

Happy Purim from Jewish Children's Folkshul!

1. Number _____
2. Noun _____
3. Noun _____
4. Adjective _____
5. Verb Base Form _____
6. Adjective _____
7. Adjective _____

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_____ Number ago, in a land far away, in a place called Shushan, in the empire of Persia, there lived a _____ Noun, whose name was Ahashverosh, and his _____ Noun, Vashti. One night, he wanted to show off his queen at a _____ Adjective party. He summoned Vashti and asked her to _____ Verb Base Form before all of his _____ Adjective guests, but Vashti told the king !" This made King Ahashverosh _____ Adjective, so he sent Queen Vashti away.

With Queen Vashti gone, King Ahashverosh had to find another queen. He held a beauty contest, and all the women of the land came before him to see who would be chosen. The King saw many fair maidens, but he only had eyes for a young woman by the name of Esther. Esther was a brave and beautiful young woman, and she was also Jewish. But Esther's cousin Mordecai warned her to keep her Jewish identity secret.

The King also looked upon Mordecai with much favor, because he had saved the king from a murderous plot, hatched by two of his palace guards.

Now, King Ahashverosh's most senior official was a very mean man named Haman. When Haman walked down the street, he told every person who passed before him to bow down. Most people were afraid of him, so they complied. But when Mordecai passed Haman, he did not bow down! Mordecai made it known that he was a Jew, and as a Jew, he only bowed before God. Mordecai's refusal to bow made Haman very angry.

Haman decided that he wanted to get rid of all of the Jewish people, so they wouldn't trouble him any more. When Haman told King Ahashverosh of his idea to remove the Jews, the king consented. He told Haman to do as he saw fit.

The Jews of Shushan were in great danger!

When Mordecai found out about this evil plan, he was devastated, as was the entire Jewish community. Mordecai knew that Queen Esther was their only hope.

He told her: "Now is the time to reveal your secret! You must tell King Ahashverosh that you are Jewish. You must

Speak out on behalf of your people! You must ask him to reverse Haman's decree!"

Queen Esther was scared. No one could approach the king without first being summoned! But Esther gathered all of her courage, and she made her way into the king's chamber. With all of the strength she could muster, Esther invited Ahashverosh and Haman to a large feast.

When the time for the feast came, Esther took a deep breath, stood up before the king and Haman, and told them she was Jewish.

She begged the king to spare her and her people from Haman's evil scheme. It was a moment of true bravery. Esther risked everything she had to save the Jewish people of Shushan. But because King Ahashverosh loved her so much, he agreed that the Jews should be able to fight back and protect themselves against attack.

The Jews would be saved! (Haman, meanwhile, was in big trouble.)

News spread fast. The Jewish community rejoiced and declared the 14th day of the Hebrew month of Adar a day of celebration.

To this day, we celebrate Purim on the 14th of Adar with parties and music and great celebration.