

*Example #6*

When I thought about writing a speech for your bat mitzvah, I kept thinking what could I tell you that I haven't already said a thousand times?

What could I teach you that your teachers haven't already taught you? And what could I possibly share with you that your friends haven't already shared with you? So, I wrote you a blessing that just touches the surface of my deep love for you.

My prayer for you on this special day is one that formed in my heart on the day you were born and that I have repeated in my mind everyday since then.

Please let me be strong enough to protect her with my every breath, and please g-d, watch over her and keep her safe when I cannot.

Maddy, my prayer is that the amazing, unique and awe-inspiring glow that lights you from within will continue to shine brightly and warm the hearts of those whose lives you touch.

That you will greet each new sunrise with eagerness to meet the new day, and that you sleep each night with peace of mind and spirit.

I pray that as you make your place in this world, you continue to value honesty, integrity and loyalty above all superficial relationships.

And that you build your future with your strong sense of self and fill your life with love, tradition and mitzvot.

I pray that as you confront the often harsh realities that come with maturity, you can still appreciate the daily miracles that make each day a new gift; and when you face life's challenges and obstacles, have faith in yourself and know that your family will always be by your side.

I pray that one day you are as richly blessed as your father and I to stand next to your child and look into her eyes and feel the love and pride that we feel today.

I love you.