

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

**Mishpachah: The Modern Jewish Family**

**ORPAH'S KIDS**

### *The Purim Superhero*

by Elizabeth Kushner, Kar-Ben Press

**Reader's Discussion Guide**

for children ages 6-10

**SYNOPSIS:** Nate loves aliens and he really wants to wear an alien costume for Purim, but his friends are all dressing as superheroes and he wants to fit in. What will he do? With the help of his two dads he makes a surprising decision.

Questions can be adjusted for older children. There are many questions here; the reader should decide which ones to ask, depending on the time and scope of your discussion.

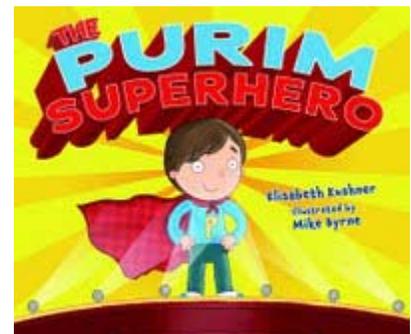
General Question (optional): What happens in the Purim story? Who is Queen Esther? King Ahashuerus? Mordechai? Haman?

#### **Questions about *The Purim Superhero***

1. What kind of costume does Nate want to wear for Purim?
2. What does Max say about Nate's costume? How does that make Nate feel?
3. What kind of costume does Nate finally wear? Why does he choose that costume?
4. Why does Rabbi Joanie like Nate's costume so much?
5. How does Nate feel when Ethan tells him that he likes his costume so much?
6. What do the boys decide to do for Purim next year? Why?

#### **Personal Questions**

1. How do *you* decide what costume to wear at Purim?
2. Do your friends ever pick the same kind of costume? Do you choose your costumes together? Why?
3. What do you think makes someone a superhero?



4. What is an alien?
5. Would you choose a superhero or an alien as your costume? Why?
6. How does your costume make you feel when you wear it?
7. Do you like to be different from or the same as your friends when you wear your costumes? Why?
8. Do you like to be different from or the same as your friends when you are in school? Why?
9. Do you like to be different from or the same as your friends when you are playing? Why?
10. Did you like this story?
11. What do you think is the most important lesson that Nate learns in this book?
12. What is an important lesson that you learned from this book?

## ACTIVITIES

### 1. **Who in your family or community is a hero?**

If you could ask this person any questions about what makes his or her job so difficult, what would you ask? Try to interview this person. Then, create a poster or booklet about this person. Use the information from your interview as well as other things that you already know. You might want to add artwork or pictures. You could present this poster or booklet to the person as a thank-you gift for answering your questions.

### 2. **Make a list of all the important people in your family. Then make a list of all of your close friends.**

Pretend that you are Rabbi Joanie. If you could give each person an award for something special that he or she does, what would each award say?

Create an award for the people you have chosen. Write on the award what makes each of them special, or different or unique. Have a special event and give out the awards.

### 3. **Draw a picture of your family.** Include as many people as you want, including other people who are very important to you.

How is your family special?

What makes your family both the same as and different from other families?

What words would you use to describe your family?

Who in your family has some very special talents?

You might want to think about activity #2 when you answer this question. You can even attach the awards from activity #2 to your drawing if it is large enough.