

# Purim

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**Vocabulary:** Megillah = Scroll containing the story of Esther

**Symbols/Custom:** hamentaschen, booing for Haman, costumes, parade, groggers, Megillah, mishloach manot (gift baskets)

**Props:** finger puppets of Purim characters, groggers, costumes (crowns, royal jewels), laminated images of things we do during Purim (costumes, groggers, hamentaschen, mishloach manot, Megillah), laminated images of the Purim characters

## Tips for Teaching This Unit:

1. Start off by asking students what they like to do during Purim. Zip their ideas into this song: **When Chag Purim is Here** to the tune of Apples and Bananas. Put laminated images on a felt board for each verse.

### When Chag Purim is Here

to the tune of Apples and Bananas, adapted by Lisa Baydush

I like to eat, eat, eat lots of hamentaschen! (3x)  
when Chag Purim is here!

Dress, dress, dress, dress-up in a costume... *put on costumes*  
Shake, shake, shake, shake 'n shake my grogger... *with groggers*  
Read, read, read, read the whole Megillah...  
March, march, march, march in a parade...  
It's so much fun, fun, fun when Chag Purim is here...

Two's and younger are too young to remember or know anything about Purim, so sing **Purim's a Time** instead. I adapted the song to be a zipper song and eliminated the verse.

### Purim's a Time

by Julie Jaslow Auerbach, adapted



Purim's a time when we dress up and play, *put on costumes*  
Dress up and play, dress up and play!  
Purim's a time when we dress up and play,  
A happy holiday!

...shake, shake our groggers... a noisy holiday! *with groggers*  
...eat hamentaschen... a yummy holiday!  
...read the Megillah... a happy holiday!

2. Explain that there's a bad guy in the story named Haman, and that we make a lot of noise when we hear his name. Sing **Rash Ra'ashan** and **Chag Purim** with groggers. I like to sing the English verses to both songs. Encourage them to shout "rash, rash, rash!" on Chag Purim.

### Rash Ra'ashan

Rash, ra'ashan (Make some noise!) (STOP!) (2X)  
B'chag Purim (On Purim Day) (2X) (repeat)

Purim, Purim, Purim hayom, chag Purim hayom (2x)  
Shake, shake, shake, shake, shake your groggers, when it's Purim Day! (2x)

## Chag Purim

Chag Purim, Chag Purim,  
Chag gadol la-yehudim!  
Ma-se-chof ra'a-sha-nim  
Zmirot v'ri-ku-dim  
Havah narishah, rash! rash! rash! (3x)  
Ba-ra'ashanim.



Purim day, Purim Day,  
What a happy holiday!  
Wear your mask, wear your crown,  
Dancing all around!  
Round go the groggers, rash! rash! rash! (3x)  
Drown out Haman's name!

3. It's time to march in a Purim Parade! I like to give my students bells to play along with the groggers while we march around the room singing **A Purim Parade**. The original song zips in the names of the characters of the Purim story, but I prefer to zip in movements, such as dancing, jumping, walking, skipping. However, at a group holiday sing, I call them up by costume type with this song, i.e., 'Queen Esther is marching,' 'Dinosaurs are marching,' 'Superheroes are marching.' Also, instead of 'we all are marching,' zip in the class name, i.e., 'the monkeys are marching' or 'look who is marching,' which is the original lyric.

## Purim Parade

by Carol Boyd Leon, adapted ([audio](#))

We all are marching in the Purim parade (2x)  
We all are marching while we sing this song  
We all are marching along!

Now we are dancing, jumping, walking, skipping...

4. Now we learn about the characters in the Purim story. **Megillah Megillah, Purim Purim** and **In the Megillah** are three songs that delight my students. Megillah Megillah (ages 3-5) and Purim Purim (grades PK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) have schtick that the children enjoy immensely. Use character finger puppets for In the Megillah (ages 2-3), and encourage students with the verse's corresponding puppet to dance in the middle of the circle.

## Megillah, Megillah ([audio](#))

to the tune of Mi Zeh Bah, adapted by Lisa Baydush

Megillah, Megillah,  
Who's coming out of the Megillah? (repeat)  
End: WE know who's in the Megillah!

There's King Ahashverosh (bless you!)  
He/they like(s) to come and join the fun,  
and sing along with us! Oh... (chorus)

There's Esther, the Jewish queen (Go Esther, Go Esther)...  
There's wicked, wicked Haman (BOO!)...  
There's brave Mordechai (Mordy, Mordy, he's our guy!)...  
There's bold Queen Vashti (Yay, Vashti!)...

## Purim, Purim

by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

Purim (snap), Purim (stamp 2x),  
Purim (slap legs 4x), Purim (clap 2x)! (repeat)

*substitute a clap for the snap with young children*

In this tale, this crazy mixed up tale, there was a  
nice Jewish girl named Esther who became Persia's queen! (twirl and curtsy) (chorus)

...a foolish king, Ahashverosh,  
...a banished wife named Vashti,  
...a wicked advisor, Haman,  
...a proud Jewish guy named Mordechai,  
...plots and intrigues all around  
...we learn that speaking up for what is right  
is a very good thing to do!



## It's All in the Megillah

by Lisa Baydush; verses to the tune of Muffin Man

Do you know the Jewish queen,  
The Jewish queen, the Jewish queen?  
Do you know the Jewish queen?  
Her name is Esther!

### Chorus:

Esther's in the Megillah, the Megillah, the Megillah!  
Esther's in the Megillah, the Megila-la-lah!  
(repeat with la's)



5. Sit back down and unwind with a disappearing song... **My Hat it Has Three Corners.** Children delight in a song that disappears word by word! If you have Hebrew speakers, sing it in Hebrew (**Lakova Sheli**) with the same hand motions. The other students marvel that they can 'understand' the Hebrew because of the hand motions.

## My Hat It Has Three Corners

My hat it has three corners,  
three corners has my hat;  
And had it not three corners,  
it would not be my hat!  
Bum bum!

*my=hand on chest; hat=hand on head  
three=three fingers; corner=elbow (corner of your arm when it is bent)  
had it not=shake finger side to side  
It would not be=shake finger side to side  
Bum bum=fists in the air*

## Lakova Sheli

La-ko-va she-li sha-losh pi-not,  
sha-losh pi-not la-ko-va she-li;  
v'im lo ha-yu lo sha-losh pi-not,  
lo ha-ya ze ha-ko-va she-li!

*la-kova=the hat; sheli=mine  
shalosh=three; pinot=corners  
v'im lo hayu lo=had it not  
Lo haya zeh=it would not be*

6. Sing about hamentaschen:

### Everybody Make Some Hamentaschen

to the tune of Ten Little Indians, adapted by Lisa Baydush

Chorus:

Everybody make some hamentaschen (3x)  
Make some now with me!

Mix the dough (echo)... Hamentaschen!  
(chorus, then add next step)

Roll it out (echo)  
Fill it up (echo)  
Bake it now (echo)  
Tick-tock (3x) DING! Is it ready? Is it hot? Blow on it... now...

Everybody **eat** some hamentaschen (3x)  
Eat some now with me! (repeat) Yummy!



### Nosh Nosh A Hamantash

by Shirley R. Cohen ([audio](#))

Chorus:

Nosh, nosh a hamantash,  
nosh, nosh a hamantash now! (repeat)

Roll roll roll the dough with me,  
roll it flat and you will see  
Haman's hat was just like that,  
Let's nosh a hamantash now (chorus)

Cut cut cut the dough with me, cut it straight and you will see...  
Fill fill fill the dough with me, fill it full and you will see...  
Fold fold fold the dough with me, fold it tight and you will see...  
Bake bake bake the dough with me, bake it brown and you will see...  
Eat eat eat it quick with me, eat it up and you will see...

7. For generalized singing for the holiday, these songs work well:

### We'll be Celebrating Purim When it Comes

to the tune of She'll Be Comin' Around The Mountain

We'll be celebrating Purim when it comes (2x)  
We'll be celebrating Purim (3x) when it comes.

Dressing up in costumes...  
Baking hamentaschen...  
Shake, shake, shaking groggers...

### P is for Purim

to the tune of C is for Cookie

P is for Purim, a happy holiday (3x),  
oh, Purim is a happy holiday

Let's celebrate Purim – hip hip hooray (3x)...  
Let's make lots of noise when we hear Haman's name (boo!)...  
Let's give a great big cheer when we hear Esther's name (yay!)...



## Ani Purim

English verses by Lisa Baydush ([audio](#))

Ani Purim, ani Purim, sa-me-ach um-va-de-ach  
Ha-lo rak pa-am, ba-sha-na, a-vo l'hit-a-re-ach.  
Tra la la la la la (3x) la la la!

Ani Purim, ani Purim, a day of masquerading!  
Wear a costume, wear a crown, 'cause soon we'll be parading!  
Tra la la la la la (3x) la la la!

Ani Purim, ani Purim, a day for merry-making!  
Lots of fun for everyone and hamantaschen baking!  
Tra la la la la la (3x) la la la!

## Happy, Happy, Happy, Happy Purim

by Debbie Waldman, adapted by Lisa Baydush

*Chorus:*

Happy, happy, happy, happy Purim  
Chag sameach b'chag Purim (repeat)

We shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake, shake our groggers  
Whenever we hear mean ol' Haman's name  
And we give a great big cheer for brave Queen Esther  
She's the hero of this holiday! Oh— (chorus)

We eat lots and lots of yummy hamentaschen  
And sing lots and lots of silly songs  
We tell the tale of Haman and Queen Esther  
Whenever Purim comes along! Oh— (chorus)

8. PK and older students love **The Whole Megillah!** It's a fabulous performance piece!

## The Whole Megillah

by Ellen Allard ([audio](#))

When you hear the whole Megillah,  
You will get a Purim thrillah!  
And you won't have to sit stil-lah,  
When you hear the whole Megillah!  
Bum-bum-bum-bum-BUM— bum-bum-bum-bum!

*Thrillah=Do 'Thriller' movement with hands*

*Stillah=wiggle body*

*Megillah=hands up in air*

It is a story of bravery!  
It is a story of deception and defeat!  
It is a story of victory!  
It happened on the fourteenth of Adar... **WHEN?**  
It happened on the fourteenth of Adar! (chorus)

*Hands on hips*

*Make masks with fingers*

*Victorious fist in the air*



Listen to the tale of Vashti and Esther,  
Listen to the tale of Cousin Mordechai,  
Listen to the tale of King Ahashverosh...

*Curtsy*

*Hands on hips*

*Make crown on head*

Hear the name of Haman, stomp your feet *stomp*  
Hear the name of Haman, spin your groggers round *grogger motion*  
Hear the name of Haman, blot it out... *fingers in an x in front of you*

Each and every one take a stand *stand tall*  
Each and every one remember what was done *sign for long ago (wave hands in circular motion by shoulder)*  
Each and every one plays a part... *hands out theatrically*