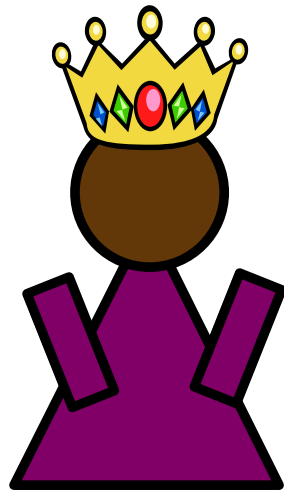
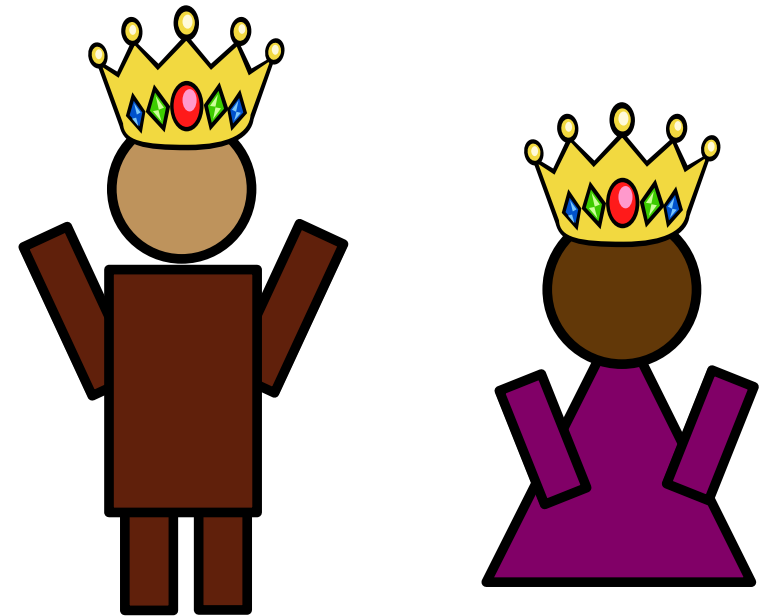


ESTHER IS QUEEN

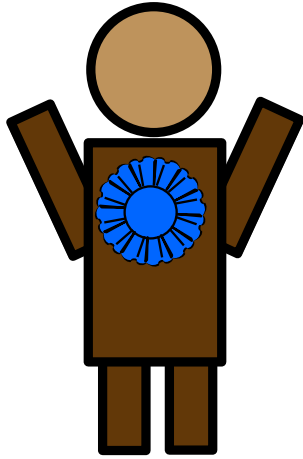


THE BOOK OF ESTHER
NEW INTERNATIONAL
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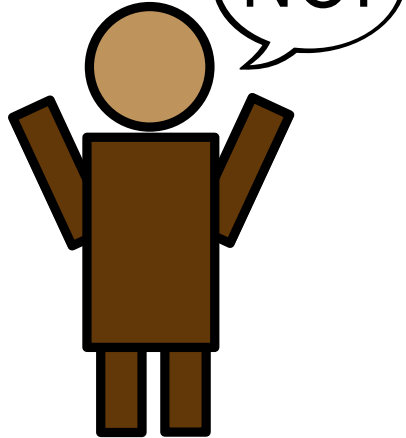


The king liked Esther more than he liked any of the other women. So he put a royal crown on her head. He made her queen.

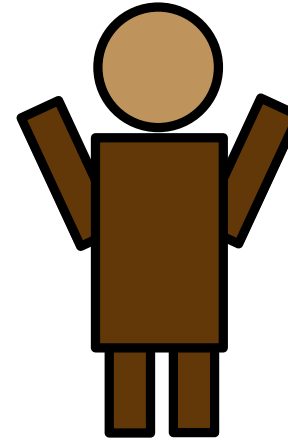
Haman



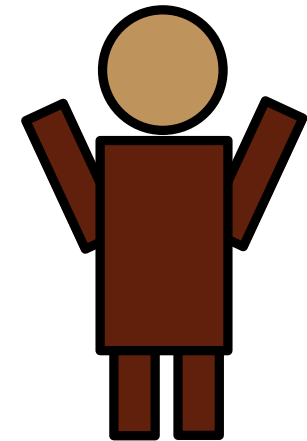
Mordecai NO!



Mordecai



servant



The king gave Haman a higher position than he had before. All of the royal officials at the palace gate got down on their knees. They gave honor to Haman.

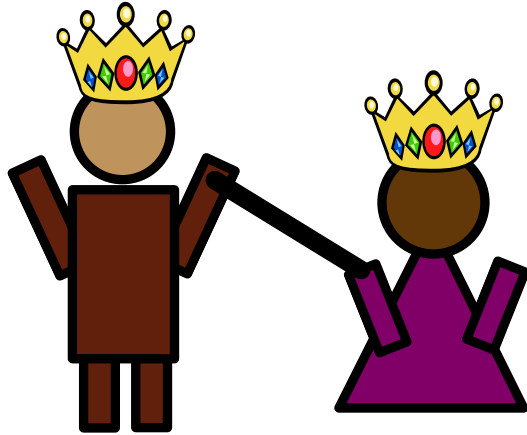
But Mordecai, Esther's cousin, refused to get down on his knees. He wouldn't give Haman any honor at all.

Haman burned with anger. He looked for a way to destroy all of Mordecai's people. They were Jews.

Mordecai found out about everything that had been done.

Mordecai told Esther's servant everything that had happened. He said Haman wanted it to destroy the Jews.

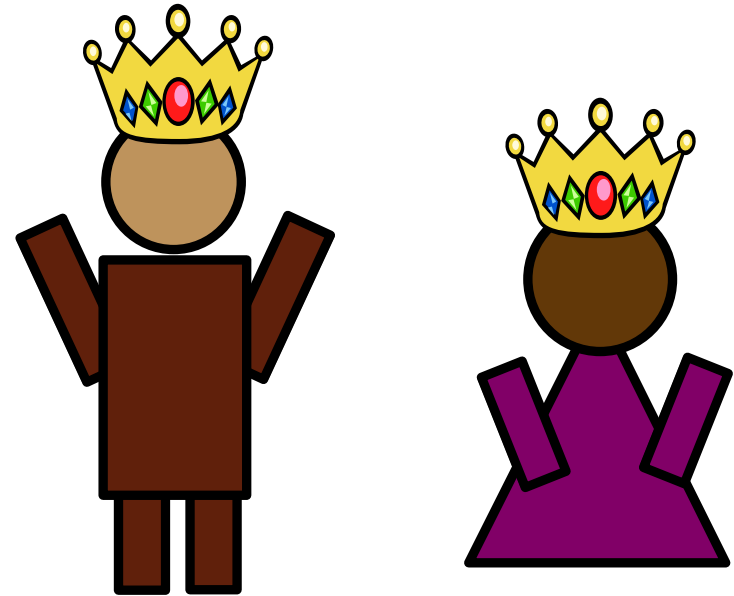
He told him to try and get her to go to the king. He wanted her to make an appeal to the king for her people.



Esther replied, "There is a certain law that applies to anyone who approaches the king without being sent for. It says they must be put to death."

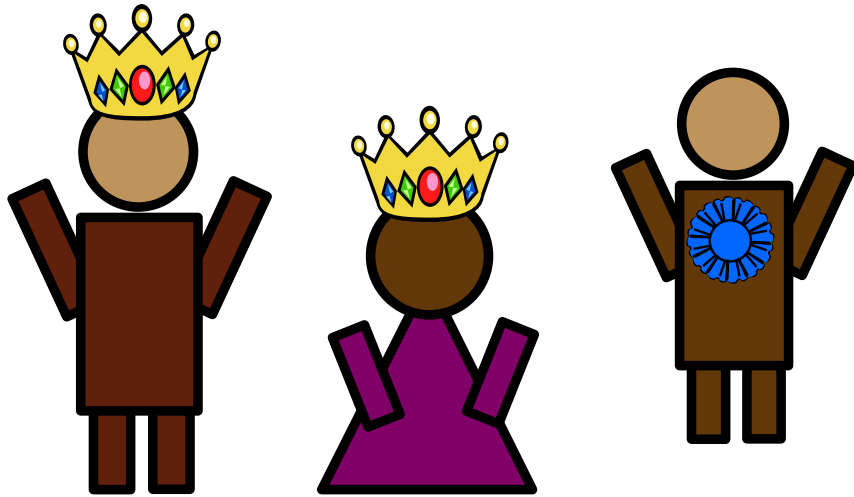
On the third day Esther put her royal robes on.

The king was sitting on his royal throne in the hall. He saw Queen Esther standing in the courtyard. He was pleased with her. So he reached out toward her the gold rod that was in his hand. Then Esther approached him. She touched the tip of the rod.



"What do you want, Queen Esther? I'll give it to you." Then Queen Esther answered, "I hope you will be pleased to let me live. Please spare my people.

"My people and I have been sold to be destroyed."

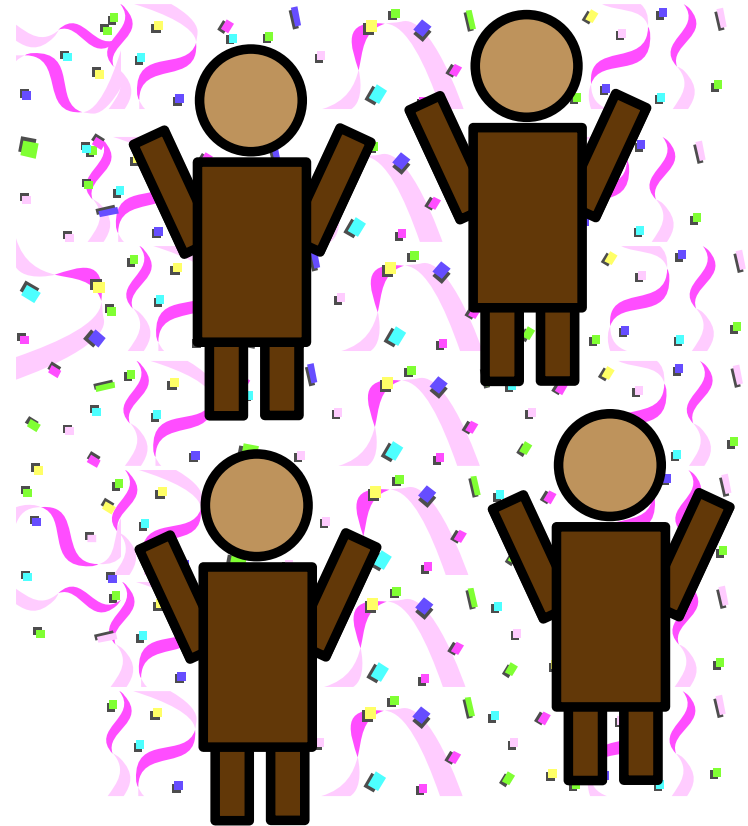


King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is the man who has dared to do such a thing? And where is he?"

Esther said, "The man hates us! He's our enemy! He's this evil Haman!"

Then Haman was terrified in front of the king and queen.

The king said to his men, "Put Haman to death!"



The Jews were filled with joy and happiness. They were very glad because now they were being honored.