

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

106 INTERSTITIAL: MS MOLE STORY TIME: LIZARD TALE

Written by
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Follows "Lizard Lounge"

Curriculum: The kids learn that lizards can drop their tails and regrow them in response to a hungry predator.

Learning Goals: LS2. Understand that animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs, and that plants have different parts that help them survive and grow.

LS4. Understand that all animals and plants have a life cycle, can reproduce, and change and grow over time.

FIRST DRAFT: 22-Feb-19
SECOND DRAFT: 5-MAR-19

1. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE are gathered in front of Ms. Mole's desk, looking expectant.

1 OLIVE 1
Isn't it story time?

2 ELINOR 2
Yeah. Where'd Ms. Mole go? She was
just here!

The kids look left and right, confused. Ms Mole pops out from behind the desk.

3 MS MOLE 3
Surprise! Here I am!

Elinor hops in the air. Olive's ears flap out and Ari hides under his wings.

4 ELINOR / ARI / OLIVE 4
Wow! / Oh! / [Olive trumpets her *
trunk] *

5 MS MOLE 5
Ha ha! I love it. Because today's
story time is about SURPRISES and
what LIZARDS do when they get
SURPRISED. *

Ms. Mole opens the book, revealing a lizard (a green anole) sunning itself happily on a rock.

2. EXT GRASSY FIELD (BOOK) -- DAY

The lizard is lying on a sunny rock. It's smiling, eyes closed.

6 MS MOLE (O.S.) 6 *

This lizard is about to get a big surprise.

The lizard opens its eyes, looking alarmed by Ms. Mole's words.

7 MS MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 7 *

Look out! Up in the sky, there's a hawk!

Pan up to the sky and zoom in on a hawk silhouette. The hawk looks down, squawking in anticipation. *

8 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI (O.S.) 8 *

Gasp / Uh-oh! / Watch out!

9 MS MOLE (O.S.) 9 *

The hawk swoops down!

The hawk swoops towards the lizard's tail end. It opens its talons, reaching out to grasp the lizard.

10 MS MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 10 *

But then something SURPRISING happens: The lizard's tail falls off!

The lizard's tail falls off. The hawk looks surprised.

ON: Ms. Mole, she's very reassuringly. *

11 MS MOLE (CONT'D) 11 *

Don't worry, kids. Our lizard friend isn't hurt. A lizard can drop its tail on purpose!

BACK ON: The lizard's scene. The hawk is standing on the ground, poking at the tail with its beak. It's wiggling. The lizard sneaks behind the rock.

12 MS MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 12 *

The tail wiggles so that the lizard can escape! *

The lizard sneaks off the screen.

BACK ON: The kids.

13 ELINOR 13

Is the lizard OK without a tail?

14 MS MOLE 14

Yes, and this lizard has one more surprise for you!

BACK ON: The tailless lizard, sunning itself once more on a rock.

15 MS MOLE (CONT'D) 15

Over the next few months, the lizard GROWS A NEW TAIL!

The lizard's tail slowly regrows over sped-up day/night moon/sun cycles [possibly: use rapid page flip]. Once the tail is back to its normal length, the lizard happily swishes it back and forth. *

