

# Book Club: Esther

## Reading Schedule

April 24 - Chapter 1

May 1 - Chapter 2

May 8 - Chapter 3

May 15 - Chapter 4

May 22 - Chapters 5&6

May 29 - Chapters 7

## Character Profiles



### Esther

The namesake of the book and heroine of the story. Esther is a young Jewish girl living in Babylon following the exile. Esther, who does not have any parents, is being raised by her first cousin, Mordecai.

In what amounted to an extensive beauty pageant, Esther is selected to replace the disgraced Vashti as the Queen of Persia.

Once she becomes queen, Esther risks her own life to save the lives of all the Jewish people living in the Babylonian Empire.

**Note:** Esther is her Persian name, her Hebrew name was Hadassah.



### Mordecai

Mordecai is another Jew – a Benjaminite – living in Babylon following the exile. He is raising Esther who is his first cousin. Early in the story, Mordecai foils a plot to assassinate the king, but his refusal to show Haman the respect he thinks he deserves may end up costing him his own life.



### Ahasuerus

Ahasuerus is the King of Persia.

When he sets his mind, and pen, to something, he does not waiver. After his queen, Vashti publicly defies him, he seeks a new queen and after an extensive search, finds one in the young and lovely Esther.

Ahasuerus is thought to also be known as Xeres.



### Vashti

Vashti is Ahasuerus's queen. Although the story does not record any words from her mouth, her actions speak so much louder. For reasons unknown, she refuses a direct order from her husband the king, which sets into motion a series of events that turn the kingdom upside down.



### Haman

Right-hand man to King Ahasuerus and second-in-command of the kingdom, Haman, the Amalekite, is the villain of the story.

Haman's animosity towards the Jewish people most likely runs deeper than his social conflicts with Mordecai. It likely stems from the historical feud between the Amalekites and the Hebrews.

While his legal maneuvering appears to be the cunning trap that all but guarantees his vindication, in the end, it becomes his undoing.



### Zeresh

Haman's wife, giver of poor advice, and speaker of doom.

