



PURIM MASQUERADE

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Purim is a holiday filled with fun, but perhaps the best part is dressing up! This book introduces young readers to the main characters in the Purim story – in mask form.

JEWISH CONCEPTS

Purim is a joyous holiday that arrives on the 14th day of the Jewish month of *Adar*, which coincides with late winter/early spring. On Purim it is customary to listen to the biblical Book of Esther read aloud in synagogue, put on comic productions of the story of Purim called Purim *shpielen* (Yiddish for “plays”), and dress up in costume, including wearing masks! This book features masks for the most important characters in the Book of Esther.

King Ahasuerus’s first queen, **Queen Vashti**, was banished when she refused to parade herself before the king’s friends. **King Ahasuerus** of Persia often acted in reaction to those around him; in this sense, he was a somewhat foolish figure. **Queen Esther** was King Ahasuerus’s newly chosen queen; she risked her life by bravely telling the king that Haman was plotting against the Jewish people. **Haman**, King Ahasuerus’s prime minister, was a villain who plotted to harm the Jewish people. **Mordecai**, Esther’s cousin, saved the king’s life and urged Esther to alert the king to Haman’s plot. In *Purim Masquerade*, you can wear masks of all these characters. Just hold the open book up to your face and look through the eye holes. You can also make your own mask and pretend to be whoever you want!