

Purim

What is Purim?

- Purim is an entertaining Jewish holiday.
- It usually falls in March.
- It is always one month before Passover.
- It commemorates the time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved by a young, courageous Jewish woman named Esther.

The Purim Story

- The story of Purim is told in the book of Esther.
 - Esther is a Jewish girl who becomes Queen to King Xerxes of Persia.
 - By becoming Queen she prevents the death of all the Jews in Persia by persuading King Xerxes not to kill all the Jews.
 - The heroes of the story are Esther and her cousin Mordecai.
 - The villain is Haman, the favourite nobleman of King Xerxes of Persia. Haman orders the killing of the Jews when Mordecai refuses to bow down to him.
 - King Xerxes can also be seen as a villain for his treatment of women and because he was going to kill all the Jews for no good reason.
 - Purim commemorates Esther as her courage saved lots of people.
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- During celebrations at Purim, Jewish people eat, drink and are merry. They attend a service at the Synagogue and lots of people dress up in bright colours to celebrate and show they are happy.
 - During the service, when the name 'Haman' is mentioned in the retelling of The Purim Story, everyone is to make as much noise as possible to ensure the name is not heard as the Haman is the villain in the story.
 - Jewish people are commanded to send gifts of money, food or drink and make donations to charity. The sending of food and drink is called 'sending out portions'.

Challenge 1

Can you make a list of keywords of Purim? I have started a list for you...

Purim, synagogue, food, Esther....

Challenge 2

Can you write an acrostic poem using some of these keywords?

Your acrostic poem could spell out Esther or Purim. Have a look at my example...

E – Elegant queen

S – Saving Jewish people

T – Told the King Xerxes the truth

H – Haman punished

E – Everyone celebrates Purim

R – Really enjoyable celebrations