

# 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 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.)

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, 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  
POLISH: 15-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 | ELINOR                             | 3 | * |
|   | I can't wait! Ari say he has a     |   | * |
|   | brand new ball he wants us to play |   | * |
|   | with.                              |   | * |

They arrive at the BAT FAMILY'S CAVE and walk toward the door.

Elinor rings the bell. \*

Ari comes bounding out to see Elinor and Olive. \*

|   |                                    |   |   |
|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 6 | ARI                                | 6 |   |
|   | Elinor! Olive! Thanks for coming   |   | * |
|   | over.                              |   | * |
|   | (calls into house)                 |   | * |
|   | Bye, Mom and Dad! I'm going out to |   | * |
|   | show my friends my brand new SUPER |   | * |
|   | bouncy ball!                       |   | * |

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.

8 OLIVE/ELINOR 8 \*

(admiringly) \*

Ooooohhh.... \*

|   |                                     |   |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 9 | ARI                                 | 9 | * |
|   | How high do you think it'll bounce? |   | * |

|    |                                                                                                                 |    |   |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|
| 10 | OLIVE                                                                                                           | 10 | * |
|    | As high as my trunk can reach?                                                                                  |    |   |
|    | Olive stretches her trunk as far as she can, way over everyone's head.                                          |    |   |
| 11 | ELINOR                                                                                                          | 11 | * |
|    | As high as that tree?                                                                                           |    |   |
|    | Elinor points toward a tall tree.                                                                               |    |   |
| 12 | ARI                                                                                                             | 12 | * |
|    | 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. |    |   |
| 13 | OLIVE                                                                                                           | 13 | * |
|    | That's not as high as I was expecting.                                                                          |    |   |
|    | Ari frowns and bends forward to examine the object. He picks it up.                                             |    |   |
| 14 | ARI                                                                                                             | 14 | * |
|    | Wait, that's not my bouncy ball. It's an apple!                                                                 |    |   |
| 15 | OLIVE                                                                                                           | 15 | * |
|    | No wonder it didn't bounce.                                                                                     |    |   |
| 16 | ELINOR                                                                                                          | 16 | * |
|    | That was more like a "splat!"                                                                                   |    |   |
| 17 | ARI                                                                                                             | 17 | * |
|    | How'd that get into my pocket? And where did I put the ball?                                                    |    |   |
|    | Olive and Elinor shrug. Ari thinks, trying to remember...                                                       |    |   |
| 18 | ARI (CONT'D)                                                                                                    | 18 | * |
|    | It must be somewhere in my room. I'll go check. Be right back!                                                  |    |   |
|    | Elinor and Olive follow Ari toward the house.                                                                   |    |   |
| 19 | OLIVE                                                                                                           | 19 | * |
|    | Uh, we'd better come help you look.                                                                             |    |   |
| 20 | ELINOR                                                                                                          | 20 | * |
|    | Yeah, your room's not the neatest of places.                                                                    |    |   |

21 ARI 21  
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.

22                   ARI                   22  
See, my room is really neat!

ROTATE CAMERA AND PULL OUT to reveal Ari is "standing" on his ceiling (his bed is bolted to the ceiling.)

23 ELINOR 23  
I guess so, if you count 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.)

ARI

Well, bats do sleep upside down.

Ari glides down to land near his friends.

25                                 OLIVE                                 25  
It's pretty messy. How can we find  
the ball in here?

26 ELINOR 26  
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.

27                   ARI                   27

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

28                                 OLIVE                                 28  
Why is that GOOD news?

29                   ARI                   29

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

30 ELINOR 30  
Really? Where?

[illegible]



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

41                   ARI (CONT'D)                   41  
Mm, these apples are so good. Want  
one?

42                                ELINOR                                42  
Not right now, thanks.

43                                 OLIVE                                 43  
Maybe later.

Ari shrugs, bites into the apple and keeps thinking. \*

|    |                        |    |
|----|------------------------|----|
| 44 | ARI                    | 44 |
|    | Wait - I remember now! | *  |

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

ARI (CONT'D)

My dad asked me to rake the leaves!

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

46                                ELINOR                                46  
                                (hopeful)  
    Hmm, do you think the ball is in                                \*  
    that leaf pile?                                                        \*

47                                 OLIVE                                 47

There's 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                   ARI/OLIVE/ELINOR                   49     \*

WOO HOO!/Whee!/Leaf-o-rama!!

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

50 ELINOR 50  
Well, That was fun.

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

52 OLIVE (CONT'D) 52 \*

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>

53 ARI 53 \*

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.

54 OLIVE 54

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

55 ARI 55

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

56 OLIVE 56

(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.

57 ELINOR 57

(quietly to herself)  
Ooohhh. Birds' eggs. That nest is a special place to keep them nice and safe. \*

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

58 ARI 58

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.

|    |                                   |    |   |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| 59 | ELINOR                            | 59 |   |
|    | Then, maybe that's where you left |    | * |
|    | the ball?                         |    | * |

|    |                       |    |  |
|----|-----------------------|----|--|
| 60 | ARI                   | 60 |  |
|    | 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.

|    |                                     |    |   |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|---|
| 61 | ARI                                 | 61 | * |
|    | 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--

|    |              |    |  |
|----|--------------|----|--|
| 62 | ARI (CONT'D) | 62 |  |
|    | Ta-da!       |    |  |

|    |                 |    |  |
|----|-----------------|----|--|
| 63 | OLIVE           | 63 |  |
|    | Um, nice catch? |    |  |

|    |                                    |    |  |
|----|------------------------------------|----|--|
| 64 | ARI                                | 64 |  |
|    | Thanks - it's even more impressive |    |  |
|    | with an actual ball.               |    |  |

|    |                                  |    |  |
|----|----------------------------------|----|--|
| 65 | OLIVE                            | 65 |  |
|    | (laughing)                       |    |  |
|    | Right, so let's keep looking for |    |  |
|    | it.                              |    |  |

|    |                                   |    |   |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| 66 | ARI                               | 66 | * |
|    | I didn't catch the actual ball,   |    | * |
|    | though. I dropped it around here. |    | * |

|    |                                |    |   |
|----|--------------------------------|----|---|
| 67 | ELINOR                         | 67 | * |
|    | (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.

|    |                                    |    |  |
|----|------------------------------------|----|--|
| 68 | ARI                                | 68 |  |
|    | Hey, here's the rake! But no ball. |    |  |

Olive picks up the rake.

\*

69

OLIVE

69

This one?

\*

The rake part falls off of the handle.

\*

70

ELINOR

70

Buuut, this rake looks broken.

\*

71

ARI

71

(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 a few trees away and points it out.

\*

\*

72

ARI (CONT'D)

72

There it is!

\*

Elinor picks up the rake as they pass it and turns to Ari:

\*

73

ELINOR

73

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?

74

ARI

74

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

He acts out the spin and catch move again.

75

OLIVE

75

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.

76

ELINOR

76

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

77

ARI

77

I bet he would like that!

The kids exit toward Mr. Dog's house, passing the apple tree with the basket of apples nearby (wherever it was before.)

\*

\*

**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.

78 MR. DOG 78  
Hi, kids, what's up?

79 ARI 79  
I brought back your rake, Mr. Dog.  
Thanks for letting me borrow it.

80 MR. DOG 80  
You're welcome, Ari. It's always  
nice to have everything back in its  
proper place. \*

He hangs up his rake on its special hook on the side of the  
nearby shed. \*

81 MR. DOG (CONT'D) 81  
There we go. \*

Mr. Dog goes back to his digging. \*

82 ARI 82  
Uhh, Mr. Dog. Did I leave my new  
super-bouncy ball here?

83 MR. DOG 83  
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.

84 ELINOR 84  
Uhh, Mr. Dog? Why do you bury your  
chew-toys? Aren't they for chewing?

85 MR. DOG 85  
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.

86                    ELINOR                    86

Another special place. Hmrrrrrrr.

That's SO INTERESTING!

\*  
\*

87 OLIVE 87  
What is it, Elinor?

|    |                             |    |
|----|-----------------------------|----|
| 88 | ELINOR                      | 88 |
|    | I'm figuring something out. |    |
|    | (beat, thinking)            | *  |
|    | We need more observations!  |    |

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.

89

ELINOR (CONT'D)

89

(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.

90 ELINOR (CONT'D) 90  
If you put things in a special  
place, you won't lose them.

91 MR. DOG 91  
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!

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

Ari runs OS with Elinor and Olive at his heels.

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

He holds up the ball triumphantly.

Ari throws the ball and it bounces really high!

Elinor and Olive giggle. Elinor picks up the ball.

|     |                |     |   |
|-----|----------------|-----|---|
| 100 | ELINOR         | 100 |   |
|     | Okay, my turn! |     | * |

107                      ARI                      107

Wow. My room has never looked THIS  
good before.

|     |                                                                                                                      |     |   |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---|
| 108 | OLIVE                                                                                                                | 108 | * |
|     | Yeah, the floor AND the ceiling!                                                                                     |     |   |
| 109 | ELINOR                                                                                                               | 109 |   |
|     | Everything is in its special place.                                                                                  |     |   |
| 110 | OLIVE                                                                                                                | 110 |   |
|     | <u>Now</u> we can finally go play with the<br>super bouncy ball!                                                     |     |   |
|     | Ari looks around for a beat, panicked.                                                                               |     |   |
| 111 | ARI                                                                                                                  | 111 | * |
|     | Uh oh, I forgot where I put the<br>ball!                                                                             |     | * |
| 112 | ELINOR/OLIVE                                                                                                         | 112 |   |
|     | (groan)<br>Ari!                                                                                                      |     |   |
| 113 | ARI                                                                                                                  | 113 |   |
|     | Just kidding!                                                                                                        |     |   |
|     | Ari opens a small box on his desk and takes out the ball.                                                            |     |   |
| 114 | ARI (CONT'D)                                                                                                         | 114 | * |
|     | Here it is in a special place I<br>made just for my ball! Catch!                                                     |     | * |
|     | Ari, who is hanging upside down, drops the ball to Elinor,<br>who does the spin move and catches it behind her back. |     | * |
| 115 | ELINOR                                                                                                               | 115 | * |
|     | Super amazing toss-and-spin move!<br>Ta-da!                                                                          |     |   |
|     | Elinor takes a few theatrical bows as the others giggle.                                                             |     | * |
| 116 | OLIVE/ARI                                                                                                            | 116 |   |
|     | (laughs)                                                                                                             |     |   |

**THE END.**