

Creative Supplements to the B.mitzvah Service

A feature of the traditional Shabbat morning service is the chanting of several verses from one of the prophetic books of the Hebrew Bible (such as the Book of Isaiah, Jeremiah or Micah). This is called a haftarah. The haftarah follows the chanting of the Torah during the morning service, however, a haftarah is not done at an afternoon havdalah b.mitzvah service.

For students who may have some difficulty learning additional verses of Hebrew text (and sung to a different tune than Torah text), or simply may be inspired to do something different, we now provide these creative opportunities as an alternative option to the traditional haftarah portion for Shabbat morning b.mitzvah services. Students who will become b.mitzvah on Shabbat afternoon will be expected to choose one of these four options.

- **Musical option**

- Sing or play existing music that connects to a theme of the Torah portion, haftarah, or the liturgy (prayers). For example, if your child plays the violin, they may choose to play Oseh Shalom to conclude the silent prayer. Or they may sing parts of the service that are usually done by Cantor Kohlbrenner.
- Create new lyrics to a popular or other song that connects to a theme of the Torah portion, haftarah, or the liturgy (prayers).
- Write an original piece of music (with or without lyrics) that connects to a theme of the Torah portion, haftarah, or liturgy.

- **Visual art option**

- Create a work of art (large enough to display) and a short written explanation of your artwork that expresses themes connected to the Torah portion, haftarah or a specific prayer.

- **An interpretation of the haftarah option**

- With Rabbi Briskin, you can study the English translation of the haftarah portion and then write a short d'var haftarah (in addition to your longer d'var Torah) that helps explain the message that the prophet was communicating to the people in his day and how those words relate to us in our current day.

- **Creative writing option**

- Write your own interpretation of a specific prayer using poetry or prose, or write a paragraph or two about how you connect to God, to Torah, to the Jewish people, or to being commanded (all are ideas expressed in the liturgy/prayers you are expected to learn).
- Write a kavannah (an introduction to a prayer) that helps focus our attention on the meaning of the words that we are about to say. This short kavannah will also help articulate what the prayer means to you.