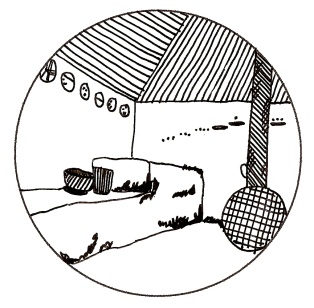
**THE TEMESCAL**

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**THEMES**

* Effects of natural disasters
* Erosion

**VOCABULARY**

*Students should be familiar with the following terms:*

**Hurricane**: a violent storm; usually comes from the water

**SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

*Students may discuss the following in small groups and report to the class:*

* What does Elena’s father say when Elena asks why people go to meetings to talk about what everyone knows? Can you think of an example of this in your life?
* What are direct and indirect causes of death from hurricanes?

**RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES**

*Additional relevant activities are under the subject guides.*

* **Pros and cons**: Pretend you are Elena’s parents at the beginning of the story. Make a list of pros and cons about leaving the village versus staying.
* **Erosion mountain**: Simulate erosion. Stack a few books and place one of a board on it to create a slope. Fill a lasagna pan with soil and put on the board. Use a watering can to pour water on the soil. Observe. For a variation, put items on the soil. What happens to them?