

Resource Guide

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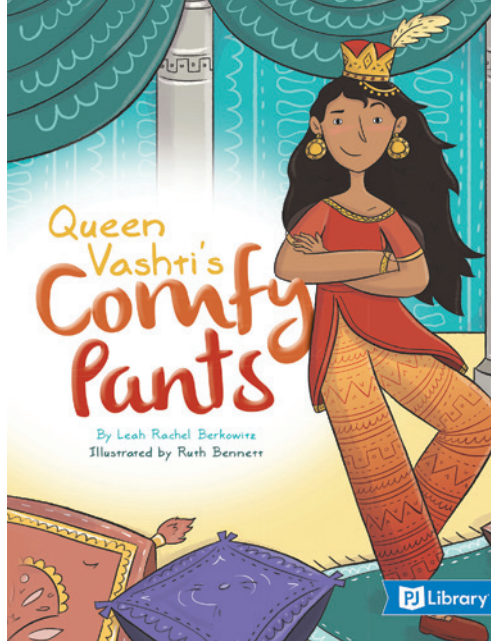
Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants

We understand that how we gather looks different these days. Whether you are coming together in person or online, PJ Library will continue to provide content to connect with your community. Inside you'll find ways to:



- **Use Jewish text in everyday occurrences**
- **Make meaningful connections to families through Jewish values**
- **Enrich learning experiences for all ages**





Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants

Written by: Leah Rachel Berkowitz
Illustrated by: Ruth Bennett

Queen Vashti is hanging out with her friends when the king rudely summons her to entertain him. He doesn't even ask nicely! What's a strong, independent woman to do in that situation?

Modern Midrash

Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants does a wonderful job of filling in some of the blanks in our understanding of Vashti's role in the Purim story. In a family education setting, after reading *Megilat Esther* and this book, ask participants what else might be missing. Encourage them to tell those stories through music, dance, poetry, painting, or anything else that feels meaningful.

Rhymin' Simon

Part of the delight of this book is its clever rhyme scheme and rhythm. Ask the children in a class to identify what the pattern is in *Queen Vashti's Comfy Pants*. Once they do, see if they can tell another story using this same device. Provide a rhyming dictionary or point them to one online.

Talk It Over

The book flaps here have great questions for families to dive into. After sharing this book with them, live or in an online program, share these questions:

- Why did Vashti refuse the king's request that she come entertain his friends?
- Have you ever been asked to do something that you thought was unfair?
- How did you handle it?
- Vashti and her friends like hanging out with each other (in comfy clothes). What do you like to do with your friends?

Ask families to either make videos of their answers to share online or have them share in the comments of a social media post.

Rise Up!

The pictures in this book help to tell the story of how Vashti and her friends protest the king's request. We can see their great signs in some of the illustrations. Consider asking someone from your organization's social justice or *tzedeck* committee to lead a conversation about the Jewish values embedded in speaking out and the different ways your community can engage in advocacy.

To learn more:

For all things Purim check out the PJ Library Purim hub:
www.pjlibrary.org/purim