

ELINOR'S TOWN

EP 102 The Amazing Expandable
Clubhouse

By: Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: How does a snail always seem to fit even when the snail grows bigger?

Logline: Elinor and her friends run into trouble when so many kids join their club that there's no more room in the Clubhouse.

Curriculum Goals:

SEP1. Asking questions and defining problems.

SEP5. Using mathematics and computational thinking

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data

LS4. Understand that all animals and plants have a life cycle, can reproduce, and change and grow over time

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Structure and Function')

Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world

Main Characters: Elinor, Hazel, Ari, Sally, Kai

Secondary Characters: Camilla, Goat Twins (in unison)

Incidental Characters: Tito, Norma, LouLou

Backgrounds: Top of the hill, Inside the Clubhouse, bottom of the hill

Props: notebook, crayon, granola, leaf, magnifying glass, nature book, Clubhouse, building materials

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FIRST DRAFT: December 10, 2018

1. EXT. CLUBHOUSE ON A HILL (WIDE) - DAY

Open on a pretty, green, summer glade. We hear indistinct <SFX: CHILDREN'S CHATTER> IN ON: a big cardboard box "clubhouse" with cut-out windows, perched on a very small hill.

Now we hear voices coming from inside the box more clearly, and we can see ELINOR, HAZEL and SALLY BEAVER through the window. We can also see TWO CUTE SNAILS (One bigger and one smaller) perched on the window sill.

1 ELINOR
Ready?

THROUGH THE WINDOW: Elinor and Hazel start the Explorers Pledge (complete with hand gestures).

2 ELINOR AND HAZEL
An Explorer is brave!

They put their hands on their hips. Sally Beaver follows along repeating the words and the gestures

3 SALLY
An explorer is brave!

4 ELINOR AND HAZEL
An Explorer is kind!

Elinor and Hazel put their hands over their hearts.

5 SALLY
An Explorer is kind.

Suddenly we hear someone approaching! It's ARI, strolling towards the clubhouse as the voices continue.

6 ELINOR AND HAZEL
An Explorer is CURIOUS!

THROUGH THE WINDOW: Elinor and Hazel put their hands to their brows, looking. At the same moment, OUTSIDE Ari DOES see something that stops him in his tracks. He takes a moment to check out the snails on the windowsill.

7 ARI
Ooooooh.

8 ELINOR AND HAZEL
An Explorer is CURIOUS!

Ari is roused from his reverie and keeps going.

2. INT. CLUBHOUSE -- DAY

Elinor, Hazel and Sally say the last line together, arms wide out in joyous wonder. (ala Julie Andrews in Sound of Music but without the spinning).

9 ELINOR, HAZEL AND SALLY
WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL FIND!!!

Ari bursts into the box.

10 ARI
Sorry I'm late, Explorers! What
did I miss?

11 ELINOR
 (proudly)
Hi, Explorer Ari! We've just been
welcoming the newest member of our
Club - Explorer Sally Beaver!

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12             ARI
A new member! Awesome! Welcome
Explorer Sally!
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13 SALLY
Thanks for letting me be part of
the club.

ELINOR
Of course! *Anyone* can join the
Explorer's Club!

HAZEL
Yeah, all you have to do is love
EXPLORING.

ARI
Our number one rule is...

ELINOR/HAZEL/ARI
(Together) Exploring is for
everyone!

As they say this, they spread their arms (and wings) wide, causing them to crowd each other out in a funny way.

ELINOR/HAZEL
Hey! /Whoa!

ARI
Whoops, sorry!

HAZEL

I guess there's less room now that
we have (counts silently) four
members!

ELINOR

OKAY, Explorers! Let's go outside
and start EXPLORING!

Elinor antics to exit the door, but Ari interrupts her.

17 ARI

Wait! I have something we can
explore ...INSIDE the Clubhouse!

18 ELINOR

(interested)

Really? What is it, Explorer Ari?

19 ARI

Ta-DAH!

Ari proudly gestures to the windowsill. ANGLE ON: Two nice
snails crawling along the window ledge.

20 ELINOR

<GASP!> Snails!

HAZEL/SALLY

Ooooh.../Whoa...

Elinor, Hazel and Sally join Ari at the windowsill admiring
the snails.

21 ARI

Meet Norma and Lou-Lou. I named
them after my Aunties.

A beat then...

22 ARI (CONT'D)

They look just like them.

The Explorers take a minute to look closely at their new
friends. SCIENCE MOMENT CU:

23 ELINOR

Wow, look at their little antennae.

The Snails wiggle their antennae to demo. The Explorers watch
for a beat or two as the snails crawl slowly along. It goes
on just long enough to be funny.

24 HAZEL
They sure don't move very fast.

25 ARI
<GASP!> Wait a minute, I have a
great idea! Norma and Lou-Lou can
be our Explorer Club MASCOTS!

26 ELINOR, HAZEL, SALLY
Ooooh/ Cool!/ Huh?

This is a new word for Sally.

27 SALLY
Uh... what's a mac-sot?

28 ARI
MascOT! It's like a pet... for the
whole CLUB!!

29 SALLY
Oh, I LOVE pets.

30 HAZEL
And Norma and Lou-Lou will make
perfect club mascots! We'll always
know where they are!

Hazel draws a picture of a snail on the club journal.

31 ELINOR
Okay! Now that we have mascots,
it's time to go EXPLORING!

This time, Elinor gets a little bit further out the door
before...

32 HAZEL
Wait, Explorer Elinor! We do have
one more thing.

(Checks the journal) We need to
clean the Clubhouse!

34 ELINOR
Oh, right! Thank you Explorer
Hazel - Explorers MUST take care of
their Clubhouse before they
EXPLORE!

Elinor, Ari, Hazel and Sally tidy up, picking up some papers
and crayons and stacking them in the corner, straightening a
map on the wall, hanging up the magnifying glass - that kind
of thing. Elinor does an especially speedy job to get going.

35 ELINOR (CONT'D)
 Okay! We cleaned up, we have
 mascots, and now... It's finally
 time to go EXPLOR-....!

Elinor runs out the door.

3. EXT. SMALL HILL -- CONTINUOUS

Elinor takes a few steps outside before she runs up against
KAI WOMBAT.

 ELINOR (CONT'D)
 ...RING.

36 KAI
 Hey! What are you guys doing?

37 ARI
 Oh, hi, Kai! We're having a meeting
 of the Explorer's Club! Wanna join?

38 KAI
 Sure!

At that moment TITO MOUSE also walks up.

 TITO
 Hey, can I join too?

39 HAZEL
 Of course, Tito, come on in! The
 Explorer's Club is for everybody!

Elinor looks back and forth between the great outdoors and
her friends.

40 ELINOR
 (Sighs) That's the Explorer Way!

All the kids walk into the Clubhouse.

4. INT. CLUBHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

The Clubhouse is getting pretty crowded and as everyone
settles into place, Kai notices Norma and Lou-Lou.

41 KAI
 Oooh, nice snails.

And we take another look at the snails in CU: happily
crawling along the windowsill.

42 ARI
 (proudly)
 They're our Club mascots!

43 ELINOR
 (good naturedly)
 And they're the only ones who have
 done any exploring today.

44 HAZEL
 Don't worry Elinor, we'll
 ALL go exploring, right after we
 teach Kai and Tito the Explorer's
 Club Pledge.

Elinor leads, with gestures:

45 ELINOR
 Okay, everybody!! Repeat after me!
 An Explorer is brave!

46 HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI, TITO
 An Explorer is BRAVE!!

Suddenly, CAMILLA DROMEDARY pokes her head in the window.

47 CAMILLA
 Explorer?? Did you say Explorer? I
 LOVE exploring!

48 ARI
 Then join our club!

49 CAMILLA
 Don't mind if I do!

It takes some doing as she squeezes inside. They can all
barely fit!

50 ELINOR
 Hookey, let's start the club
 pledge...

Suddenly the GOAT TWINS poke their noses in the door.

51 GOAT TWINS
 (in unison)
 Any room for us?

52 ELINOR
 Uh, sure...

53 HAZEL
The Explorers Club is for
everybody!

They squeeze inside, now there's REALLY no room.

54 ELINOR
Okay, time to start the...

55 HAZEL
Whoops, I dropped my crayon!

She ducks down trying to retrieve it, causing the whole group to squirm and squish. ANGLE ON: her hand fishing for the crayon as we see a grouping of feet all shuffling as the crayon is accidentally kicked around - finally...

56 HAZEL (CONT'D)
Got it!

Hazel stands up triumphant. Suddenly <SFX: Crunch, crunch, crunch>

57 KAI
(mouth full)
Anybody want some granola? I made
it myself.

58 ELINOR, ARI, HAZEL, SALLY
(ad lib)
Sure!/I'll have some/pass it
over!!/ Me too!

More general shifting as the granola is shared.

59 ELINOR
Okay, Explorers, let's get this
pledge started so we can all go
exploring! An explorer is...

Just that moment Ari (squished in the far corner beside the window) calls out.

60 ARI
(calling out)
Wait! Has anybody seen Norma and
Lou-Lou?! They were just here a
second ago.

61 ELINOR, HAZEL, SALLY
(ad lib)
Nope/ Sorry/ They're not over here.

5. EXT. SMALL HILL -- CONTINUOUS

Ari sticks his head out the window and calls. Norma and Lou-Lou are crawling behind Ari along the Clubhouse roof.

62 ARI
 Norma!! Lou-Lou!!
 (looking around)
 NORMAAAA!! LOU-LOU!!!!!!!

The Clubhouse starts to teeter as Ari's gestures and the kid movements inside destabilize it.

63 ARI (CONT'D)
 Wha-oh!

After shifting back and forth a couple of times...

64 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI
 WHOOOAAAW, WHOOOAAAAAW, WHOOAAAAAA

It tips over and the entire Clubhouse comically tumbles over and rolls down the (small) hill.

66 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI
 (CONT'D)
 (laughing)

4. EXT. BOTTOM OF THE HILL -- DAY

The Clubhouse tumbles to a halt at the bottom of the small hill. The kids all spill out, giggling.

 TITO
 Whoa, that was cool!

 GOAT TWINS
 (together) Oh my!

Hazel picks herself up first.

68 HAZEL
 (laughing, looking at the
 clubhouse)
 I think we have a Clubhouse
 problem.

69 ELINOR
 Yeah! (Dusts herself off) The club
 got bigger, but the Clubhouse
 stayed the same!

ANGLE ON: Meanwhile Ari, who landed a little ways away, picks himself up. He remembers that the snails are missing.

71 ARI
 Norma! Lou-Lou! Where are youoooo?

BACK ON: Elinor and Hazel are looking at the tumbled Clubhouse.

 HAZEL
 What are we going to do?

 ELINOR
 Hmmm...

72 HAZEL
 Maybe we can get a bigger box?

73 ELINOR
 That would work...

We see a thought bubble form next to Elinor, in which a brand new (and bigger) box is their shiny new clubhouse. Everyone fits inside!

 ELINOR (CONT'D)
 But what if MORE kids join the club? We'd have to get a WHOLE new Clubhouse again!

In the thought bubble, more and more kids join the club, eventually crowding the bigger box.

BACK ON: Ari, searching for Norma and Lou-Lou.

 ARI
 Norma! Lou-Lou! Now where did they go?

Ari puts his hands on his hips and looks around. Suddenly, he realizes the snails are hanging out on his shoulder.

 ARI (CONT'D)
 There you are!

BACK ON: Elinor and Hazel are still brainstorming.

74 HAZEL
 What if we get *another* box? Then we can have TWO Clubhouses?

76 ELINOR
 That could work...

We see another thought bubble, this time showing two clubhouses near each other. All the kids fit!

ELINOR (CONT'D)
But then, we wouldn't all be
together.

In the thought bubble, we see the kids in both clubhouses having trouble communicating with the other clubhouse.

HAZEL
You're right... Explorers should
stick together!

ELINOR
Yeah! Hmmm...

BACK ON: Ari, who is within earshot of Elinor and Hazel. He uses a leaf to gently take the little snails off his shoulder and puts them on a nearby rock.

ARI
Phew! It's a good thing you have
those shells to protect you, Norma
and Lou-Lou.

It's like you have your own little
clubhouses, just like we do!

This catches Elinor's attention. She hops over to Ari, with Hazel following.

ELINOR
Did you say Norma and Lou-Lou have
their own clubhouse?

ARI
Kind of! See, Norma has a little
clubhouse on her back and Lou-Lou,
who's bigger, has a *bigger*
clubhouse.

The snails go into their shells, then peek out. Elinor looks closer at the snails.

ARI (CONT'D)
I imagine when Norma grows up,
she'll have a bigger shell too.

(after a beat) Huh, I wonder how
they get a bigger shell?

ELINOR
Hmmm... We need more observations!

She runs past the other kids and into the clubhouse, emerging with the magnifying glass and the club journal. She looks at the snails with the magnifying glass.

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Let's take a closer look...

We track her magnified view as she goes back and forth between the two shells a few times. On close up, we see the number of loops each shell has, and that the larger shell has more lines (or rings) going outwards around the spiral.

ELINOR (CONT'D)
That is SO INTERESTING!

Look! Lou-Lou's shell gets bigger
by winding around in a spiral.
(she demos the shape)
She has one, two, three rings.

Elinor turns her attention to Norma.

94 ELINOR (CONT'D)
But Norma's shell has one, two,
three, four, five, six rings -
that's a lot more.

ANGLE ON: Hazel makes a drawing of this in the journal, counting the rings as she draws.

95 HAZEL
One, two, three, four, five, six!

The kids look at Hazel's drawing.

96 HAZEL (CONT'D)
The snail shell winds around,
starting small and getting bigger
with each ring...

ELINOR
I think the snails make their
shells BIGGER by adding to them!

When Norma was a baby, she was
probably little just like Lou-Lou.
But as she got bigger Norma ADDED
rings to her shell to make it
bigger too.

In a thought bubble next to Elinor, we see Norma as a little baby snail with a small shell consisting of one loop. As she grows and gets bigger, the shell spirals around and grows, ring by ring.

ARI
Whoa, that is so cool...

100 ELINOR
(thrilled, penny drops)
<GASP!> And that gives me an idea
to solve our Clubhouse problem!

She runs off screen. Ari and Hazel look at each other and follow. We hear the beginning of a song...

CROSSFADE TO:

CLUB-BUILDING MONTAGE

The kids sing as we show a montage of them building the clubhouse addition.

112 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI
Room for everyone!
Room for everyone!
Everyone is welcome, 'cause there's
room for everyone!!

Elinor: We have a lot of friends,
Hazel: And a club that's really
fun,
ARI: We had a awesome Clubhouse
ELINOR: But we need a bigger one!
HAZEL: We'll add on rooms and
sections.
ARI: Like our snails, we'll get it
done.

(ANGLE ON: The Snails)
ELINOR: Our Club keeps growing
bigger, we need...
ALL: ROOM FOR EVERYONE!

Room for everyone!
Room for everyone!
Explorer's Club is AWESOME cause
there's room for everyone!!

As they sing, we see Hazel drawing up plans for expanding the existing clubhouse, with diagrams of the snails for inspiration, and we see the kids discussing how they are going to build it. We see the other kids bringing in a colorful pile of random and whimsical building materials -- cardboard, snow saucers, sheets of colorful fabric and decorations - etc. Slowly they make the clubhouse bigger by expanding it.

END MONTAGE!

EXT. CLUBHOUSE - LATER

Hazel checks her plans.

113 HAZEL
I think we've got everything except
the door on the roof!

PAN UP TO REVEAL: The REAL Clubhouse and all the Explorers
working on it. Kai pops through a door in the roof.

114 KAI
One roof door - DONE!

Elinor looks on with satisfaction.

115 ELINOR
Now THAT'S a Clubhouse for
EVERYONE!

116 HAZEL
And we have lots of extra building
stuff if need to make it bigger
later.

ANGLE ON: Extra stuff.

117 ELINOR
Great!

 HAZEL
(closing the journal) Well, now we
can finally go exploring like you
wanted, Elinor!

 ELINOR
That's OK. We did explore! We
learned something from Nature and
that's what exploring is all about!

Suddenly, Ari runs up in a panic.

118 ARI
Wait! I've lost Norma and Lou-Lou
AGAIN!!

A beat as he looks at his smiling friends and figures it out.

119 ARI (CONT'D)
Don't tell me. They're on my
shoulder, aren't they?
 (covering)
I knew that.

Hazel again uses a leaf to put them gently on a rock

120 ELINOR
Explorers, are you ready?

121 HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI, CAMILLA, GOATS
READY!!!

Elinor leads her friends(with gestures) as they march OS.

122 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI,
 CAMILLA, GOAT TWINS
An Explorer is BRAVE, an Explorer
is KIND!! An Explorer is
CURIOUS!!! WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL
FIND!!

IRIS OUT, THE END