

About the Book

Micah came home from the Purim party with a mighty gragger, a noisemaker used to scare away the evil Haman from the Purim story. His gragger made a loud whirring noise that made him feel bold and powerful enough to stand up to Haman, who hated the Jews, and the big kids in his class who bullied him and made him feel small.

But as the evening comes and Micah gets tired, his gragger falls out of his hand outside of his house. He's afraid he's lost his gragger forever, and dreams about the strength he felt when he heard its whirr, whirr, whirr. While Micah sleeps, the gragger goes on an adventure of its own, getting picked up by racoons and fish and herons until the gragger is returned to Micah.

The next day at school, Micah shows his gragger to the class for show-and-tell. Everyone needs to feel powerful sometimes, and so Micah and his teacher pass the gragger around for everyone to feel bold and brave with its mighty whirr. And even as Micah is happy to have his gragger back, he can feel its power growing inside of him, like a heartbeat.



Key Themes:

Helping others, Inner strength, Self-esteem, Standing up to bullies

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Ages 3–6 years

Use these questions to preface and conclude a reading of this book with children.

Encourage them to share their observations as you read the book together, and take time to linger on pages or spreads that generate more discussion.

Before Reading

- Look at characters on the cover of the book and describe what are they wearing. Why do you think they might be dressed that way?
- Do you recognize what the boy is holding? If yes, where or when have you seen it before? If no, can you guess what it might be?
- What do you know about the story of Purim? Who are the heroes? Who are the bad-guys? If you don't know the story, how can you find out more about it?

After Reading

- In the book, Micah feels “bold and powerful” when he holds the gragger.

Can you think of something that you feel powerful when you hold it? What about happy? Sad?

- Have you ever lost something important to you? How did you feel when you lost it, and couldn't find it? Why do you think Micah keeps thinking about his lost gragger, “all night long?”

- At the end of the book, Micah feels the “whirr, whirr, of the gragger inside of him.” What do you think that means?

Optional: Extension Activity

Make your own gragger!

Here's how:

- Get a clean container with a lid. It can be an empty oatmeal container, plastic food container, or a dry water bottle.
- Fill the container with dry beans or rice, coins, or other small objects that make noise when they knock against each other.
- Use tape to seal the lid of the container tightly shut.
- Decorate the outside of the gragger. You can use markers to draw on it or glue colorful tissue paper all over it.
- Shake, shake, shake to hear the sounds of your new gragger. Does it go whirr, whirr like Micah's? Or does it make a different sound?



