

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 104B Special Places

By: Rachel Lipman

Elinor's Question: Why do birds lay eggs in nests and dogs bury bones in the ground?

Logline: When Ari misplaces his favorite ball, the group discovers that he needs a special place to keep his things.

Curriculum Goals:

LS5.Begin to understand that animals and plants depend on other living things and nonliving things in the environment to meet some of their needs. (The bird and dog both depend on their environment to provide a place to store important things and keep them safe).

ND. None in this one.

SEP3: Planning and carrying out investigations:

e: Design and build a solution to a simple problem (they make a special place to keep the ball after observing a nest a place for the rake and a hole for chew toys.)

Line Count 113

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mr. Dog

Incidental Characters: Ms. Bat

Backgrounds: Ari's house, Ari's room, Ari's backyard, Mr. Dog's house

Props: Ball, apples, rake, bird and eggs, chew toy.

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FIRST DRAFT: 15-Jan-2019

SECOND DRAFT: 05-Jan-2019

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RECORD DRAFT: 22-Feb-2019

It's a sunny day in early Fall. OPEN ON ELINOR and OLIVE walking in the forest. Elinor is looking around and stops to examine a hole in a tree trunk.

2 OLIVE 2
Let's go, Elinor, we're almost at
Ari's house.

3 OLIVE (CONT'D) 3
I can't wait! Ari say he has a
brand new ball he wants us to play
with.

Ari comes bounding out to see Elinor and Olive.

Ms. Bat peeks around the corner within the house smiling, and waves to them, then, pulling the door shut behind him, Ari reaches into his pocket and pulls out something round and red which is mostly concealed in his hand.

7 OLIVE/ELINOR 7
(admiringly)
Oooooohhh....

9 OLIVE 9
As high as my trunk can reach?

Olive stretches her trunk as far as she can, way over everyone's head.

10 ELINOR 10
As high as that tree?

Elinor points toward a tall tree.

11	ARI	11
	Let's find out. Ready? Hee-ya!	

Ari lifts his arm, winds up and BEANS the "ball" down to the ground. It lands with a THUD and lies there, flat.

OLIVE

I thought it would go higher.

Ari frowns and bends forward to examine the object. He picks it up.

13	ARI	13
	Wait, that's not my bouncy ball.	
	It's an apple!	

14 OLIVE 14
No wonder it didn't bounce.

15 ELINOR 15
That was more like a "splat!"

16 ARI 16

How'd that get into my pocket? And
where did I put the ball?

Olive and Elinor shrug. Ari thinks, trying to remember...

17 ARI (CONT'D) 17
It must be somewhere in my room.
I'll go check. Be right back!

Elinor and Olive follow Ari toward the house.

18 OLIVE 18
Uh, we'd better come help you look.

19 ELINOR 19
Yeah, it's not always easy to find
stuff in your room.

ARI

What do you mean?

31 OLIVE 31
But "somewhere else" could be
anywhere else in the world! It
could take years to find it!

32 ARI 32
(undaunted)
Well, I haven't been everywhere in
the world... so it's got to be
around here somewhere!

33 ELINOR 33
I have an idea! Let's go back to
all the places you've been today,
and see if we can find the ball.
Think back, Ari: When was the last
time you had it?

Ari reflects. A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears next to him, showing
him in bed holding the ball.

34 ARI 34
Hmm, I had it this morning when I
got up...

The THOUGHT BUBBLE re-draws to show Ari walking out his door
with the ball.

35 ARI (CONT'D) 35
Then I got dressed. And then I went
outside to play with my ball!

36 ELINOR 36
Ok! Let's go outside!

Elinor leads them out of the room.

4. EXT. BATS' CAVE (ARI'S HOUSE)- YARD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Ari leads the way through the yard with Elinor and Olive
walking behind, looking around for the ball.

37 ELINOR 37
So you came out to the yard. What
did you do out here?

38 ARI 38
Let's see...

While Ari thinks, he grabs an apple from a BASKET OF APPLES
that's sitting in the yard.

39 ARI (CONT'D) 39
Mm, these apples are so good. Want
one?

40 ELINOR 40
Not right now, thanks.

41 OLIVE 41
Maybe later.

Ari shrugs, bites into the apple, then puts it back in the basket and keeps thinking.

42	ARI	42
	Wait - I remember now!	

THOUGHT BUBBLE forms next to Ari, as his DAD now stands near him, pointing at leaves laying around the yard.

43 ARI (CONT'D) 43
My dad asked me to rake the leaves!

ANGLE ON: A messy pile of leaves under a nearby apple tree.

44 ELINOR 44
(hopeful)
Hmm, do you think the ball is in
that leaf pile?

45 OLIVE 45
There's only one way to find out...
 (to Ari)
Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

46	ARI	46
	I think so!	

Olive, Ari and Elinor look at each other for a beat, then dive right into the pile of leaves, swimming around with their arms.

47 ARI/OLIVE/ELINOR 47
WOO HOO!/Whee!/Leaf-o-rama!!

After a few beats of leaf play, the kids stop as the leaves settle around them.

48 ELINOR 48
Well, That was fun.

49 OLIVE 49
But we didn't find the ball.

50 OLIVE (CONT'D) 50
 Hmm.. Where else can we look?

As Ari and Olive are talking, we ANGLE ON: Elinor as she hears something and looks up to find the source overhead
 <SFX: BIRDS CHIRPING>

51 ARI 51
 I don't know. I go to a lot of places.

ANGLE ON TREE: TRACK UP the trunk to discover a BIRD ON A BRANCH above Elinor's head. Luckily, it's the apple tree where someone left a ladder leaning for apple-picking.

52 OLIVE 52
 (almost inaudible)
 Can't you remember where you left it?

53 ARI 53
 (almost inaudible)
 I'm trying, but the leaves are so distracting.

54 OLIVE 54
 (almost inaudible)
 Good point! LEAF JUMP!!

As Ari and Olive jump back in the leave in the background Elinor climbs the ladder against the tree to observe the bird up close.

SCIENCE MOMENT CU: The bird hops busily back and forth on the branch, adding twigs and fluff to its nest. Elinor gets even closer, going up on her tiptoes to discover THREE SMALL EGGS in the nest. ON ELINOR - she reacts, interested. Elinor watches for a beat as the bird returns to the nest.

55 ELINOR 55
 (quietly to herself)
 Ooohhh. It's a bird's nest. You're making a special place to keep your eggs nice and safe, aren't you Mama Bird?

BACK TO SCENE: Olive and Ari lie back into the leaves, smiling as the leaves flutter and settle around them. All of a sudden, Ari sits up straight

56 ARI 56

Wait, I remember something else.
Before I could rake the leaves, I
had to go find the rake behind the
house.

This catches Elinor's attention.

57 ELINOR 57
Then, maybe that's where you left
the ball?

58	ARI	58
	Come on - let's look!	

5. EXT. BATS' CAVE (ARI'S HOUSE) - BACK OF HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

At the back of the house, the kids look around for the ball.

59 ARI 59

Ooh - I remember this is exactly
where I was standing when I did my
super-amazing "toss and spin" move.
Watch!

He spins around, pretends to catch the "invisible" ball, but in a convoluted stretch, reaches out so far to catch it that he almost loses his balance, has to hop on one foot, then--

60 Ta-da! ARI (CONT'D) 60

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61             OLIVE                                61
        Um, nice catch?
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62 ARI 62

Thanks - it's even more impressive
with an actual ball.

Elinor and Olive <GIGGLE>.

63 ARI (CONT'D) 63
I didn't catch the actual ball,
though. I dropped it around here.

64 ELINOR 64
(to Ari)
Maybe it rolled over this way.

Olive and Ari continue to look for the ball.

Ari points out the rake on the ground nearby.

SCIENCE CU MOMENT: As he talks, Mr. Dog covers the hole, then he starts digging again. Elinor looks closely at the hole.

83 ELINOR 83
Another special place. Hrrrrrrrrrr.
That's SO INTERESTING!

84 OLIVE 84
What is it, Elinor?

85 ELINOR 85
I'm figuring something out.
 (beat, thinking)
I wonder...

Elinor starts to sing: Over song we see:

THOUGHT BUBBLE next to Elinor. The bubble expands and we go into song world. We see the bird gathering sticks on the ground, then flying up and adding to her nest, where three eggs sit snugly. Then, we see Mr. Dog finishing burying his chew toy. He walks off and day turns into night and back into day, and we see Mr. Dog dig out his toy, happy to have it again.

86 ELINOR (CONT'D) 86

(singing)

To keep something safe
Keep it in a special place
Put things away
Save it for another day

I saw birds build a nest
To hold all their eggs

And Mr. Dog he found a spot
For a toy he likes a lot

To keep something safe
Keep it in a special place
Put things away
Save it for another day.

THOUGHT BUBBLE BURSTS ON ELINOR - coming out of song.

87 ELINOR (CONT'D) 87
If you put things in a special
place, you won't lose them.

88 MR. DOG 88
That's right, Elinor. It's
important to put things away so you
can find them again.

He steps on the dirt where he's buried the chew toy, and we hear a faint <SQUEAK>! The kids <GIGGLE>.

89 ARI 89
Yeah, I should have put my ball in
a special place.

At that moment Ari's stomach <SFX: GROWLS>

90 ARI (CONT'D) 90

Hmm, speaking of special places, my
stomach is a special place, and
right now it's empty! I could use
another delicious apple.

(he starts to put it
together)

Wait a minute -- ball, apple,
special place... I remember where I
left the ball!

Ari runs OS with Elinor and Olive at his heels.

91 ELINOR 91
(over her shoulder)
Bye, Mr. Dog!

Mr. Dog waves goodbye and takes a step back, and we hear another <SQUEAK>.

7. EXT. ARI'S YARD - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

The kids run OS and Ari runs right up to the basket of apples, digs around a little and...

[illegible]

He holds up the ball triumphantly.

93 OLIVE 93

The ball!

94 ELINOR 94
How did it get there?

95 ARI 95

I must have put it down in the
apple basket when I reached for an
apple this morning.

Ari throws the ball and it bounces really high!

96	ELINOR	96
	Wow!	
	Elinor and Olive giggle. Elinor picks up the ball.	
97	OLIVE	97
	Okay, my turn!	
98	ARI	98
	Wait! First I have a favor to ask.	
99	ELINOR	99
	What is it Ari?	
100	ARI	100
	I know it's important to put things away in a special place. Will you help me with something?	
	Olive and Elinor share a smile.	
101	ELINOR	101
	Of course, Ari!	
102	OLIVE	102
	(laughing) We thought you'd never ask!	

8. INT. BATS' CAVE - ARI'S ROOM - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

Elinor, Olive and Ari sort and clean his room as they reprise the song Elinor sang earlier:

103	ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI	103
	<i>To keep something safe</i>	
	<i>Keep it in a special place</i>	
	<i>Put things away</i>	
	<i>Save it for another day</i>	
	 <i>I saw birds build a nest</i>	
	<i>To hold all their eggs</i>	
	 <i>And Mr. Dog he found a spot</i>	
	<i>For a toy he likes a lot</i>	
	 <i>To keep something safe</i>	
	<i>Keep it in a special place</i>	
	<i>Put things away</i>	
	<i>Save it for another day.</i>	

CU Ari's face, thrilled. PULL BACK to reveal he's once again perched on his ceiling near his bed.

104	ARI	104
	Wow. My room has never looked THIS good before.	

ROTATE CAMERA TO RIGHT-SIDE-UP. Olive and Elinor are standing on the floor, which is now neat and clean.

105 OLIVE 105
Yeah, the floor AND the ceiling!

106 ELINOR 106
Everything is in its special place.

107 OLIVE 107
Now we can finally go play with the
super bouncy ball!

Ari looks around for a beat, panicked.

108 ARI 108

Uh oh, I forgot where I put the
ball!

109 ELINOR/OLIVE 109
(groan)
Ari!

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110          ARI 110
      Just kidding!
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Ari opens a small box on his desk and takes out the ball.

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111                ARI (CONT'D)                                111
    Here it is in a special place I
    made just for my ball! Catch!

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Ari, who is hanging upside down, drops the ball to Elinor, who does the spin move and catches it behind her back.

112 ELINOR 112
Super amazing toss-and-spin move!
Ta-da!

Elinor takes a few theatrical bows as the others giggle.

113 OLIVE/ARI 113
(laughs)

IRIS OUT:

THE END.