

(Name of Project)
by
(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by
(Names of Subsequent Writers,
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by
(Current Writer, date)

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1. EXT FOREST -- DAY

It's a typical clear morning in the forest. We open on some BIRDS chirping and hopping from branch to branch in the treetops. They are singing to each other cheerfully when, suddenly, they hear a faint whistling coming from the distance. The birds get curious and look over to see what is making that sound.

Coming up the path is ARI THE BAT, who is walking on his way to school, wearing a KNITTED ~~CAP~~CAP and a COLORFUL JACKET. He is happy and whistling to himself. The birds look at each other. ~~<SFX: HAPPY AD LIB WHISTLING>~~

~~As Ari walks, he spots a low branch and jumps up, doing a loop-de-loop around the branch and then launching himself up into the air. He flaps a few times and glides down.~~

ARI
<AD LIB HAPPY WHISTLING>

As Ari walks, he spots a low branch and jumps up, doing a loop-de-loop around the branch and then launching himself up into the air. He flaps a few times and glides down.

ARI (CONT'D)
Woo-hooo! (ad lib <WHISTLING> and singing) Flying is so fun...

Suddenly, Ari hears a rustling up in the tree overhead. <SFX: Rustling leaves/branches>. He freezes.

ARI (CONT'D)
Huh?

He looks up to see what's there. At first, we don't see anything, but then something flutters away in the branches and out into the sky. ~~We sky and we~~ get a ~~good~~ glimpse of ~~the bird, more than Ari does~~bird wings.

ANGLE ON: A feather flutters down. Ari tracks it as it floats down and lands right on his cap! He takes the feather and looks at it.

ARI (CONT'D)
Oh cool! A ~~bird~~-feather!

He looks at the feather more closely. He blows on it and it flutters up - he watches it drift down and catches it on his palm.

ARI (CONT'D)
That's so neat.

He plays with it, striking a few funny poses: he fans himself with it; he tickles himself, <GIGGLING> a bit; he points at the trees with it.

ARI (CONT'D)
<GIGGLES> You're my new lucky
feather!

He sticks the feather in his cap, thinking it's pretty awesome.

ARI (CONT'D)
I can't wait to show Elinor and
Olive!

He walks the rest of the way to school with a happy swagger.

2. EXT PLAYGROUND - DAY

Open on Elinor playing in the sandbox with Olive. They are building a sand castle together. School hasn't started and kids are playing in the playground. ELINOR is wearing a RAINCOAT. OLIVE is wearing a COZY JACKET. Elinor pats down the last little bit of sand unto the center tower of their sand castle as Olive leans back and brushes off her hands.

ELINOR
There!

OLIVE
Nice!

They both stand up and take a step back to admire their work.

ELINOR
What do you think, Olive?

OLIVE
I think our sand castle came out
pretty ~~well~~good, Elinor.

ELINOR
Yeah! Hmm, although... it doesn't
look quite done yet.

OLIVE
Really?

At that moment, we see Ari enter the playground in the background. We switch to his perspective as he scans the playground. He spots Elinor and Olive and gets excited.

ARI
There they are!

He runs over to the sandbox. BACK ON: Elinor and Olive discussing their castle.

OLIVE
What do you think it needs?

ELINOR
I don't know... I just feel like
it's missing something.

Ari comes up to within a few paces of the sandbox, then stops so he can make a proper entrance. He checks the feather and adjusts his hat just so, then strolls nonchalantly in front of Elinor and Olive's view.

OLIVE
What if we add a tower?

ELINOR
Mmm, I don't think we need another
one.

Ari makes it to the other side, but Elinor and Olive don't seem to notice him. He seems a bit disappointed but then rallies to try again. This time, he walks with his head tilted towards them, ~~and~~^{as} he takes big waltzing steps, sweeping his arms back and forth.

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Maybe we could add more windows?

OLIVE
Hmmm...

Still nothing. Ari makes it to the other side and puts his hands on his hips. BACK ON: Olive and Elinor.

ELINOR
Or maybe we need a flag?

OLIVE
That would be nice! Something
bright and colorful?

Suddenly, Ari runs back in frame, and uses a flap of his wings to make a dramatic TA DA! Landing right in front of them. He shakes his head in their direction, pointing at his hat with his fingers.

ARI
AHM!

ELINOR
Oh, hi Ari!

OLIVE
When did you get here?

ARI
I...~~.~~.<beat> Nevermind. Hi, Elinor!
Hi, Olive! Notice anything extra
cool about me today?

ELINOR
~~Is that a new shirt?~~I like your
jacket!

~~DESIGN NOTE: It's NOT a new shirt.~~

OLIVE
~~It's~~ It is a ~~nice color.~~bit of a
chilly day!

ARI
No, you guys! Look! On my hat!

ELINOR
Whoa... Is that a feather?

OLIVE
Cool! It's so bright and colorful.
Where did you get it?

ARI
Well, let me tell you!

Ari recreates the earlier scene, with dramatic flair.

ARI (CONT'D)
I was walking in the forest, when
suddenly, I ~~heard~~hear something
moving up in the trees! And THEN,
this feather came floating down,
and it landed right on my head!

OLIVE
Wow, how lucky! ~~A bird feather!~~

ARI
It IS lucky! I call it my lucky
feather!

ELINOR
Can I ~~see~~try it?

Elinor puts it between her ears, holding it there by pinching her ears together and doing a twirl. She <GIGGLES>.

OLIVE
Ooh, my turn!

Olive holds it with her trunk and pretends to write with it. The kids <LAUGH>.

ELINOR
It's really pretty.

Olive blows the feather up in the air with her trunk and it settles in Elinor's hands.

SCIENCE CU MOMENT: We zoom into the feather and see its intricate structure and shape and colors.

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Wow, it looks like ~~it has~~ it's made
out of lots of little ~~hairs when I~~
~~brush it with my finger~~hairs!

She runs her finger along the edge of the feather, and we see the different hairs part.

ARI
I ~~didn't notice that~~thought it was
just flat!

ELINOR
That is SO INTERESTING!

OLIVE
And ~~the colors there~~ are so
~~beautiful~~many colors!

Ari takes a closer look at his own fur. [SCIENCE CU?]

ARI
~~It would be cool if I~~wonder why WE
~~had~~don't have feathers.?

Olive and Elinor look at their skin/fur too.

ELINOR
~~I wonder~~Yeah, why DO birds have
feathers?

~~Olive takes the feather to get a closer look.~~

OLIVE
Good question, Elinor. Hmmm...

The kids ponder for a second.

OLIVE (CONT'D)

I know! Maybe birds ~~use their~~
~~feathers~~ like to tickle each other?

A THOUGHT BUBBLE forms next to Olive, and we see a bird tickling another bird with their wing feather.

~~The bubble pops and Olive uses~~ Elinor gives the feather to Olive, who uses it to tickle Elinor gently. Elinor <GIGGLES>.

ARI

Wait! My parents have pillows with feathers in them.

Olive gives the feather to Ari. A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears next to Ari. We see a bird tucked in bed, using its wings as a pillow to sleep on.

ARI (CONT'D)

Maybe birds have feathers to sleep on them?

ELINOR

~~Hmmm.~~

~~The kids think~~ Maybe. Feathers could be for ~~a beat~~ tickling OR sleeping, but we won't know for sure until we see for ourselves.

OLIVE

You're right, Elinor. It's a mystery. Why do birds have feathers?

ELINOR

I ~~have an idea~~ know! Let's go look for some birds and see if we can figure it out!

OLIVE

Yes! I'll get my notepad!

ELINOR

We need... MORE OBSERVATIONS!

Elinor and Olive run off. Ari looks at the feather and tucks it just right back on his hat. He strolls off confidently strutting it.

3. EXT FOREST - DAY

The kids go look for birds in the nearby trees. We can see the playground in the background. We can hear indistinct <BIRD CHIRPING> from different directions.

OLIVE

There sure are lots of birds around here!

ELINOR

Let's watch ~~and observe~~ them!

We hear the beginning of a song. During the ~~song let's show~~ song, we see the kids ~~around, searching here~~ watching birds and ~~there. Ari could be looking up in~~ singing a song:

(TWO ALT VERSIONS: repeating the ~~branches, song from the kids~~ could be camping out under pilot or a bush. You can show a little bit of discord, where new one)

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI

ALT 1.

We want to solve the ~~kids~~ mystery
Of why birds are ~~running around~~
~~independently~~ so feathery.
We're gonna find them here,
And there,
And everywhere!

When I have a question I don't
know,
I look for the answers high and
~~eriss crossing each other, since~~
~~later they will be coming low!~~
We're gonna look up ~~with different~~
~~hypotheses~~ high,
Inside!
To find out why!

Into the woods and under the trees,
We follow our curiosity!

ELINOR/OLIVE/~~ARI~~ARI

ALT 2.

Why do birds have feathers?
Let's find out together!

*We'll find some birds,
and take a look
We'll draw ~~what we notice~~ the
answers
In our book!*

(MORE)

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARIARI (CONT'D)

Why do birds have feathers?
Let's find out together!

*Flying high,
and singing loud!*
~~We'll~~ We find answers
all around!

Why do birds have feathers?
Let's find out together!

~~Oh, oh yeah.~~

As the song wraps up, we see each kid going off in a different direction (but they are within eyeshot of each other and the playground).

END SONG.

4. EXT. FOREST - ARI'S CORNER OF THE WOODS, CONTINUOUS

Ari walks around, looking around for birds. He sees a bird on a branch of a nearby tree. He runs and flaps his wings to fly up to the branch on the opposite side of the tree.

ARI

Hey, little birdie! We're trying to
figure out what ~~your~~ feathers are
for. Can you tell me?

The bird chirps at him <SFX: Bird chirping> and flies away to the next tree. Ari follows.

ARI (CONT'D)

Hold up!

The bird chirp again and opens its wings to fly away again. Ari opens his wings to fly also then stops, realizing something. He looks closer at the bird's wing and see that it is made out of feathers.

ARI (CONT'D)

Hmm, you have wings just like I do.
But yours are made out of feathers.
~~(he)~~ He gets excited.

ARI (CONT'D)

I ~~think I~~ figured it out! Birds
have feathers ~~to help them so they~~
can fly!

~~(He)~~ He flaps his wings and
hovers a little.

ARI (CONT'D)

(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)

I can't wait to tell Elinor and Olive!

5. EXT FOREST - OLIVE'S CORNER, CONTINUOUS

Cut to Olive, who is standing under a tree watching two Bluejays. The ribbon on her head is a bit untied. ~~The birds are preening themselves, arranging their feathers.~~

OLIVE

You two birds are really colorful!

The birds are preening themselves, arranging their feathers.

OLIVE (CONT'D)

I wonder if you like being blue.
It's MY favorite color.

She notices that the ribbon on her head has come undone a bit, so she ties it back ~~up with her trunk~~up.

OLIVE (CONT'D)

Oops, there we go. That looks better.

~~+~~She looks back up at the blue jays.

OLIVE (CONT'D)

You wear blue on your head too!

Olive looks like she's had an idea, and doodles in her notebook.

OLIVE (CONT'D)

I think I figured it out! Feathers are for being ~~colorful—just like my bow~~colorful! I can't wait to tell Ari and Elinor.

6. EXT FOREST - ELINOR'S CORNER, CONTINUOUS

Cut to Elinor: who is watching some ducks ~~coming out of next~~to a small pond.

ELINOR

Ooh, pretty ducks!

She gets closer and sees that there are duck parents and duck babies.

ELINOR (CONT'D)

It's a whole duck family!

She crouches down near the ducks.

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Hello, duck family! Can you tell me
why birds have feathers?

A baby duck waddles over closer to Elinor. We see that the babies have cozy soft feathers. The parents have shiny colorful feathers above and cozy feathers underneath.

ELINOR (CONT'D)
~~That water must be cold, but you~~
~~all~~ The babies have different
feathers. They look ~~so nice~~ all
snuggled up and ~~warm with those~~
~~soft and cozy feathers~~ warm.
She looks like she's made a
realization.

ELINOR (~~realizing~~ CONT'D)
I think I figured it out! Birds use
feathers to stay warm! I can't wait
to tell Ari and Olive!

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4. EXT PLAYGROUND - DAY

Open on the playground with different kids in the background and MZMS. MOLE to one side. Elinor, Ari and Olive all run into the scene and at the same time.

ARI/ELINOR/OLIVE
Hey guys, I figured it out!

They all pause in surprise and then say:

ARI/ELINOR/OLIVE (CONT'D)
Feathers are for flying / Feathers
are for staying warm/ Feathers are
for color!

ELINOR
Wait guys, one at a time!

MzMs. Mole walks closer so that she can listen.

ARI
Ok, I'll go first. I ~~think birds~~
~~figured it out!~~ Birds need feathers
~~to help them so they can~~ fly! Their
wings are made of feathers!

ELINOR / OLIVE

~~Yeah.~~ Yeah / That makes sense.

MzMs. Mole is listening closely.

OLIVE

But wait. I ~~have a different~~
~~idea~~figured it out, too. I saw
birds that had bright blue
feathers. I think birds use
feathers so they can be colorful.

She points ~~with her trunk~~ to the ribbon on her head.

ELINOR / ARI

Right / Mmmm hmmm.

MzMs. Mole nods to herself.

ELINOR

But I ~~have a different idea, too!~~
also figured it out. I saw a duck
family coming out of the water, and
their feathers were like a snuggly
coat. I think birds use feathers to
stay warm-!

OLIVE / ARI

Ok / That also makes sense.

MzMs. Mole smiles at that.

ARI

But definitely flying is the MOST
important. That MUST be why birds
have feathers.

OLIVE

But if birds didn't have colorful
feathers they would all look the
same! I think birds have feathers
to have color.

ELINOR

I don't know. If they didn't have
feathers, they would get so cold!
So I think feathers are to stay
warm.

ARI

We have three good ~~idea~~answers!

OLIVE

Which one is the real ~~reason why~~
~~birds have feathers~~reason?

ELINOR

Hmm... How can we figure it out?

At that moment, ~~Mz~~Ms. Mole chimes in.

MS MOLE

Do you little scientists mind if I
ask you a few questions?

ELINOR

Sure, Ms Mole!

MS MOLE

Ari, that's a nice ~~hat~~jacket. Why
did you pick that one today?

He looks a bit confused by the change in topic but is happy
to brag about his ~~hat~~jacket.

ARI

~~Um....~~ Thanks! ~~It's my favorite-I~~
like the color a lot, and it ~~keeps-~~
~~me warm~~matches my hat!

MS MOLE

So you chose ~~your hat to keep you-~~
~~warm~~it for its color?

ARI

Yeah. Also, it has ~~a secret pocket-~~
cool pockets for snacks!

He pulls a ~~small fruit~~-banana out of a hidden pocket.

MS MOLE

Olive, what about you? ~~Why-How~~ did
you choose ~~that shirt and that-~~
~~skirt~~your jacket?

Olive ~~looks down at-~~snuggles herself into her ~~blue-~~
~~outfit~~jacket.

OLIVE

Well, ~~blue is my favorite color~~it
was a bit chilly this morning, ~~of-~~
~~course!~~and this jacket is warm and
soft.

MS MOLE

So you chose your ~~clothes because~~
~~of the color~~ jacket to keep you
warm?

OLIVE

Mmm-hmm. ~~I love blue~~ It's fluffy and
cozy!

MS MOLE

And what about you Elinor? ~~Why~~ How
did you choose ~~that~~ your jacket?

ELINOR

It ~~looked like it might rain was a~~
bit wet this morning, so I ~~picked~~
chose this raincoat.

MS MOLE

So you chose ~~it~~ your jacket to stay
dry?

ELINOR

That's right, Ms Mole.

MS MOLE

~~Good. Now tell me~~ So, what's the
~~reason we then,~~ why do you wear any
~~clothes at all~~ your jackets?

ELINOR

To stay dry!

~~ARI~~ OLIVE

To stay warm!

~~OLIVE~~ ARI

~~To show colors~~ For the color!

MS MOLE

So, which is it? Is there just one
~~reason~~ answer?

The kids look like they understand.

ARI / ELINOR / OLIVE

They are ALL ~~good reason~~ the right
answer!

MS MOLE

That's right! Sometimes there's
more than one ~~reason for something!~~
(MORE)

MS MOLE (CONT'D)

~~Your clothes help you in many ways,~~
~~just like feathers help birds in~~
~~many ways.~~ right answer!

ELINOR

I get it+! There is more than one
 reason why we wear jackets.

OLIVE

~~There's~~ And more than one reason
 why birds have feathers!

ARI

~~Yeah~~ Oh, right! Birds have feathers
 to fly AND to be colorful AND to
 stay warm.

ELINOR

We were ALL ~~figured it outright!~~

MS MOLE

Alright, alright, alright!

The kids are excited and ~~dance~~ dancing around to celebrate
 their moment of understanding. ~~As Ari dances, the~~ The
 feather flies out of ~~his~~ Ari's cap and lands on his hands.
 Suddenly, he realizes something.

ARI

Wait, I thought of one more thing
 feathers are good for.

He runs off screen, and Olive and Elinor follow him.

We cut to a close up of Elinor and Olive's sand castle, and
 zoom out to see Ari putting the feather right smack on the
 top of the center tower. It looks great!

ARI (CONT'D)

~~They're also good for finishing~~
 Finishing sand castles!

The kids and ~~Mz~~ Ms. Mole all have a good <LAUGH> as we pull
 out and pan up to see some birds flying by as we...

FADE OUT.

THE END.