

*Background For the Teacher:*

The book and movie *Molly's Pilgrim* (by Barbara Cohen) tell the story of a Jewish girl who has recently moved to America from Russia. She is learning about Thanksgiving in school and studying about the Pilgrims, who came to America looking for religious freedom. All of the kids in Molly's class must make a pilgrim doll, and Molly's mom helps her make one. But Molly's doll does not look like a traditional pilgrim -- instead, it looks like Molly's mom! At first the kids at school laugh, but then Molly's mom explains that she too is a pilgrim because she came to America in pursuit of religious freedom.

<p><b>Read or Watch</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch the movie or read the book together as a class. Both are appropriate for grades 3-6.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Discuss</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe why America is a good country to live if you want freedom to practice your own religion?</li> <li>• Do you know of anyone who came to America seeking religious freedom recently or in the past?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Do</b></p>	<p>Many Jewish people have come to America for the freedom to be Jewish and to start a better life here. Do you know which person in your family was the first to immigrate to this country? Create your own pilgrim doll depicting whoever in your family first journeyed to America. Or, recreate the doll that Molly would have made with her Mom.</p>

