

Discussion Questions and Activities for *Molly of Denali*

"First Fish"

Before Viewing

- What do you predict this story/program is going to be about?
- What is a "fish story" or a "tall tale"?

During Viewing

- Is the story matching your earlier predictions?
- Which of the family's "first fish stories/tall tales" did you like best? Why?
- Why did Molly need to exercise patience during her fishing trip?
- How did the message about the salmon run get miscommunicated to Molly? Which clues helped Molly understand that the salmon run was happening?

After Viewing

- What is a salmon run?
- Why do you think Molly chose to draw a diagram to describe the salmon run?
- What surprises did Molly encounter on her fishing trip?
- Why does Molly say, the fish story will "be even better the next time I tell it?"

Listening/Speaking Connection Activity: Think about the first time you did something that made you very excited and proud. Tell a tall tale version of your experience. Use creative drawings to illustrate your story to accompany your narrative.

Writing/Science Connection Activity: Watch [this video](#) from PBS learning media to learn about how salmon survive. Use [this graphic organizer](#) to explain what salmon need to survive, and accompany your paragraph with a diagram, similar to Molly's that explains the salmon cycle.

"A-maze-ing Snow"

Before Viewing

- What do you predict this story/program is going to be about?
- What is a maze?
- What is a fundraiser?

During Viewing

- Is the story matching your earlier predictions?

- What is the problem Molly and the community members are trying to solve? What are some of the ideas they brainstorm? What was Molly’s “brilliant” idea?

After Viewing

- What strategies and tools did Molly and her friends use to design and build the snow maze?
- What issues did they encounter during the process and how did they work them out?
- What was the big problem with the maze? Why did this problem occur?
- How did Molly’s friends get out of the maze?

Social Studies Connection Activity: Draw a map to illustrate how to travel from one place to another. You may wish to show how to travel from your house to your school, or the store, or a friend’s house, etc. Use [this resource link](#) from National Geographic to help you select and develop your idea and to be sure you include essential features of maps (e.g., a key & compass).