

Bar or Bat Mitzvah

According to Jewish tradition, girls are considered adult when they turn twelve and boys thirteen. From that moment on, they are accountable for their actions. This is commonly celebrated in synagogue and this festivity is called a Bar (for boys) or Bat (for girls) Mitzvah.

How is a Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebrated?

Before you're so far you've had to learn a great deal: at home and in Hebrew school you've been practicing reading and singing from the Torah. On the festive day itself, boys are called to read from the Torah for the first time. Wrapped in a prayer shawl and holding a *yad* in your hand, you sing a section from the Torah. Girls are not allowed to read from the Torah in all synagogues, but they always recite a special prayer. In either case, to conclude the ceremony, the Rabbi says: 'May God watch over you, and may you have a happy life.'

On this important day, you'll obviously want to invite all your friends. Your relatives from abroad will probably be there too. The service in the synagogue is followed by a party and naturally there are lots of presents.



My notes:

Tip from Max



Working on a school project about the Bar Mitzvah celebration? When there's a Bar Mitzvah approaching in the Hollander family, during your presentation, you can show the films *A Surprise for Sammi* and *Gifts* (Find these in the Living Room!).

