

# Molly's Pilgrim Study Guide

## Learning Objectives:

- To teach children that tolerance of people from different backgrounds is a fundamental American value, as fundamental as Thanksgiving
- To link the plight of Russian Jews to the plight of the Pilgrims, showing that both groups came to America for religious freedom
- To show that friendship is based on appreciation of personal differences as well as similarities

## Activities and Discussions:

1. Read the book by Barbara Cohen.
2. Have you ever had someone like Molly in your class? Would you like to?
3. How did Molly's doll help tell the story of Thanksgiving? If you were Molly, would you bring such a doll to class even though it is different?
4. If you were Molly's classmates, how would you act towards her? Would you be friendly just to be nice, or would you really try to get to know her?
5. If you were Molly's teacher, would you have acted like she did when Molly brought the doll to class?
6. If you made a doll based on a Pilgrim what would it be? Why?
7. Research the plight of the Russian Jewish immigrants. Write about your findings. Share your findings with friends and family.
8. Explain or write a paragraph on how and why you think each of the following events are different in the story's book and video version:

- Molly's classmates' behavior toward her
- Molly's experience in school
- The classmates' reaction toward Molly's pilgrim
- The teacher's explanation of Thanksgiving to the class



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