

THE AUERBACH CENTRAL AGENCY FOR JEWISH EDUCATION  
THE SEIDMAN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

**POETRY for PURIM:**  
**A Creative Writing Activity**



Pupils create poetry about Purim. The poems (couplets, haikus and limericks) can be used for a bulletin board, or publication to be sent home for a class presentation and/or an addition to a *Mishloah Manot* basket.

For Aleph-Bet students we suggest couplets. (Two sentence poems)

**Couplet examples:**

Purim is a day of joy  
For every Jewish girl and boy.

On Purim I love to nosh  
On a fruity hamantash.

Who am I? Don't you see?  
On Purim I'm not just me.

To facilitate the writing, if necessary, the teacher can give the student the first line of a couplet, which the student completes.

For the Gimel-Hey group we suggest either a haiku (5-7-5 syllables). or a limerick (5 sentences where lines 1, 2 and 5 rhyme and 3 and 4 rhyme).

**Haiku examples:**

Haman used power (5)  
But Esther with her courage (7)  
Thwarted evil plans (5)

Beauty contests are  
Sometimes used to save the Jews  
You just never know





Superheroes have  
Secret identities. Like  
Esther, we do too  
G-d, hidden deep in  
This story and all stories  
Hear and remember

### Limerick examples

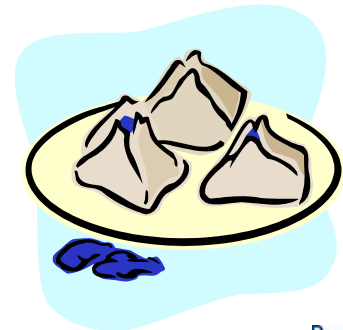
There was an Esther of old (A)  
Who was courageous and bold (A)  
She went to her king (B)  
Said, "Let justice ring" (B)  
And Haman was out in the cold (A)

In Persia, the queen's name was Esther  
Haman's horrible plans really stressed her  
But she truly came through  
Told the king who was who  
And the Jews for all ages have blessed her

Said Haman, "I'll ride the king's horse!  
No one else should be honored, of course!"  
But his plans went awry  
The king chose Mordecai  
Did he feel a wee bit of remorse?

Said the Persian king, "It's a shame  
That despite all my wealth and acclaim  
Why I find it obscene!  
Even Esther, my queen  
Has trouble pronouncing my NAME!"

One Purim while trying to bake  
The three cornered treats that we make  
I let the yeast ride  
Put horseradish inside  
And called it a Passover cake!



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