



## What is Candle Lighting?

If you have not attended a Sweet 16, Bar/Bat Mitzvah or Quinceanera you probably wondering what this Candle Lighting thing all about? Let me explain! Candle Lighting is the lighting of the candles for the cake. Candle Lighting usually occurs towards the beginning of a Bar/Bat Mitzvah and around dessert time for a Sweet 16. Usually the amount of candles represents the guest of honors age with an optional good luck candle. For example a Bar/Bat Mitzvah you should have at least 13 candles with an optional 14th good luck. At a Sweet 16 you should have at least 16 candles with an optional 17th good luck.

### Each Candle Will Have Three Pieces

**1) Person / Group:** Each candle represents a person or group of people that have had an impact on the guest of honors life. There is no rule on the order of the candles although the most common is: parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, neighbors, friends, memory, good luck.

**2) Speech / Poem:** A speech or poem written that explains why this significant person or group are receiving the candle. It is VERY important your speeches or poems are NOT TOO LONG! Although I am sure what you are saying is very important, a long Candle Lighting ceremony can become very boring and decrease dancing time. Some suggestions are to type your speeches and print them out in a large font for easy reading. When practicing your speeches, they should not take you more than 15 minutes to read all of them.

**3) Song:** A song to go along with the person or group. The song is played immediately after the speech/poem has been finished for each candle. As the song is played, the person or group represented by the candle are asked to rise and light the candle with the guest of honor. It is suggested the song is related to your speech/poem. For example, if your candle is for your aunts and uncles you can play We Are Family by Sister Sledge. If your candle is about a group of friends that are girls, the song could be Girls Just Wanna Have Fun by Cyndi Lauper. Songs are cued up to the best part! This is usually either the chorus or beginning. Feel free to specify the start time of your songs when you submit your Candle Lighting list.

Along with the candles, you should pick a Candle Buddy or Candle Holder to assist you when doing your Candle Lighting. This person's role is to hold the lighting candle as you read your speeches/poems and hold your speeches/poems as you light your candle. This person may be receiving a candle, they simply have a shorter walk. In the past, this person is usually a sibling, cousin or good friend.

So now you understand how many candles to have, who they represent and that they each require a song. It is suggested that you do not place the candles into the actual cake, instead you can use candle holders. Clients have been creative in the past and created their own candelabra.

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