



Lord of the Rings Bar or Bat Mitzvah Lesson Plan

Submitted by Brad Cohen

Target Age Group(s): 6th - 8th grade

Time: 1.5 hours

Enduring Understanding(s) on which this lesson will focus:

- We have a responsibility to guard, and keep our rich and living tradition.
- In order to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah a student must have an understanding of how he or she can guard and keep our tradition

Essential Question (s) that will lead to this understanding (curriculum):

- What role does a bar or bat mitzvah have in continuing Judaism?
- What does it mean to become a bar or bat mitzvah?

Evidence of Understanding (How will you assess that students have gotten it):

- Through class discussion and sharing of the writings I will be able to assess the students understanding



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Set Induction (How will you get the students' attention or hook them into the learning):

- When the students enter the classroom I have the title screen of the movie set up

Learning Experience (How will you facilitate the students learning?)

- Keep in kind organization, set up, supplies, time, learning styles and levels of questioning

*Each scene with a star stop the movie and give students time to write a response to the question and share the answers if appropriate

5-minutes: I will explain to the students that we are going on a Journey. Today I will ask them to do some self-reflection and some sharing of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah Experience. Pass out the packet of questions that I have put together

Scene 2: In this scene I have the students exam that Frodo is comfortable in his surroundings. Before the students start his or her journey they are comfortable in a world they have always known (the Shire). Show the whole scene and stop it when Gandolf starts to knock on the door



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***Scene 8:** In this scene the students are thrust into the journey of Bar/Bat mitzvah just Frodo is thrust into his journey. The students should focus on the introduction of the character Sam because he is someone that will stand by you during this time. On the 1st page of the packets have them answer the question. After answering the question students should share their answers.

(Play until Gandolf is riding on his horse)

***Scene 10:** In this scene the students are introduced to a creature that puts fear in Frodo (Bar/Bat Mitzvah student). The students should be asked to watch how Frodo feels and reacts during this scene and then answer the question.

(Play the whole scene until they get on the Ferry)

***Scene 15:** In this scene the students should identify with Frodo and feeling tired and hurt. They should also notice that there are people around Frodo who will stand up for him just like there will be people who will stand up for them

(Play the whole scene) Have the students answer the question.

***Scene 20:** In this scene you are introduced into a new world. The student is also introduced to a new world at this time (adult community). Frodo has a conversation with his Uncle Bilbo about his own adventure turning out quite



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different. This would lead into a good talk about the importance of family during this process. The student should answer the question on the paper and then have a discussion about the answer

(Start at the beginning and stop after you see a scene after you see Bilbo's book)

***Scene 23:** In this scene you met the Fellowship. There are two things that you want to emphasize in the scene: (1) The support group that is formed to help Frodo on his journey. (2) This is Frodo's choice to take the responsibility to carry the ring. It is the students choice to have a Bar/Bat mitzvah and to become an adult in the Jewish community. It will be their responsibility to carry Judaism in their life. Have them answer the question on the paper and then have a discussion on the question

(Play the whole scene and stop when Legolas (Elf) leaves before Frodo and Bilbo talk)

***Scene 24:** In this scene Bilbo give gifts to Frodo to protect him on his journey. I would like the students to think about the gifts that they get from going through this journey and this process. Gifts that are beyond material things..... Have them answer the question on the paper

(Play the whole scene and stop when they are leaving Rivendale)



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Scene 35: In this scene the student is coming the completion of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The students should focus on how different and amazing things look.

(Stop right after they get to the shore)

***Scene 38:** In this scene the students should think about it being time to venture out into the world and become an adult of Judaism. Although you will go yourself you will always have people who will be there to help you. All you have to do is decide to do is with the time that is given to you. Have the students read the last page and the ending quote

(Play the whole scene)

Questions for Discussions

1. Knowledge
 2. Comprehension
 3. Application
 4. Analysis
 5. Synthesis
 6. Evaluation
- Why do you have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah?
 - Is it important to carry on the traditions of Judaism?



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- Who is your support group?
- What are you going to do with the time that is give to you?

Conclusion (How will you check for the evidence of understanding)

- Through Class discussion and answers from the questions

Supplies:

- Questions
- DVD (The Fellowship of the Ring)
- DVD player
- Pencils
- TV
- Worksheet



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Lord of the Rings and the Bar or Bat Mitzvah Journey

Name _____ Date _____

Scene 8

I want you to think about your Bar/Bat Mitzvah journey; Who is the person who has supported you the most? How have they supported you on this Journey?

Scene 10

During this scene Frodo and his friends encounter the Nosghoul. Frodo is terrified of these creatures. When was there a time that you have felt scared during the Journey of becoming a Bar/Bat Mitzvah? What were you scared of? What did you do to get past being scared?





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Scene 15

Is there a time when you have felt tired and hurt during your Bar/Bat Mitzvah journey? Who has been the person to pick you up and help you like Aragon did for Frodo in this scene?

Scene 20

What is your families experience when it comes to Bar/Bat Mitzvah? Are you the first in your family? Who else has had a Bar/Bat Mitzvah in your family? Why is it important to your family that you have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah?



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Scene 23

In this scene we see the group that will accompany Frodo on his Journey and are his support group. Who is in your support group? What people do you look up to in Judaism and life? Why?

It is your responsibility as an adult to carry Judaism on just like it is Frodo's responsibility to carry the ring. How will you carry on Judaism in your life?



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Scene 24

Bilbo gave Frodo gifts that will protect him the rest of his Journey and life. What gifts will you receive from going through this Journey? (Besides money)

What is the purpose of you having a Bar/Bat Mitzvah?

Whether you have had your Bar/Bat Mitzvah or not it is you who must decide if you will carry on Judaism in your life.

- Seek peace, and pursue it (Psalm 34:15)
- Choose life...by loving Adonai your God heading God's mitzvot, and holding fast to God. For thereby you shall have life. (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)
- May God keep my tongue from evil, my lips from lies. (Talmud, Berachot 17a)
- The whole Torah exists only for the sake of Shalom. (Tanhumah, Shoftim 18)

All you have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to you.....



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