

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 102B 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, Olive, 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: Olive 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

POLISH: January 17, 2018

RECORD DRAFT: January 25th, 2018

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.

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.

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

4 ELINOR 4
Right behind you, Olive!

5 Ooooh. ELINOR (CONT'D) 5

6 OLIVE 6
I can't wait for school tomorrow!

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

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

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	OLIVE	11
	I remember. (giggles) It was so funny.	
	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, Olive?	
16	OLIVE	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?	

QUICK SEARCHING MONTAGE

The kids look under a bush.

29	OLIVE	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 I don't always s-...	
	(he looks up)	
	Yikes!	

Ari jumps and Elinor and Olive 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	OLIVE	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	OLIVE	37
	It's not moving.	

38	ARI	38
	I'll take a closer look!	

Ari flies up.

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

Olive 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.

ELINOR

(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 (in her sleep) Wake up owl... wake up!	53
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<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	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 of a QUESTION.	

63	RANGER RABBIT	63
	Right. 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 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 and bugs wriggling on the ground.

76 ELINOR 76
Look at this! These worms and bugs
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 Ohhh. ELINOR 98

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!

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!

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123                OLIVE                123
Cool! Are you going to do some
magic?
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124 ARI 124

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

125 GOAT TWINS, OLIVE 125
 <LAUGH>

126 OLIVE 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 OLIVE 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 iinnnnnteresting?

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 OLIVE 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 OLIVE 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 riiiiigghht
 (yaaaaaaaawns)

Elinor lets out a biiiig 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?

All the kids shoot their hands up "I do!"

140 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 140
Wait, where's Elinor?

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

141 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 141
Yes, Ari?

142 ARI 142
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.

143 OLIVE 143
She'll be sleeping all day!

144 MS. MOLE 144
Oh, Elinor...

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

145 ELINOR 145
(quietly)
SNOOOORE - Whooo....