraculous Turnaround as Recorded in Talmud and Midrash*. Brooklyn, NY: Rabbi Shlomo Rotenberg and Keren Eliezer, 1996. A discussion of Megillat Esther based on traditional commentaries and *midrashim*, with sources cited.

*Waldman, J.T. *Megillat Esther*. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 2005. The Book of Esther reinvented as a graphic novel with the Hebrew text, original English translation, and rabbinic interpretations woven throughout the panels.

Weinbach, Mendel. *127 Insights into Megillas Esther - Compiled with the Words of Chazal*. A compilation of rabbinic commentaries from the Talmud's "*Mosechta Megilla*" and the Tanakh.

* New to our collection



The Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education
Seidman Educational Resource Center
7607 Old York Road
Melrose Park, PA 19027
(215) 635-8940 FAX (215) 635-8946
www.ajae.org info@ajae.org