

ELINOR'S TOWN

EP 103 Owl Girl

By: Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: Why do owls sleep during the day?

Logline: Elinor learns that some animals sleep during the day and are awake at night.

Curriculum Goals:

LS2 Begin to explore how different external features of an animal help it survive in its environment. (Elinor learns that an Owl has certain characteristics that help it survive at night.)

SEP2: Developing and using models. (Elinor makes an Owl Costume).

SEP8 Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information (Elinor and her mother observe and discuss the Owl, and she shares her findings with her class).

- o Obtain information through discussing prior knowledge and observations with experts including teachers or knowledgeable adults
- o Use basic science and engineering content vocabulary when investigating and describing observable phenomena
- o Share findings and explanations (correct or incorrect) through a variety of methods

Main Characters: Elinor, Hazel, Ari

Secondary Characters: Ms. Mole, Ranger Rabbit, Mr. Raccoon, Owl

Incidental Characters: Classroom kids

Backgrounds: Forest daytime, Elinor's bedroom at night, Elinor's parent's at night, Forest at night, Classroom

Props: Hazel in a book costume, Ari as a magician, Owl-Girl

Elinor, Ms. Mole as a flower, flashlights, robes, slippers

OUTLINE: November 23, 2018

FIRST DRAFT: December 19, 2018

REV. FIRST DRAFT: December 20, 2018

SECOND DRAFT: January 8th, 2019

1. EXT. FOREST -- DAY

1

OPEN WIDE: It's a beautiful day in the forest. MOVE IN ON ELINOR, wearing her BACKPACK, looking closely at a flower with a curious but uncertain expression, like she's evaluating it.

*

1 ELINOR
HMMMMMMMM.

1

She turns from the flower and lifts up a small rock, spotting something under it. She seems interested for a moment before putting the rock down.

2 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Mmm, that's not it either...

2

WIDEN TO REVEAL: HAZEL and ARI walking ahead along the path. Hazel is wearing her SATCHEL, while Ari wears his WATCH and KNAPSACK.

*

*

3 HAZEL
Elinor? Are you coming?

3

4 ELINOR
Right behind you, Hazel!

4

Elinor catches up to them and then bounces ahead. She stops suddenly to look at a weird mushroom.

5 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Ooooh.

5

She only looks at it for a moment, then she gets interested in something else. She is energetic, hopping around and jumping over rocks in her enthusiasm. Hazel and Ari look at each other and follow, passing her.

6 HAZEL
I can't wait for school tomorrow!

6

7 ARI
Me too, Hazel!
(thinks about it)
Wait, why?

7

Behind them, we see Elinor rushing around, following a butterfly.

*

8 HAZEL
(laughing)
It's Costume Day, Ari!

8

9 ARI 9

Yes! Costume Day! We get to wear a
costume to school tomorrow!
Remember last year?

A thought bubble forms next to Ari as he remembers his costume. It's just him holding a baseball.

10	ARI (CONT'D)	10
	I was a baseball AND bat! Get it?	
	Because I AM a bat?	

On the thought bubble, a drawing of a baseball and bat (the kind you swing) appears next to the previous drawing.

```

11          HAZEL                                     11
I remember.
    (giggles)
It was so funny.

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The thought bubble pops and Ari draws one wing over half of his face mysteriously.

12 ARI 12
This year, I'm going to be
something SUPER cool and
MYSTERIOUS.

His dramatic pose is disrupted by Elinor, who lifts up one of his feet to look at something underneath, Ari comically staggers.

13 ARI (CONT'D) 13
 (laughing)
Whooops, careful Elinor!!

14 ELINOR 14
Sorry, Ari.

Elinor bounces OS, following a frog.

15 ARI 15

So what are *you* going to dress up
as, Hazel?

16	HAZEL	16
	I've been working on my costume for	
	DAYS! I'm going as something I	
	LOVE!	

17	ARI	17
	Let me guess: a banana?	

18	HAZEL	18
	A BANANA???	
	(laughs)	
	No... although I DO love bananas.	*
	You'll just have to wait and see!	*

At this point, Elinor returns from looking around. She looks a little dejected.

19	ELINOR	19
	Sigh...	

20	ARI	20
	Hey, Elinor, what are YOU going to be for Costume Day?	

21	ELINOR	21
	(a little frustrated)	
	I just don't know!	

22	HAZEL	22
	Uh oh.	

23	ELINOR	23
	I've been looking EVERYWHERE, but I haven't found the <i>right</i> idea for my costume yet.	

24	ARI	24
	Huh.	

25	ELINOR	25
	I want it to be something reeeaaaally interesting....	
	(she looks around)	
	But, I don't know what, and Costume Day is TOMORROW!	

26	HAZEL	26
	We'll help you look for ideas, Elinor.	

27	ARI	27
	You bet - just call me Ari the idea-finder!	*
		*

28	ELINOR	28
	(relieved)	
	Aww, thank you!	

QUICK SEARCHING MONTAGE

The kids look under a bush.

29 HAZEL 29
Nothing under here.

They check out a hole in the trunk of a large, old tree.

30 ARI 30
Nothing in here.

They look behind the tree.

31 ELINOR 31
Nothing behind here!

END MONTAGE - They pause, and Ari makes a show of looking around.

32 ARI 32
Nope, nothing interesting anywhere
that I can s-...
(he looks up)
Yikes!

Ari jumps and Elinor and Hazel look up too. ANGLE ON: An OWL, perched on a high branch above Ari's head. It looks very majestic and peaceful and it has its eyes closed.

33 ELINOR 33
(in awe)
<GASP!> Wooooooooow!

34 HAZEL 34
It's an OWL!

35 ARI 35
I've never seen an Owl this close
before.

They all look up to admire. The owl does nothing for a beat.

36 ELINOR 36
What's it doing?

37 HAZEL 37
It's not moving.

38 ARI 38
I'll take a closer look!

Ari flies up.

39 ARI (CONT'D) 39
(comically loud whisper)
Its eyes are closed!
(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

(a beat later)

I think it's sleeping!

40 ELINOR 40
Sleeping? In the middle of the day?

41 HAZEL 41
Maybe it's taking a nap.

Ari flies down, a little winded.

42 ARI 42
Phew! I could use nap. AND a snack.

43 ELINOR 43
Let's wait for the Owl to wake up!
I want to see it fly - WHOOSH!

Elinor pantomimes a flying owl, wings open.

44 HAZEL 44
Ok, let's wait.

SERIES OF X-DISS. They sit down to wait, expecting it to wake *
at any moment. After a beat, nothing happens. They get a bit
fidgety. Hazel takes out a book. Elinor stays focused on the
owl. Ari unpacks a small bag. Suddenly, we hear a loud <SFX:
CRUNCH> sound. Elinor and Hazel look to Ari, who has a
mouthful of crunchy snack.

45 ARI 45
(munching)
What? I'm hungry!

Ari continues to crunch on his snack, with Elinor and Hazel
cringing each time. Elinor gets fidgety.

46 ELINOR 46
Is the owl going to sleep ALL DAY?

47 HAZEL 47
It can't sleep ALL day. Can it?

48 ARI 48
(munching)
Sounds pretty good to me. Some of
my cousins sleep all day.

49 HAZEL 49
I wonder when it eats.

Ari takes a last bite of his snack.

50 ARI 50
 (munching)
 Speaking of eating...
 (looks at his watch)
 It's almost dinner time!

51 HAZEL 51
 You're right, we'd better go.

Hazel and Ari grab their things and run off, out of the frame. Elinor stays back for a moment to look at the owl one last time, hoping to see it wake up.

52 ELINOR 52
 (to herself, a wish)
 Oh, please - wake up!

2. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN -- SUNSET

Over a view of Animal Town, we see the sun set and the moon rise as the sky turns a dark blue with pinpoints of stars.

3. INT. ELINOR'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Open on Elinor in bed. She is sleeping, but she's moving a bit as if she's having an active dream.

53 ELINOR (CONT'D) 53
 (in her sleep)
 Wake up owl... wake up!

<SFX: OS MUFFLED OWL - WHOOO>. Elinor turns over but doesn't wake up. <SFX: OWL - WHOOO>. Elinor's eyes open and she sits up, yawning and stretching. <SFX: MUFFLED OWL WHOOO> Elinor turns to the sound, hops out of bed and goes to her window.

54 ELINOR (CONT'D) 54
 Who's out there?

She looks outside for a moment and then opens it. <SFX: OWL (CLEAR) WHOOO!> Elinor looks confused.

55 ELINOR (CONT'D) 55
 Who what?

<SFX: OWL (CLEAR) WHOOO!>

56 ELINOR (CONT'D) 56
 Who, me?

<SFX: OWL (CLEAR) WHOOO!> Elinor gets annoyed.

57 ELINOR (YELLING) (CONT'D) 57
Yes I heard you! Do you mean me?
I'm Elinor, that's who!

<SFX: OWL (CLEAR) WHOOO!> Elinor closes the window.

4. INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Elinor tiptoes into her parents' bedroom, where they are both sleeping. She approaches her mom's side of the bed.

58 ELINOR (CONT'D) 58
 (whisper comically loud)
Mom!
 (Her mom stirs a bit.)
Mom! Wake up!

Ranger Rabbit wakes up and rubs her eyes.

59 RANGER RABBIT 59
What is it Elinor? Is something
wrong?

60 ELINOR 60
I can't sleep.

61 RANGER RABBIT 61
Oh, honey. What's keeping you
awake?

62 ELINOR 62
I can't sleep because I have a
QUESTION.

63 RANGER RABBIT 63

Of course you do. Tell me, what is
your middle-of-the-night question?

64	ELINOR	64	
	It's not MY question. Someone is		*
	outside my window asking ME		
	questions! They keep saying "WHO!",		*
	and won't stop.		

65 RANGER RABBIT 65
I see.

66 ELINOR 66
I want to go outside and see who it
is. Can you come with me?

67 RANGER RABBIT 67
(after a breath, smiling)
Yes I can. Let's get our night-time
observation kit!

Elinor runs out of the room. Ranger Rabbit pulls a basket out from under the bed that has two flashlights. Elinor reappears immediately wearing her robe and slippers!

68 ELINOR 68
I'm ready! Are you?

Ranger Rabbit's all for helping Elinor explore, but like most parents, she'd prefer to do it during the day. :) *

69 RANGER RABBIT 69
(with a smile)
It's the middle of the night. Of course I'm ready! *

<SFX: OS MUFFLED OWL - WHOOO> Elinor tugs on her mom's hand.

70 ELINOR 70
There it is again! Come on, Mom! We need MORE OBSERVATIONS!

5. EXT. ELINOR'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Elinor and Ranger Rabbit (now wearing her robe and slippers) step out of the house. A light in the front of the house illuminates the door and immediate surroundings, but everything else nearby is dark.

71 ELINOR (CONT'D) 71
Wow, it's so dark! I can't see anything!

Elinor turns on her flashlight and a cone of light illuminates a nearby bush.

72 ELINOR (CONT'D) 72
Is there anything awake out here?

73 RANGER RABBIT 73
(yawning)
Other than two sleepy rabbits?
Let's have a look!

Elinor and Ranger Rabbit walk a little bit into the woods, their flashlights searching around them. They come to the same clearing from earlier.

We hear a rustling sound in a bush. Elinor points her flashlight at it and we see a gecko briefly, before it runs into the bushes.

74 ELINOR 74
Wow! That was such a cool lizard!
I've never seen one like that
before.

75 RANGER RABBIT 75

That's because you usually go into
the forest during the day. Some
animals only come out at night.
Like this lizard - it's called a
gecko!

Elinor searches some more. Her flashlight finds some worms wriggling on the ground.

76 ELINOR 76
Look at this! These worms are
awake! That is SO INTERESTING!

She points her flashlight around, and we see some bugs flying around, as well as some more lizards scurrying about.

77 ELINOR (CONT'D) 77
I wonder what all these animals are
doing up so late?

78 RANGER RABBIT 78
Maybe their children woke them up
to go exploring?

Elinor laughs, getting the joke.

79 ELINOR 79
 <LAUGHS>

Suddenly, we hear a <SFX: RUSTLE> in the bushes. Elinor and Ranger Rabbit point their flashlights at it. Out pops Mr. Raccoon, who is a little startled by the bright lights.

80 MR. RACCOON 80

Oh!

 (then, after adjusting to
 the light)

Oh, hello, Ranger Rabbit! Hello,
Elinor!

81 ELINOR 81
Hello, Mr. Raccoon! Are you out
looking for the mysterious "who"
too?

82 MR. RACCOON 82
Mysterious who?

83 ELINOR 83
Yes, who!

Mr. Raccoon scratches his head.

84 MR. RACCOON 84
I mean, WHO are you looking for?

85 ELINOR 85
We're looking for the WHO, that's
who!

Mr. Raccoon looks confused. Ranger Rabbit smiles.

86 RANGER RABBIT 86
We are out exploring, Mr. Raccoon.

87 MR. RACCOON 87
Ahh!

88 ELINOR 88
Why are you awake so late, Mr.
Raccoon?

89 MR. RACCOON 89
Oh, I always get up around this
time.

90 ELINOR 90
REALLY? Does the WHO wake you up?

91 MR. RACCOON 91
Who..? Never mind. No, I have to
wake up to work at the bakery!

92 ELINOR 92
You can't do that during the day?

93 MR. RACCOON 93
Oh, no. I have to start baking the
tasty treats at night, so they'll
be ready in time for breakfast!

*

94 ELINOR 94
Ohhhh...

95 MR. RACCOON 95
That way your favorite carrot cake
muffins will be fresh from the
oven when you come into my store in
the morning.

96 ELINOR 96
Oh! I didn't know that. But then,
when do you sleep?

97 MR. RACCOON 97
I sleep in the afternoon when
everyone else is awake.

98 ELINOR 98
Ohhh.

99 MR. RACCOON 99
Well, love to chat more, but I have
to get going. Time to make the
muffins!

100 RANGER RABBIT 100
Goodbye, Mr. Raccoon.

Mr. Raccoon nods and rushes off.

101 ELINOR 101
(calling)
Don't forget the carrot cake ones!
(to her mom)
Wow, mom. There sure is a lot going
on in the forest at night!

Elinor starts to sing:

102 ELINOR (CONT'D) 102
(singing)
I thought the forest was quiet at
night.
But now that I have my trusty
flashlight,
I see worms and bugs and lizards,
too!
But I still wonder who said...

<SFX: OS OWL (CLEAR) - WHOOO>

103 ELINOR (CONT'D) 103
There it is again!

Elinor and Ranger Rabbit look for the source of the sound. They move their flashlights around the clearing. Elinor looks up.

104 ELINOR (CONT'D) 104
<GASP!> Look!

ANGLE ON the owl soaring in the sky. It's above the trees and it flies and banks with amazing grace and beauty. Most important, it flies SILENTLY.

105 ELINOR (CONT'D) 105
(amazed)
Wooooow!

The owl turns and glides down to the ground, grabbing something (if it's prey we will not see it) before landing up in the tree. <SFX: OWL - WHOOO> Elinor turns to her mother. *

106 ELINOR (CONT'D) 106
Mom, that's the owl Ari, Hazel and I saw on our way home! It's so quiet I almost didn't notice it fly by!

107 RANGER RABBIT 107
That's because owl are really SILENT FLYERS. They have special feathers on their wings that don't make any sound.

108 ELINOR 108
Oooh...

<SFX: OWL - WHOOO>

109 ELINOR (CONT'D) 109
(gets it)
Wait a minute. That's who's been saying "whoo!" It's the Owl!! He's up late, just like Mr. Raccoon!

110 RANGER RABBIT 110
Yep, owls are NOCTURNAL. That means they stay awake at night.

111 ELINOR 111
But why?
(after a beat)
Does the Owl work at a bakery too?
I didn't even know there WERE Owl bakeries.

112 RANGER RABBIT 112
 (smiling)
 I don't think so! Owls are awake at
 night because they eat things like
 bugs and worms that come out at *
 night. *

ANGLE ON: The Owl's eyes.

113 RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D) 113
 They have super special eyes that
 are really good at seeing things in
 the dark.

Elinor and her mom look at the owl a moment longer.

114 ELINOR 114
 Wow! I didn't know there was so
 much happening in the forest at
 night. And I didn't know that owls
 were so... INTERESTING!

Elinor has a flash of inspiration.

115 ELINOR (CONT'D) 115
 Mom!! I just had a GREAT idea -
 come on! *

She runs off screen followed by her mom, ANGLE ON: The
beautiful Owl watches them go. <SFX: OS OWL (CLEAR) - WHOOO>

6. INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

It's Costume Day at Elinor's school! We open on a bunch of
children in costume talking excitedly, including Hazel and
Ari (but not Elinor). Hazel is dressed like a big book.

116 ARI 116
 Oooh, nice costume, Hazel!

117 HAZEL 117
 Thanks, Ari! You know I LOVE books,
 and I always wished I had one that
 turned its own pages, so check this *
 out.

She turns the pages with her trunk.

118 ARI 118
 Ha ha, AWESOME!

He looks closer at one of the pages, which has some drawings
of bananas.

119 ARI (CONT'D) 119
Wait a second...is this a book
about bananas?

120 HAZEL 120
(giggles)
I really do love bananas! So, what *
are you, Ari?

121 ARI 121
Me? Well, I am...

ANGLE ON: Ari is dressed in a tuxedo with a cape and a top
hat. He swirls his cape.

122 ARI (CONT'D) 122
(dramatic voice)
The Mysterious Mysterioso! Super
magician, at your service!

123 HAZEL 123
Cool! Are you going to do some
magic?

124 ARI 124
Yes, I'm going to make my lunch
disappear later.

125 SILAS, SALLY, GOAT TWINS, HAZEL 125
<LAUGH>

126 HAZEL 126
(giggling)
Very impressive, Mysterious
Mysterioso.

Suddenly, from behind them, we see a feathery blur rush
towards them. Elinor, dressed as an owl, jumps into the
scene, surprising everyone.

127 ELINOR 127
Whoooo! Whoo!! WHOOOO!!!

Elinor starts "flying around the classroom" as she does the
dialogue below.

128 HAZEL 128
<Gasp!> Elinor, you look just like
the owl we saw yesterday!

129 ELINOR 129
That's right! My mom and I stayed
up all night making my costume.
Isn't it iinnnteresting?

130 ARI 130
It sure is!!!
 (a beat)
But I thought owls slept all the
time?

131 ELINOR 131
Nope, owls only sleep during the
day, but they're awake at night!
That's called being NOCTURNAL!

132 HAZEL 132
Nocturnal! I LIKE that word!

133 ELINOR 133
They have super good eyes for
seeing in the dark. That's when
they eat their food.

134 ARI 134
Oohh.

135 ELINOR 135
AND they have special feathers that
help them fly *really* quietly.

Elinor runs around her friends with her wings spread out, not
making a sound.

136 HAZEL 136
 (figures something out)
So that's why the Owl we saw *
wouldn't open its eyes! It was
sleeping so it could be awake at
night!

137 ELINOR 137
That's riiiigghht
 (yaaaaaaaawns)

Elinor lets out a biiig yawn. At that moment, Ms. Mole calls *
the class to order.

138 MS. MOLE 138
Alright class, time to find our
places!

Ms. Mole is wearing a flower costume. The kids gather.

139 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 139
Welcome to COSTUME DAY! Okay, now
who wants to talk about the costume
they're wearing?

140 SILAS/SALLY/GOAT 140
Me! / I want to talk about my
costume! / Me first!

141 MS. MOLE 141
Wait, where's Elinor?

The kids look around. After a beat, Ari raises his hand.

142 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 142
Yes, Ari?

143 ARI 143
Ms. Mole, Elinor's an owl and she
was awake all night making her
costume. That means just like an
owl...

He moves aside to reveal Elinor curled up with her head
tucked under a wing, sleeping.

144 HAZEL 144
She'll be sleeping all day!

145 MS. MOLE 145
Oh, Elinor...

We end on a close up of Elinor, smiling and breathing softly
as she sleeps.

146 ELINOR 146
 (quietly)
SNOOOORE - Whooo....

*