

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 117 Speed Racer

By: Adam Ruben

Elinor's Question: Why is Camilla's racecar so much faster than Elinor's wagon?

Logline: When Elinor wants her wagon to move faster, she changes its shape with some inspiration from aerodynamic animals.

Curriculum 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. (Elinor and her friends learn that animals' shapes help them move fast.)

ND3. Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world. (Elinor and her friends build a car based on animals' shapes.)

SEP1d. Identify a problem that can be solved by the design of a new or improved object or tool. (Elinor and her friends identify that, to make the wagon as fast as Camilla's car, they need to improve its design.)

SEP3b. Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail. (Elinor and her friends consider the similarities [wheels] and differences [shape] between her wagon and Camilla's car.)

SEP3e. Design and build a solution to a simple problem. (Elinor and her friends design and build a faster car.)

SEP4c. Record observations to describe patterns and/or relationships in the natural and designed world(s) in order to answer scientific questions and solve problems. (Elinor and her friends notice the animals' shapes.)

SEP6b. Look for and describe patterns and relationships in natural phenomena. (Elinor and her friends notice that fast animals' shapes are similar.)

ET1. Begin to understand that asking questions, making observations, and gathering information are helpful in thinking about problems, and that it is important to clearly understand the problem before beginning to design a solution. (Elinor and her friends mistakenly believe that changing the car's decoration will make it faster.)

ET1c. Begin to understand that engineering is a collaborative process during which ideas can be exchanged and shared with others while defining a problem and working to design, test and revise a solution. (Elinor and her friends each have theories about why Camilla's car is faster.)

ET2b. Use a variety of low-tech tools including writing, drawing and painting utensils, scissors, magnifiers, balance scales, ramps, pulleys, hammers, screwdrivers, sieves, tubing, binoculars, whisks, measuring cups. (Elinor and her friends use scissors and paint to modify their car.)

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Camilla Dromedary, Mr. Rabbit

Secondary Characters:

Backgrounds - Elinor's yard, hill near Elinor's house, forest near Elinor's house

Props - red wagon with taped-on cardboard box, paints, kid-sized racecar, bird, fish, rock, tree

Line Count - 110

OUTLINE: January 25, 2019

FIRST DRAFT: February 19, 2019

1. EXT. ELINOR'S YARD - DAY

Open on a sunny afternoon in ELINOR's yard, where MR. RABBIT is building a tall birdhouse nearby. Elinor, OLIVE, and ARI are excitedly putting the finishing touches on a real roadster! It's actually a cardboard box taped to the top of a pull wagon, but the kids are chattering and laughing as they decorate and tape the box, thrilled at the prospect of riding in a self-built car.

Elinor is adding a few pieces of tape to secure the cardboard box to the wagon, while Olive paints various objects on the side.

1	ELINOR	1
	(casually singing to herself as she works)	
	We're building a car, we're building a car.	

2	OLIVE	2
	(picking up on the singing)	
	Yes we are! Yes we ARE!	

Ari pops up from inside the box, holding Elinor's helmet.

3	ARI	3
	(also singing)	
	I hope it goes far!	

4	ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI	4
	(LAUGH)	

They laugh. Ari steps out of the box and hands Elinor her helmet.

5	ARI	5
	Wow! Our car looks amazing, Elinor!	

6	ELINOR	6
	Thanks, Ari!	

7	ARI	7
	And those are some cool decorations, Olive.	

8	OLIVE	8
	Thanks! I'm trying to paint all of the things I see:	

Olive holds up her hands like a director framing a shot, squinting to peer through them.

ANGLE ON: Looking outward from Olive's fingers, we see a patch of flowers.

9 OLIVE (CONT'D) 9
Flowers...

She moves her hands.

ANGLE ON: Through her fingers, a tree in the yard.

10 OLIVE (CONT'D) 10
A tree...

She moves her hands again.

ANGLE ON: Through her fingers, we see Mr. Rabbit, who looks a little surprised.

11 OLIVE (CONT'D) 11
Elinor's dad's head...

ANGLE ON: Back to the view of the kids in the yard. Mr. Rabbit pauses his work, smiles, and comes over to the kids.

12 MR. RABBIT 12
That looks great, kids! What are you going to call it? The Rabbit Racer? The Batmobile? The Elephant in the Vroom?

13 ELINOR 13
(aside, to Olive and Ari)
Those are dad jokes.

14 ARI 14
(shaking his head sadly)
My dad does that, too.

15 ELINOR 15
Do you think it'll go fast?

16 MR. RABBIT 16
Well, it's kind of boxy...

17 OLIVE 17
We did make it from a box.

18 MR. RABBIT 18
I guess there's only one way to find out. Are you planning to take it for a ride?

19 ELINOR 19
Yup! I have a need for speed! I
want to feel the wind in my ears!

Elinor quickly straps on her helmet and runs around the yard.

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20                ELINOR (CONT'D)                                20
                (imitates fast car sounds)

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OLIVE starts to push the wagon away.

21 OLIVE 21
 (to Mr. Rabbit)
Don't worry, Mr. Rabbit. We're just
going to ride it down the little
hill near your house.

22 MR. RABBIT 22

Have fun!

The kids exit, pushing the car, excited to go try it out.

2. EXT. HILL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Elinor, Olive, and Ari arrive with the car at the top of the hill. It's a beautiful day, and we see the wind rustle a few leaves and a flock of birds fly by.

It's not a steep hill at all - much longer than it is tall. It's the sort of hill that gives a smooth ride to excite a kindergartener, but nowhere near dangerous enough to make a parent worry. The path leading down the hillside is wide enough for at least two cars the size of Elinor's wagon.

Elinor, Olive, and Ari give the final few grunts of pushing the wagon to the hilltop.

23 ARI 23
Phew! That was hard work.

24 ELINOR 24
But you've got to push it up if you
want to ride it down.

She climbs into the car.

25 OLIVE 25
Don't forget to buckle your helmet!

Elinor buckles her helmet.

26	ARI	26
	Ready?	

27 ELINOR 27
Ready!

Set? OLIVE

29 ELINOR 29
Set! (a beat) Aren't "ready" and
"set" the same thing?

Olive and Ari position themselves behind the wagon.

30 OLIVE 30
 Hmm. Good point.

31 OLIVE, ARI 31
Three! Two! One! GO!

They give the wagon a little push, and it starts to roll down the hill. It's rolling down fairly slowly - still fun for Elinor, but clearly not as fast as possible.

ANGLE ON: Elinor's face peeking out over the box, with her ears through little holes in her helmet. Her ears flap in the wind, and she closes her eyes in delight.

32 ELINOR 32
Whheeeeeeee!

It's a prolonged "whee" for a long, slow ride, but it gets interrupted. We suddenly ZOOM OUT to see, coasting down the path next to Elinor, CAMILLA DROMEDARY. She's driving a store-bought kid's racecar the same general size as Elinor's and with identical wheels, but the chassis looks like a real roadster, painted yellow with a racing stripe. Camilla wears a helmet that matches her car.

Camilla honks her car's horn <SFX: Honk honk!> to signal as she passes.

33 CAMILLA 33
Coming through!

Camilla's car zips past Elinor's, and Elinor looks over in astonishment.

34 ELINOR 34
 (impressed)
Whoa!

ANGLE ON: The bottom of the hill.

The look of amazement stays on Elinor's face as her car coasts to a stop - next to Camilla's, which has already been at the bottom of the hill for a few seconds.

Elinor hops out of her wagon immediately.

35 ELINOR (CONT'D) 35
Hi, Camilla!

Camilla removes her helmet.

36 CAMILLA 36
Hi, Elinor! Hold on - I have to put
on the parking brake.

She reaches down and engages the brake <SFX: sound of parking brake being applied>.

37 ELINOR 37
Your car is amazing!

38 CAMILLA 38
Thanks! I just got it for my
birthday. I call it the Camel
Convertible!

39 ELINOR 39
 (smiling)
 I think my dad would like that
 name.

Ari and Olive enter, having scampered down the hill after Elinor's car. Camilla opens the door of her car and gets out.

40 ARI 40
Your car is so fast, Camilla!

41 OLIVE 41
I LOVE the yellow colour. And look:
It has a racing stripe,

ARI

And a cup holder!

Elinor, Ari, and Olive peer in wonder at the cup holder.

CU: The cup holder with the kids' faces peering down over it.

43 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI 43
Ooooooh.

44 CAMILLA 44
Your car is nice, too, Elinor.

45 ELINOR 45
Thanks, Camilla - but it's not as
fast as yours. I wonder why!

Elinor frowns.

ANGLE ON: Elinor kneels and examines the wheels of both cars.

46 ELINOR (CONT'D) 46
 Hmm. Both of our cars have the same
 wheels.

ANGLE ON: Elinor stands up again. She looks back at the hill they just descended.

47 ELINOR (CONT'D) 47
And we both drove down the same
hill.

She looks back at her friends again.

48 ELINOR (CONT'D) 48
I wonder why Camilla's car is
faster than mine.

49 OLIVE 49
Maybe we can change your car to
make it faster.

50 ELINOR 50
That's a good idea! Let's bring it
back to my house and make some
changes.

Elinor, Ari, and Olive start to exit with the car.

51 ARI 51
Bye, Camilla!

52 CAMILLA 52
See you later! I'll be polishing my
hood ornament.

Camilla uses a rag to polish the hood ornament.

CROSSFADE TO:

3. EXT. ELINOR'S YARD - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Elinor, Olive, and Ari stand around Elinor's wagon with their hands on their hips. Mr. Rabbit is still building the birdhouse in the background.

53	ELINOR	53
	We need to figure out why Camilla's car is faster than ours.	
54	OLIVE	54
	Well, what makes her car different?	
55	ARI	55
	You mean besides the AWESOME CUP HOLDER? Well, her car is yellow...	
56	OLIVE	56
	I LOVE that yellow colour. And it has a stripe.	
57	ARI	57
	A racing stripe! Maybe that helps it go faster.	
58	ELINOR	58
	Oh, so maybe we should change the colour of MY car - and give it a racing stripe too!	
59	OLIVE	59
	It's worth a try!	
60	ELINOR	60
	We'd have to cover up your beautiful pictures, Olive. Is that okay?	
61	OLIVE	61
	Sure, the painting of your dad's head looks a little like an onion anyway.	
SHORT MONTAGE: The kids repaint the car. When they're finished, it's the exact same color scheme as Camilla's - yellow with a racing stripe.		
62	ELINOR	62
	There!	
Mr. Rabbit wipes his hands and joins them.		
63	MR. RABBIT	63
	Very nice! But why did you repaint your car?	
64	OLIVE	64
	Camilla has a fast car, and it's yellow.	

65 ELINOR 65
With a racing stripe, just like
this!

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66                ARI                                66
We thought if we made our car look
like hers, it might go faster too.
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67 MR. RABBIT 67

Oh. Okay!

Elinor straps on her helmet.

68 ELINOR 68
Now to test it!

CROSSFADE TO:

4. EXT. HILL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Elinor sits in her car again, helmet strapped on, at the top of the hill.

69 ELINOR 69
I have a good feeling about this!

70	OLIVE	70
	Our car looks so fast!	

71 ARI 71

Ready?

72	ELINOR	72
	Ready AND set!	

73 OLIVE, ARI 73

GO!

They give Elinor's car a gentle push, and it starts to roll down the hill.

ANGLE ON: Elinor once again driving her car downhill, ears flapping in the wind.

74 ELINOR 74
Whooooooooo!

As before, we suddenly ZOOM OUT to see Camilla passing Elinor in her car. Camilla honks her car's horn <SFX: Honk honk!>.

75 CAMILLA 75
Coming through!

Camilla's car zips past, and Elinor looks surprised and disappointed.

At the bottom of the hill Elinor hops out and

76	ARI	76
	Did it work?	

77	OLIVE	77
	Did our car go faster?	

78	ELINOR	78
	No. Hmmm. We need more observations.	

Elinor looks at the two cars side by side.

79	ELINOR (CONT'D)	79
	Okay, our car is yellow and it has a racing stripe.	

80	CAMILLA	80
	Just like mine!	

81	ELINOR	81
	Right.	

82	ARI	82
	And they both have the same wheels.	

83	OLIVE	83
	And they both rolled down the same hill.	

Elinor looks at the two cars again. Her boxy one, and then Camilla's sleek looking one.

84	ELINOR	84
	Wait a sec, I think I see something different - come on!	

CROSSFADE TO:

5. EXT. ELINOR'S YARD - A BIT LATER

Elinor, Olive, and Ari stand around the car in Elinor's yard. Olive has her drawing materials out.

85	OLIVE	85
	What was the difference you saw, Elinor?	

86	ARI	86
	It was the cup-holder right? I knew it.	
87	ELINOR	87
	No, it wasn't the cup-holder. Olive, can you draw a picture of our car?	
88	OLIVE	88
	Sure!	
ANGLE ON: Overhead view of the kids drawing on paper. For each item they describe, they sketch a basic outline.		
89	OLIVE (CONT'D)	89
	Okay. Our car is boxy, like this.	
	She draws a rectangle.	
90	ELINOR	90
	Okay, now draw Camilla's car.	
91	OLIVE	91
	Okay. It's kind of shaped like this.	
	She draws the car: smooth, angled, aerodynamic.	
92	ARI	92
	Oh! I see the difference! Camilla's car has a different shape. It kind of looks like...	
	Ari takes the crayon and he draws.	
93	ARI (CONT'D)	93
	An AIRPLANE! Airplanes are fast!	
ANGLE ON: The kids watch as a sparrow swiftly swoops in and lands on the new birdfeeder that Mr. Rabbit has built, then pecks at the birdseed.		
94	ELINOR	94
	Hmmmmmm! Birds are super-fast too!	
ANGLE ON: She draws the shape of a bird beside the airplane and Camilla's car.		
95	ARI	95
	Wait a second, look! They're all sort of the same shape.	

6. EXT. HILL - A BIT LATER

At the top of the hill, this time Elinor and Camilla begin their race alongside each other. Ari stands behind Elinor's car, and Olive stands behind Camilla's.

102 ARI 102
 Ready?

103 ELINOR 103
 Ready!

104 OLIVE 104
 Set?

105 CAMILLA 105
 Set!

106 OLIVE, ARI 106
 GO!

ANGLE ON: The two cars coasting down the hill, side by side.

107 ELINOR, CAMILLA 107
 Wheeeeeeeeeeee!

ANGLE ON: The two cars arrive at the bottom of the hill at the same time. Elinor and Camilla laugh and high-five.

108 CAMILLA 108
 You DID it Elinor, now your car is
 just as fast as mine!

109 ELINOR 109
 Yep, all because of its pointy
 shape.

Olive and Ari run into the scene, and we ZOOM OUT as they all celebrate.

110 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI, CAMILLA 110
 (ad libbing)
 That was awesome! / You were so
 fast! / My turn next! / etc.

FADE OUT, THE END.