

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 108 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 the group's favorite ball, they discover that he needs a system for keeping track of 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.)

ET2. Begin to understand that people depend on various technologies in their lives and that human life would be very different without technology: (Elinor and her friends find a "special place" for Ari's ball).

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari

Secondary Characters: Ms. Beaver, Mr. Dog

Incidental Characters:

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

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

OUTLINE: 28-Dec-2018

FIRST DRAFT: 15-Jan-2019

SECOND DRAFT: 05-Jan-2019

1. EXT. BATS' CAVE (ARI'S HOUSE) - DAY

OPEN ON ELINOR and OLIVE walking in the forest. Elinor stops to examine a hole in a tree trunk.

1	ELINOR	1	*
	Hmm... interesting. I wonder what		*
	lives in there?		*

2	OLIVE	2	*
	I don't know, but I know who lives		*
	here... Ari!		*

She points to the BATS' CAVE as they pass it, and they both turn toward it.

3	ELINOR	3	*
	Let's go see if he wants to play.		*

Elinor rings the bell. MRS. BAT opens the door.

4	MS. BAT	4	*
	Hi, there. Come on in.		*

5	OLIVE	5	*
	Thanks, Ms. Bat.		*

6	MS. BAT	6	*
	(calling over shoulder)		*
	Ari! Your friends are here!		*

Ari comes bounding out to see Elinor and Olive, greeting them as he continues outside and they turn to follow.

7	ARI	7	*
	Elinor! Olive! I have a brand new		*
	bouncy ball. Want to see?		*

8	ELINOR	8	*
	Yes!		*

9	OLIVE	9	*
	Sure!		*

Ari reaches into his pocket and pulls out something round and red which is mostly concealed in his hand.

10	ARI	10	*
	How high do you think it'll bounce?		*

Elinor hops up, reaching her hand overhead.

11	ELINOR	11	*
	This high?		*

Elinor hops, reaching her hand up high.

12	OLIVE	12	*
	As high as my trunk can reach?		*

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

13	ELINOR	13	*
	Well, if it's <u>super</u> bouncy... even up to the top of that tree?		*

14	ARI	14	*
	Okay, ready? Ta-da!		*

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

15	OLIVE	15	*
	That's not as high as I was expecting.		*
			*

	Ari frowns and bends forward to examine the object.		*
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16	ARI	16	*
	Wait, that's not my bouncy ball. It's an apple!		*

17	OLIVE	17	*
	No wonder it didn't bounce.		

18	ARI	18	*
	How'd that get into my pocket? And where did I put the ball?		*

	Olive and Elinor shrug. Ari thinks, trying to remember...		*
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19	ARI (CONT'D)	19	*
	It must be somewhere in my room. I'll go check. Be right back!		*
			*

	Elinor and Olive follow Ari toward the house.		*
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20	OLIVE	20	*
	Uh, we'll come help you look.		*

21	ELINOR	21	*
	Yeah, your room's not the neatest of places.		*

22	ARI	22	*
	What do you mean?		*

2. INT. BATS' CAVE - ARI'S ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON ARI, standing on what appears to be a neat and empty floor next to his bed.

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23             ARI                                     23
                See, my room is really neat!
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ROTATE CAMERA AND PULL OUT to reveal Ari is "standing" on his ceiling (his bed is bolted to the ceiling.)

24 ELINOR 24
I guess so, if you count the up
there on the ceiling as your floor.

On Olive and Elinor - standing in knee-deep debris on the real floor (clothes, comic books, bath towels, toys.)

[illegible]

Ari glides down to land near his friends.

26 OLIVE 26
It's pretty messy. How can we find
the ball in here?

27 ELINOR 27
How can we find anything in here?

Ari helps Elinor and Olive sift through his belongings, picking up a jacket, a hat, and a book and finding nothing underneath.

28 ARI 28

Well, the good news is, the ball's
not here!

29 OLIVE 29
Why is that GOOD news?

30 ARI 30

If we know where the ball ISN'T,
then we know where the ball IS!

31 ELINOR 31
Really? Where?

32 ARI 32
SOMEWHERE ELSE! So now we know!

Olive and Elinor stare at Ari in disbelief.

33 OLIVE 33 *

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

34 ARI 34

(undaunted)
Well, we'd better start looking.
It's probably still somewhere in
town. *

35 ELINOR 35 *

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: When was the last time
you had it? *

Ari closes his eyes, reflects, then pops his eyes open.

36 ARI 36

I know! I had it this morning when
I got up!

37 ELINOR 37 *

Good start! What did you do next? *

He leads the way out of his room. As Elinor and Olive follow. *

38 ARI 38 *

I got dressed. And then I went
outside to play with my ball! *

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. *

39 ELINOR 39

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

40 ARI 40

Let's see... Oh yeah - I ate one of
these apples.

He pauses in front of a BASKET OF APPLES that's sitting on a
table in the yard, and helps himself to an apple.

41 ARI (CONT'D) 41

They're so good. Want one?

42 ELINOR 42
 Not right now, thanks.

43 OLIVE 43 *
 Maybe later.

Ari shrugs, bites into the apple and keeps walking. He stops again, freezing in place.

44 ARI 44
 Wait - I remember something else!

THOUGHT BUBBLE forms next to Ari, as his DAD now stands near him, pointing at something OS--

45 ARI (CONT'D) 45
 My dad asked me to rake the leaves!

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

46 ELINOR 46
 (hopeful)
 Maybe the ball's in that leaf-pile!

47 OLIVE 47 *
 Only one way to find out...
 (to Ari)
 Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

48 ARI 48
 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. *

49 OLIVE/ELINOR 49 *
 WOO HOO!/Whee!/Leaf-o-rama!!

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

50 ELINOR 50
 Well, That was fun.

51 OLIVE 51 *
 But we didn't find the ball. *

52 ARI 52 *
 It's not in this pile of leaves for
 sure. *

53 OLIVE 53 *
 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>

ARI
I don't know. I go 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.

55 OLIVE 55 *

 (almost inaudible)

Can't you remember where you left
it?

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

57 OLIVE 57 *

 (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.

58 ELINOR 58
 (quietly to herself)
 Ooohhh. The bird's eggs are nice *
 and safe in that nest.

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

59 ARI 59

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.

60	ELINOR	60	
	Then, maybe the ball's behind the		*
	house?		*

61	ARI	61	
	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. *

Ari pauses, closes his eyes, then opens them wide. *

62	ARI	62	
	Ooh - I remember this is exactly		*
	where I was standing when 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--

63	ARI (CONT'D)	63	
	Ta-da!		

64	OLIVE	64	*
	Um, nice catch?		

65	ARI	65	
	Thanks - it's even more impressive		
	with an actual ball.		

66	OLIVE	66	*
	(laughing)		
	Right, so let's keep looking for		*
	it.		*
	(to Ari)		
	Maybe it rolled over this way.		

Olive and Ari continue to look for the ball *

Ari picks up the rake from the ground nearby. *

67	ARI	67	*
	Hey, here's the rake! But no ball.		

Olive and Elinor frown, examining it more closely. *

68	OLIVE	68	*
	Uh-oh.		

69 ELINOR 69
The handle's broken.

70 ARI 70
(remembering)
Oh, right... NOW I remember. Our
rake is broken so I had to borrow
another rake from our neighbour Mr.
Dog. *

He spots Mr. Dog's rake leaning against a tree and picks it up.

71 ARI (CONT'D) 71
Ah, here it is! *

72 ELINOR 72
Okay, let's see... You went
outside, then your dad asked you to
rake leaves, but the rake was
broken, so then you went to borrow
one from Mr. Dog? *

73 ARI 73
Yep, but don't forget, I did the
spin and catch move, too. *

He acts out the spin and catch move again. *

74 OLIVE 74
Maybe we should look for the ball
at Mr. Dog's house! *

They all start to head over, then Elinor goes back and grabs the rake, handing it to Ari.

75 ELINOR 75
And, we can return Mr. Dog's rake.

76 ARI 76
I bet he would like that!

The kids exit toward Mr. Dog's house; HOLD ON THE APPLE BASKET as they walk by. *

6. EXT. MR. DOG'S YARD - DAY - CONTINUOUS

As the kids enter, MR. DOG is putting a squeaky chew toy into a hole, and starts shoveling dirt over it with a shovel. *

77 MR. DOG 77
Hi, kids, what's up?

78 ARI 78
I brought back your rake, Mr. Dog.
Thanks for letting me borrow it.

79 MR. DOG 79
You're welcome, Ari. It's nice to
have everything back in its place.
Here's where I keep my rake.

He hangs up his rake on its special hook on the side of the nearby shed, then goes back to his digging.

80 ARI 80
Uhh, Mr. Dog. Did I leave my new
super-bouncy ball here?

81 MR. DOG 81
Sorry, Ari I haven't seen your
ball.

CLOSE ON ELINOR Elinor watches intently as Mr. Dog keeps shoveling dirt. Then he plops the chew toy in the hole (causing it to SQUEAK once) and covers it.

82 ELINOR 82
Uhh, Mr. Dog? Why do you bury your
chew-toys? Aren't they for chewing?

83 MR. DOG 83

Good question, Elinor. We DOGS love to put things away, and that's why we bury them. We keep them safe in their special place. That way we know exactly where to find them when we need them!

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

84 ELINOR 84
Another special place. That's SO
INTERESTING! Hmmmmmm.

85 OLIVE 85
What is it, Elinor?

86 ELINOR 86
I'm figuring something out. We need
more observations!

Elinor starts to sing: Over song we see:

THOUGHT BUBBLE next to Elinor. We see the chew toy in the hole and the eggs in the bird nest.

*
*

87

ELINOR (CONT'D)

87

(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 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.

*

88

ELINOR (CONT'D)

88

If you put things in a special place, you won't lose them.

*
*
*

89

MR. DOG

89

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!

*
*

90

ARI

90

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

*
*
*

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

91

ARI (CONT'D)

91

Speaking of special places, I'm hungry. I could use another one of those apples.

*
*
*
*

(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.

*

92	ELINOR (over her shoulder) Bye, Mr. Dog!	92	* * *
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7. EXT. ARI'S YARD - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

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

93	ARI TA-DAH!!!!!!	93
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He holds up the ball triumphantly.

94	OLIVE The ball!	94	*
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95	ELINOR How did it get there?	95
----	---------------------------------	----

96	ARI I must have put it down when I reached for an apple this morning. (beat as this soaks in) I DID put it in a special place - but it was the APPLE place, not the BALL place.	96	* * * *
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Ari throws the ball and it bounces really high! Elinor and Olive giggle. Elinor picks up the ball. *

97	ELINOR Okay, let's go play with the bouncy ball! Finally!	97	* * *
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98	ARI Wait! First I have a favour to ask.	98	*
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99	OLIVE What is it Ari?	99	* *
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100	ARI I know it's important to put things away in a special place. Will you help me with something?	100	* * *
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Olive and Elinor share a smile. *

101	OLIVE Sure thing, Ari.	101	*
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102 ELINOR 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 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>		*

9. INT. ARI'S ROOM - DAY - CONTINUOUS

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, from both ways!

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 it!	

THE END. *