

The Best Purim Costume, EVER!



Michael was sitting on the circle time rug with the other children in his classroom eagerly watching Teacher Sharon remove the Megillah scroll from its holder. “Michael would you hold this end while I unroll the scroll for everyone to see?” asked Teacher Sharon.

Michael nodded happily. The children had been learning about Purim and now he beamed as he helped Teacher Sharon gently unrolled the Megillah scroll to reveal the colorful pictures that told the story of Purim.

“Look, there’s Queen Esther who saved the Jewish people of Shushan from mean Haman!” Rachel pointed.

“BOO, BOO!” the children shouted at the mention of Haman’s name.

“I see Vashti!” cried Julie. “She had to leave Shushan because she wouldn’t dance for the king.”

“And there’s Mordechai, Queen Esther’s uncle,” Sam added. “He was very wise, and he worked for the king.”

“That’s right,” Teacher Sharon said, as she smoothed out the paper scroll for all the children to see.

“And look, it’s King Ahh...,” David paused for a moment. “How do you say it again?” he asked.

“It sounds like a sneeze. Remember?” Michael chimed in excitedly. “Ahh...ha...choo-verus!”



This was Michael’s favorite part of the Purim story and he joined in as all his friends started *ahh...ha...choo’ing* too.

Teacher Sharon laughed, “I’m glad you all know the story so well because tomorrow is our Purim parade, and you can come dressed as your favorite character from the Megillah.”

Michael smiled. He had an idea for the best Purim costume, ever!

After school, he went home and worked very hard to make his costume. He needed a giant box, a pair of scissors, glue, some tissue paper and, of course, a gold crown.

The next morning, Michael's mother dropped him off at the school gate and waited while he slowly made his way to his classroom in his bulky costume. He knew no one would have a costume like the one he had made. It was very special!



Rachel skipped by wearing a long purple gown and a sparkly crown. "Hi Michael, I'm Queen Esther and I made this beaded necklace all by myself!" she proudly announced.

Sam zoomed past dressed in a blue robe. He had a tissue paper beard on his chin and a kippah on his head. "Make way for Uncle Mordechai," he bellowed.

Michael saw David stomp by wearing all black and a matching triangle-shaped hat with a large feather sat on his head. "I'm Haman," he snarled playfully. "I hope I don't scare you too much!"

Just then, Julie twirled by Michael showing off her skirt of brightly colored scarfs. "I'm Vashti!" she sang as she spun past.



At last, Michael arrived at his classroom.

"Somebody, help!" he hollered. "I can't get through the doorway!"

Everyone turned to see Michael struggling to enter the classroom. Michael's friends hadn't paid much attention to his costume earlier because they had all been eager to show off their own. But now they noticed the giant box he was wearing with openings for his head and arms. Tucked around his neck was white tissue paper. A gold paper crown on his head had slipped down and nearly covered his eyes.

Rachel looked confused. "Who are you supposed to be?" she asked.

"I'm my favorited character from the Megillah!" Michael exclaimed. "King *Ahh...ha...choo-verus!*" He jokingly wiped his nose with a little piece of tissue paper. "It's a box of tissues, get it?"

The children all laughed.

"What a clever idea, Michael," chuckled Teacher Sharon. "Now let's figure out how to get you into the classroom."

"Can you walk in sideways?" asked Sam.

Michael tried but the box was still too big.

"I could push you through the doorway," suggested David.

He stood behind Michael and pushed as hard as he could, but the box wouldn't budge.

"You could climb through a window," said Julie thoughtfully.

Teacher Sharon shook her head. "That doesn't sound safe. Instead of trying to get Michael inside the classroom, why don't we all go outside to the playground with him until the start of our Purim parade?"



Michael's friends cheered and ran to the playground as he lumbered behind them. He wasn't sure what he wanted to do first. There were so many choices---the jungle gym with the big blue slide, the sandbox filled with colorful buckets and shovels, the bike path with trikes and scooters, or the construction site with large blocks and trucks.

He heard Rachel call him. "Come down the slide with me, Michael."

But when Michael got to the slide, he had trouble climbing the steps. He noticed a small tear on the side of the box and with each step the tear was getting bigger.

"Maybe I should play in the construction site instead," he said noticing the large tower David had built. No sooner had Michael joined David when his costume bumped into David's tower knocking it to the ground.

"It's okay, I can rebuild it," David grinned. "Riding a bike might be a better choice since the bike path is really big."

Michael found his favorite red tricycle, but he couldn't get onto the seat. His costume kept getting in the way.

"Why don't you direct traffic instead," suggested Sam.

"That's a great idea!" exclaimed Michael. He watched Sam circle around the bike path and yelled, "Stop!" as Sam sped toward him. Sam slowed down but he accidentally bumped into Michael's costume.

The tear was now bigger and there was a dent in his box as well.

"I'm sorry," Sam said.

"It was an accident," replied Michael. "Maybe it's safer if I play in the sandbox."



Michael joined Julie in the sandbox. "Here's a shovel," she said. But when he bent down to scoop up sand, he toppled to the ground. Julie helped him up. The tissue around Michael's neck was now covered with sand and the side of his box was ripped wide open.

"My costume is ruined!" Michael cried. "I can't wear it for the Purim Parade."

Julie looked at her sad friend and took a scarf from her skirt. "You can have this," she offered hoping he would feel better. "We can tie it around the box to hold it together."

Michael's face brightened. "Thank you, Julie. I think that might work!"

They asked Teacher Sharon for help tying the scarf but there was still a small gap on the side.

Just then, Rachel ran over. "You can have my necklace," she said. "It stretches so if you put it over the box it will close the opening."

Next, Sam came over. "Here's my beard," he said. "You can put it around your neck in place of that sandy tissue."

Michael smiled. "Are you sure?" he asked.

Sam nodded.

Finally, David handed Michael the large feather from his hat. "This will cover that dent so your box will be good as new." Michael asked Teacher Sharon for a bit of tape to attach it.

Once all the repairs to his costume were completed, Michael was ready for the Purim Parade.



“He grinned at his friends. “Ta-dah!” he sang.

“It’s the best Purim costume, ever!” Rachel declared.

“It’s amazing!” agreed David.

“I love it!” exclaimed Sam.

“Me too,” laughed Julie.”

“Thanks to all of you for sharing parts of your costumes,” Michael shouted. “Now, I’m the whole Megillah!”

Happy Purim! “The Best Purim Costume, EVER!” is an unpublished original story by Sylvia and Shannan Rouss. The story is free for use only by parents and their children and by teachers and their students. The photo of Michael in his costumes is courtesy of the blog Mother of Boys <https://mobtruths.com/> The remaining illustrations and photos were assembled from the internet and were not “filtered by license”. Hag Purim Sameach!