

Discussion Questions and Activities for *Molly of Denali*

“Ice Sculpture”

Before Viewing

- What do you predict the story will be about?
- What is “climate”?

During Viewing

- Is the story matching your predictions, so far?
- What did Molly learn about her mother, in the beginning?
- Have you ever seen ice sculptures in the real world? in pictures?
- What tools and skills do you think ice sculpting requires?
- Why is Molly’s heart so happy in the end?

After Viewing

- What problem did the family encounter in this story? What ideas did Molly have to solve their problem?
- Why did Molly’s family members say that winters aren’t as cold as they used to be and Spring comes earlier?
- How is our climate changing? How do you think this affects wildlife and life, in general, in Alaska

Writing/Research Connection Activity: Conduct some research, using books, internet sources to explore how our climate is changing. You may wish to use this source from [NASA](#) and this one from [National Geographic Kids](#) to help you begin your exploration. Take some notes and write a paragraph about what you have learned, [using this paragraph structure graphic organizer](#) to help guide your writing.

Reading Response Connection Activity: After reading [The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss](#), engage in these activities to help you learn about how to be an energy star.

- [Activity Book](#)
- [Energy Star Guide](#)

“Tale of a Totem”

Before Vision

- What do you predict the story will be about?
- What is a totem pole?
- What is an “apprentice”?
- What is a “tradition”?

During Vision

- Is the story matching your earlier predictions?
- What tools and skills do you think are necessary to carve a totem pole?
- How do you think totems tell stories?
- What were the characters celebrating?
- Why was Uncle Jack’s nephew excited about being an apprentice?

After Vision

- What did Molly learn about totem poles and her family traditions in this episode?
- How do totems tell stories?
- What special traditions do you and your family have?

Art/Speaking Connection Activity: View [this video](#) from National Geographic Kids to learn more about the tradition of totem pole carvings. Use a variety of media to construct your own creative totem pole. The totem should represent you, your identity, and your family culture and traditions. Share your art by telling the story of your totem pole to a friend or family member.