Ten-year-old Lindsey is continually getting into trouble despite her well-meaning, impulsive efforts to rescue a classmate from bullies, cheer up her depressed uncle, help with her brother's upcoming Bar Mitzvah, brighten up her neighborhood, and spark a romance between two teachers.

In the years following the Civil War, twelve year old Ariel Isaacson and his family are kicked out of their Arizona town by an anti-Semitic mayor and townspeople. They are forced to embark on a difficult and dangerous journey through the unsettled Arizona territory where they hope to connect with a Jewish community and celebrate Ariel’s Bar Mitzvah.

For her twelfth birthday, Emma receives a special Mitzvah Machine, helping her discover her Jewish identity and the true meaning of becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Thirteen-year-old Vic hates Hebrew school and is indifferent to his upcoming Bar Mitzvah, until he is suddenly disallowed from participating in either.

Because thirteen-year-old Gabe is mentally disabled and has special needs, his rabbi and family create an unconventional Bar Mitzvah for him, one centered around the story of Noah's ark.

David's fear over his approaching Bar Mitzvah causes him to alienate five Rabbis who try to help him, but something surprising happens when he is placed in the hands of the eccentric former teacher Reuven Weiss.

A young Jewish girl, in the year of her Bat Mitzvah, gains an understanding of herself and her people's past.

Twelve-year-old Janis copes with her cerebral palsy and her changing feelings for her good friend Barney as he approaches his Bar Mitzvah.
Despite the trials and tribulations that fill the eight months preceding his dreaded Bar Mitzvah, Myron learns a great deal about what it means to be a Jew.

Jazz, poetry, and film making in Greenwich Village are vivid counterpoints to the moving story of thirteen year old Jed, his parents, and their grief over the death of Jed’s older brother. (A Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winner)

Preparing for her Bat Mitzvah with her twin sister, Abby is falsely accused of cheating on a math test and suspended from school. (Baby-Sitter’s Club #96)

Although initially afraid that she’ll lose her best friend unless they prepare for their Bat Mitzvah together, Becky undergoes a change in her thinking that puts much more than her friendship in jeopardy.

Twelve-year-old David, juggling the demands of Shrimp League basketball and preparations for his upcoming Bar Mitzvah, strives to please Kelly, his dream-girl classmate, as well as his ailing grandfather and traditional parents.

In modern-day Berlin, thirteen-year-old Nelly Sue Edelmeister gains a greater understanding of herself and those around her as she develops her first crush, considers whether to go through with her Bat Mitzvah, and tries out for the basketball team. (A Sydney Taylor Honor Award Winner)

Every Bar Mitzvah boy feels a bit like an alien, but Isaac is afraid he might be turning into one.

Thirteen-year-old Andi’s life is changed when she befriends the glamorous, uninhibited Geneva Peace and her Hebrew school is taken over by a handsome rabbinic intern.

Thirteen-year-old Alyssa tries to balance the conflicting demands of ballet training with finding her place as a Jew in today’s world.
OTHER RESOURCES:

A Conservative rabbi tackles ultimate issues matter-of-factly, setting Jewish commitment within a larger frame of spiritual development.

A history and description of the Bat Mitzvah, the ceremony in which a Jewish girl marks her transition to adulthood.

Provides historical background, explanations of ceremonial objects and rituals, and real-life Bar Mitzvah stories.

Salkin, Jeffrey K. *For Kids--Putting God on Your Guest List: How to Claim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Bar or Bat Mitzvah.*
A guide to preparing for the Bar or Bat mitzvah, discussing the history and significance of this rite of passage and putting it in perspective with the core spiritual values of Judaism. See also: *Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah* for parents.

This thoughtful collection of poetry and inspirational reflections focuses on this important stage of a young Jewish person’s life. Beautifully illustrated with classic works of art, it covers the main holy days of the calendar, looks at the cycle of life from birth to death, and includes ruminations on the most important values and virtues of Judaism.