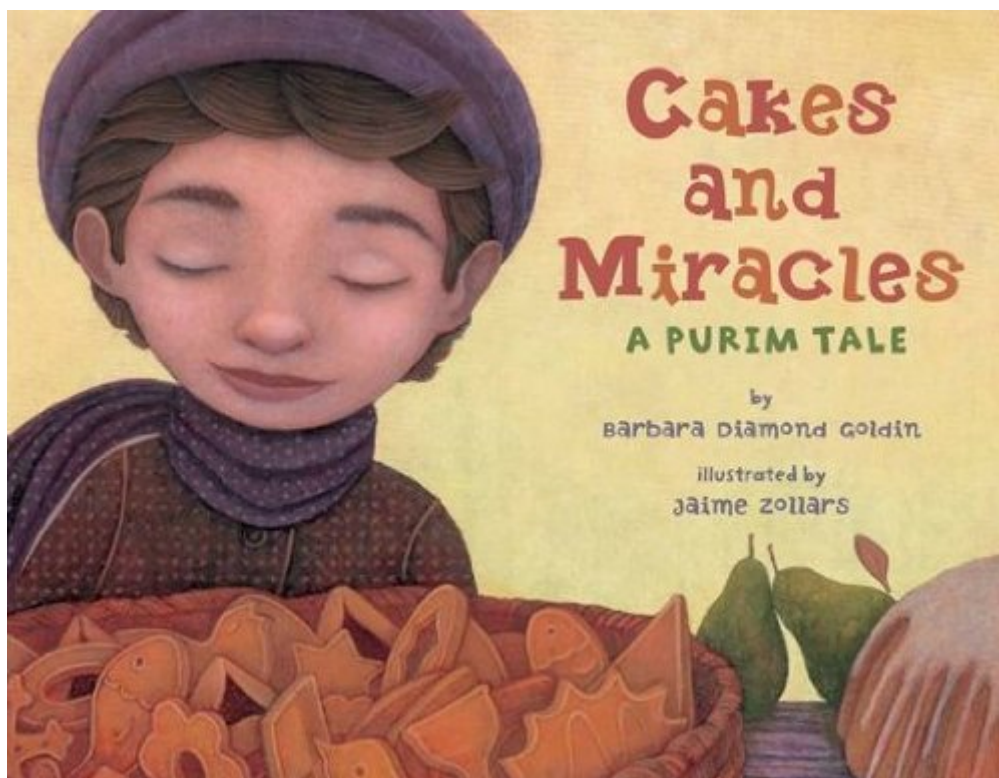


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# Cakes And Miracles: A Purim Tale



## Synopsis

Purim is approaching and Hershel, the only blind boy in the village, wishes he could help his mother prepare hamantashen for the holiday. If only I could see, he thinks, I could help my mother more. That night, Hershel dreams of a winged angel descending a sparkling ladder. She says, "Make what you see. You see when you close your eyes. You see in your dreams." With new courage, Hershel learns to trust his dream and creates something more beautiful than anyone in the whole village can imagine. An Author's Note about Purim is also included.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Purim is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people in the ancient Persian Empire where a plot had been formed to destroy them. It is a day of feasting and celebrating. In "Cakes And Miracles," Purim was fast approaching, and Hershel, a young boy who was blind, wanted to help his mother bake hamantashen, little fruit-filled cakes that are traditional fare on Purim. Hershel and his mother were poor, and they needed to sell the hamantashen in the market to earn some money. As much as Hershel wanted to help his mother bake the hamantashen, his mother reminded him that he was blind and that he would have to help her in other ways. But

that night, Hershel had a dream in which an angel told him how he could help his mother bake. His mother was skeptical, but Hershel never doubted the angel. What happened next was nothing short of a minor miracle. "Cakes And Miracles" is an uplifting story for children about having faith and using the talents we're given instead of dwelling on what we lack. Note: I read the story on my Kindle Fire HDX 7" tablet. The text was very small, but I learned that double-tapping the text brought up a text box with enlarged text. Do that on the first page, and afterward, each page swipe enlarges more text. After the last text on a page is read, the next page swipe turns the page.

Loved this story for my kindergartners. A student brought it in. It went well with my 5 senses unit as well as kindness.

This story was originally published with a longer text by Viking Press in 1991. This tale focuses on Hershel, a blind boy who lives with his widowed mother. He spends many days by the river constructing different objects in the mud. He loves what he is able to create. His mother feels that his disability limits his overall abilities. During Purim, Hershel demonstrates that he is capable despite his limitations. This uplifting story provides information about the celebration of Purim, shtetl life, and how the human spirit can overcome diversity.

A beautiful tale that made tears spring to my eyes. Accepting and being happy with what you've got, and turning one's challenges into strengths are essential messages for teaching happiness, tolerance and genuine success in life. This is a great story to spark discussions or just a great story by itself. If you like this story you will love Yussel's Prayer, a Yom Kippur story. Can't read that one without tears in my eyes either. I loved the earlier edition as the simple joyful illustrations conveyed the meaning and tone of the story. Not sure about the newer version (I just ordered a used copy of the original).

The book was in excellent condition and arrived in a timely fashion. I bought it to read to my religious school class about children who have different abilities. The boy in this story is blind, and he wants to make Purim cookies. It shows how children with a limitation can still do anything.

Love, love, love that this is a Purim tale. Hard to find books on Purim and with children who have disabilities. What a great example of children finding their potential.

This is a cute story but it didn't strike me as terribly inspired but I'm an author myself so a little more critical than the average bear. The kids liked it. The pictures are high quality.

This is less a story about Purim than it is about a little blind boy's desire to help his mother make cookies to sell for the festival. Herschel lost his sight due to illness. Despite his blindness, he is remarkably adept, performing chores, catching frogs, going to the river and playing in the mud. He looks like every other little boy and doesn't rely on a cane to get about. His widowed mother apparently bakes for a living. Herschel longs to help make special pastries for the holiday. With some angelic inspiration and great motivation, he shapes beautiful cakes. This book has a definite Old World feel. The colors are deep, warm but somewhat dark. If your child understands the Purim story, this is a nice book about not letting limitations stop you from achieving wonderful things. If you are looking for a book to introduce a child to the Hebrew religion and culture, the story of Esther is not retold here. It focuses more on the preparations especially the baking of hamantashen. It does not explain what Haman did to make himself the villain. The last page contains an author's note which explains a bit about Purim and its celebration. Overall it is a mild little book most likely to be enjoyed by children already familiar with the holiday. 3.5 stars

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