

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWI Interstitial 118

Mz. Mole Story Time:

Mushrooms in the Dark
By Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Follows: Roly Poly, about learning to explore in new places and find things living under logs

Curriculum: the kids learn that mushrooms are not plants, can grow in the dark (don't need sunlight) and some of them can even GLOW in the dark.

SEPla. Asking Questions

LS8. There are many different kinds of living things:

FIRST DRAFT: October 21, 2019
SECOND DRAFT: October 28, 2019

1. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

Mz. Mole carries a plant pot and walks towards the closet.
The kids look interested and gather around her.

1	ELINOR	1	
	What are you doing with that pot, Mz. Mole?		
2	MZ. MOLE (FROM IN THE CLOSET)	2	
	I'm finding a nice spot for it in the closet.		
3	OLIVE	3	
	A plant in the closet? Doesn't SUNLIGHT help plants grow?		* *
4	MZ. MOLE	4	
	Yes, they do, Olive! But this is a MUSHROOM, not a plant.		

We see the pot closer up, revealing a mushroom. [Mycenae
Image ref: https://media.mnn.com/assets/images/2015/04/mycena-collage-three-species.jpg.838x0_q80.jpg]. The kids <SFX:
OHHHH WALLA>.

5	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	5	
	Mushrooms actually like to grow in the dark.		
6	ARI	6	
	Cool. I didn't know mushrooms weren't plants!		
7	MZ. MOLE	7	
	That's right! Mushrooms are something different called <i>fungi</i> .		*
8	ARI	8	
	Fungi? Hey, I'm a "fun guy" too!		

They all <SFX: LAUGH>.

9	MZ. MOLE	9	
	Yes, you are, Ari. Come on in and I'll read you a book about the amazing world of mushrooms.		*

They all crowd in. Mz. Mole turns on a flashlight (there's no
moment of darkness) and closes the door. She shines the
flashlight on the book in her lap. (The mushroom book was in
the mushroom closet.)

*
*

2. POPUP BOOK - CONTINUOUS

*

We see a forest scene featuring a log (Reuse from Roly Poly if possible).

10	MZ. MOLE	10
	Plants need sunlight. It's what they use to live and grow.	

Page flip and we see the log roll over, with mushrooms peeking out.

11	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	11
	But mushrooms are different. They don't need sunlight. They like to grow in dark places, like UNDER this log!	

Zoom in on the mushrooms.

12	ELINOR	12
	If there's no sunlight, what do they use to grow?	

13	MZ. MOLE	13
	Good question, Elinor! They get what they need from the ground using their roots.	

We show water and nutrients coming up into the mushrooms from its roots *
*

14	OLIVE	14
	That's pretty smart. Does that mean they can grow in places that plants can't?	

15	MZ. MOLE	15
	That's right, Olive! They can grow in places where it's totally dark, like underground in a cave!	

Page flip to a cave scene. We see clusters of mushrooms growing near a pool in a dripping cave. (where possible reuse scenes from Bishop 118 interstitial)

16	ELINOR	16
	So these mushrooms NEVER get sunlight?	

17	MZ. MOLE	17
	That's right. And they love it down there.	

18	OLIVE	18	
	I like how they are so many different colors.		
19	MZ. MOLE	19	
	Me too! Mushrooms don't have to be brown. They can be green or red.		
20	ELINOR	20	
	Look, that one is pink!		*
	We see a pink mushroom.		
	Image ref: https://mushroomandcompany.com/product/pink-oyster/		* *
21	OLIVE	21	
	I see a blue one!		*
	We see a blue mushroom.		
	Image ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lactarius_indigo		*
22	ARI	22	
	I spot a spotted mushroom!		*
	We see a spotted mushroom.		
	Image ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanita_muscaria		*
 3. INT CLOSET -- DAY			
	Back in the closet. Mz. Mole shines the light on herself.		
23	MZ. MOLE	23	
	And that's not even the most amazing color. Some mushrooms can even GLOW IN THE DARK.		
24	ELINOR	24	*
	What, really?		
25	MZ. MOLE	25	
	See for yourselves...		
	She turns off her flashlight. The closet is dark except for the mushrooms, which are glowing and casting a green glow on everyone's faces. [Mycenae Image ref: https://media.mnn.com/assets/images/2015/04/mycena-collage-three-species.jpg.838x0_q80.jpg]		
26	ARI	26	*
	Wow, that's amazing!		

27

OLIVE

27 *

I wish I could glow in the dark.

28

MZ. MOLE

28 *

I think you kids are already plenty
bright.

They all laugh.