

Discussion Questions and Activities for *Molly of Denali*

“Grandpa’s Drum”

Before Viewing

- What do you predict the story is going to be about?
- What does “forbidden” mean?
- Who are “ancestors”?
- What traditions do you and your family have?

Reading Response Activity: Use [this graphic organizer](#) to list what you know about native Alaskan culture, and what you would like to learn in this episode.

- [Parent Guide for viewing discussion](#)

During Viewing

- Why doesn’t grandpa sing anymore?
- Why did the picture make him sad?
- Is the story matching your earlier predictions?
- Why were Grandpa’s songs and traditions forbidden?

After Viewing

- What mystery was Molly trying to solve in this episode? What clues and strategies did she use to help her solve the puzzle?
- What did Molly learn about her Grandfather’s history and about their family’s traditions?
- How was Molly’s family treated unfairly in the past?
- What did you learn about Molly’s family traditions and their history?

Writing Connection Activity: Use [this graphic organizer](#) to list what you have learned from this episode. If you would like to learn more about native Alaskan culture, you may wish to explore these resources if you have access to the internet: [Alaskan Native Culture Background](#) and [Alaskan Native Values](#).

“Have Canoe, Will Paddle”

Before Viewing

- What do you predict the story is going to be about?

- What is a “canoe”?
- What is a “coach”?

During Viewing

- Is the story matching your earlier predictions?
- What was Molly’s challenge in this episode?
- Why did Molly think they needed a coach?
- How did Molly and her friends convince Connie to be their coach?

After Viewing

- How did Molly and her team learn and improve their canoe skills?
- How did the coach help Molly’s team?

Writing Connection Activity: Use [this graphic organizer](#) to summarize the events in the story/episode.