

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

OUTLINE: November 23, 2018

FIRST DRAFT: December 17th, 2018

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.

1	ELINOR	1
	Ready?	

2 ELINOR AND HAZEL 2
An Explorer is brave!

3	SALLY	3
	An explorer is brave!	

4 ELINOR AND HAZEL 4
An Explorer is kind!

5 SALLY 5
An Explorer is kind.

6 ELINOR AND HAZEL 6
An Explorer is CURIOUS!

7 Ooooooh. ARI 7

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 9
WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL FIND!!!

Ari bursts into the box.

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

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

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12                                ARI                                12
    A new member+! Awesome! Welcome
    Explorer Sally!

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13 SALLY 13
Thanks for letting me be part of
the club.

14 ELINOR 14
Of course! *Anyone* can join the
Explorer's Club!

15 HAZEL 15
Yeah, all you have to do is love
EXPLORING.

16	ARI	16
	Our number one rule is...	

17 ELINOR/HAZEL/ARI 17
(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.

18 ELINOR/HAZEL 18
Hey!/Whoa!

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19                                     ARI                                     19
                                Whoops, sorry!

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20 HAZEL 20
I guess there's less room now that
we have (counts silently) four
members!

21 ELINOR 21
OKAY, Explorers! Let's go start
EXPLORING!

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

22 ARI 22
Wait! I have something we can
explore ...INSIDE the Clubhouse!

23 ELINOR 23
(interested)
Really? What is it, Explorer Ari?

24 ARI 24
Ta-DAH!

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

25 ELINOR 25
<GASP!> Snails!

26 HAZEL/SALLY 26
Ooooh.../Whoa...

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

27 ARI 27
Meet Norma and Lou-Lou. I named
them after my Aunties.

A beat then...

28 ARI (CONT'D) 28
They look just like them.

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

29 ELINOR 29
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.

30 HAZEL 30
They sure don't move very fast.

31 ARI 31
<GASP!> Wait a minute, I have a
great idea! Norma and Lou-Lou can
be our Explorer Club MASCOTS!

32 ELINOR, HAZEL, SALLY 32
Ooooh/ Cool!/ Huh?

This is a new word for Sally.

33 SALLY 33
Uh... what's a mac-sot?

34 ARI 34
Mascot! It's like a pet... for the
whole CLUB!!

35 SALLY 35
Oh, I LOVE pets.

36 HAZEL 36
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.

37 ELINOR 37
Okay! Now that we have mascots,
it's time to go EXPLORING!
This time, Elinor gets a little bit
further out the door before...

38 HAZEL 38
Wait, Explorer Elinor! We do have
one more thing. Checks the journal)
We need to clean the Clubhouse!

39 ELINOR 39
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.

40	ELINOR (CONT'D)	40
	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.

...RING.

ELINOR (CONT'D)

42 KAI 42
Hey! What are you guys doing?

43 ARI 43

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

Sure!

KAI

At that moment TITO MOUSE also walks up.

45 TITO 45
Hey, can I join too?

46 HAZEL 46
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.

47 ELINOR 47
(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.

48	KAI	48
	Oooh, nice snails.	

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

49 ARI 49
 (proudly)
 They're our Club mascots!

50 ELINOR 50
 (good naturedly)
 And they're the only ones who have
 done any exploring today.

51 HAZEL 51
 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:

52 ELINOR 52
 Okay, everybody!! Repeat after me!
 An Explorer is brave!

53 HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI, TITO 53
 An Explorer is BRAVE!!

Suddenly, CAMILLA DROMEDARY pokes her head in the window.

54 CAMILLA 54
 Explorer?? Did you say Explorer? I
 LOVE exploring!—

55 ARI 55
 Then join our club!

56 CAMILLA 56
 Don't mind if I do!

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

57 ELINOR 57
 Hookey, let's start the club
 pledge...

Suddenly the GOAT TWINS poke their noses in the door.

58 GOAT TWINS 58
 (in unison)
 Any room for us?

59 ELINOR 59
 Uh, sure...

60	HAZEL	60
	The Explorers Club is for everybody!	

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

61		ELINOR	61
		Okay, time to start the...	

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...

63 HAZEL (CONT'D) 63
Got it!

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

64 KAI 64
(mouth full)
Anybody want some granola? I made
it myself.

65 ELINOR, ARI, HAZEL, SALLY 65
 (ad lib)
 Sure!/I'll have some/pass it
 over!!/ Me too!

More general shifting as the granola is shared.

66 ELINOR 66
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.

67 ARI 67
 (calling out)
Wait! Has anybody seen Norma and
Lou-Lou?! They were just here a
second ago.

68 ELINOR, HAZEL, SALLY 68
(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.

69	ARI	69
	Norma!! Lou-Lou!! (looking around) NORMAAAA!! LOU-LOU!!!!!!!!	

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

70 ARI (CONT'D) 70
 Wha-oh!

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

71 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI 71
WHOOOAAAW, WHOOOOAAAAAW, WHOOAAAAAA

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

72 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI 72
(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.

73 TITO 73
Whoa, that was cool!

74 GOAT TWINS 74
 (together) Oh my!

Hazel picks herself up first.

75 HAZEL 75
 (laughing, looking at the
 clubhouse)
I think we have a Clubhouse
problem.

76 ELINOR 76
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.

77 ARI 77
Norma! Lou-Lou! Where are youoooo?

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

78 HAZEL 78
What are wegoing to do?

79 ELINOR 79

Hmmm . . .

80 HAZEL 80
Maybe we can get a bigger box?

81 ELINOR 81
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 insides!

82 ELINOR (CONT'D) 82
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.

83 ARI 83
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.

84 ARI (CONT'D) 84
There you are!

BACK ON: Elinor and Hazel are still brainstorming.

85 HAZEL 85

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

86 ELINOR 86
That could work.

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

87 ELINOR (CONT'D) 87
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.

88 HAZEL 88
You're right... Explorers should
stick together!

89 ELINOR 89
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.

90 ARI 90

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.

91 ELINOR 91
Did you say Norma and Lou-Lou have
their own clubhouse?

92 ARI 92

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.

93 ARI (CONT'D) 93
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?

94 ELINOR 94
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.

95 ELINOR (CONT'D) 95
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.

96 ELINOR (CONT'D) 96
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.

97 ELINOR (CONT'D) 97
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.

98 HAZEL 98
One, two, three, four, five, six!

The kids look at Hazel's drawing.

99 HAZEL (CONT'D) 99
The snail shell winds around,
starting small and getting bigger
with each ring...

100 ELINOR 100
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.

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101                ARI                                101
101                Whoa, that is so cool...

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102 ELINOR 102
 <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.

103	ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI	103
	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.

104 HAZEL 104

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.

105 KAI 105
One roof door - DONE!

Elinor looks on with satisfaction.

106 ELINOR 106
Now THAT'S a Clubhouse for
EVERYONE!

107 HAZEL 107

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

ANGLE ON: Extra stuff.

108 Great! ELINOR 108

109 HAZEL 109
 (closing the journal) Well, now we
 can finally go exploring like you
 wanted, Elinor!

110 ELINOR 110
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.

111	ARI	111
	Wait! I've lost Norma and Lou-Lou	
	AGAIN!!	

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

112 ARI (CONT'D) 112
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

113 ELINOR 113
Explorers, are you ready?

114 ALL 114
READY!!!

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

115 ALL (CONT'D) 115
An Explorer is BRAVE, an Explorer
is KIND!! An Explorer is
CURIOUS!!! WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL
FIND!!

IRIS OUT, THE END