

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 119 "Ari's Cousin"

By Tom Berger

Elinor's Question: How can we help Ari find his cousin when he doesn't know what she looks like?

Logline: Ari's cousin is coming to town and he needs Elinor and Olive's help to find her. Only one problem... he doesn't know what she looks like!

Curriculum Goals:

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data. (Elinor and her friends create a table to compare the similarities between Ari and the other animals as they search for Art's cousin.)

LS8. Begin to understand that there are many different kinds of living things and how they may be similar or different. (Elinor and her friends find lots of similarities between the animals, but lots of differences too)

Line Count: 121

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Jack Mouse, Mrs. Gorilla

Secondary Characters: Ari's Cousin

Incidental Characters: Martha Cow, Mary and Liv

Props: Worm, Ribbon, Umbrellas, Notebook, Bench, City Bus, Mailbox, Bird

Locations: Path, Animal Town Main Street - Bus stop, bench, corner, various

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CLOSE UP ON GROUND: The last few drops of RAIN from a clearing shower land in a PUDDLE on the path. Nearby, a WORM emerges from the GRASS and moves towards it.

1 ELINOR 1
There sure are a lot of worms out
after it rains.

9 ARI 9
My cousin is coming to visit from
out of town today. I'm going to
meet her at the bus stop while Mom
gets groceries for a special dinner
and Dad tidies the house. Wanna
come?

10	ELINOR	10
	Yeah, we'd love to meet your cousin!	
11	ARI	11
	Me too, I've never met her either. (noticing the ribbon) Hey, cool worm!	
12	ELINOR	12
	(giggle) It's not a worm, it's a ribbon!	
13	OLIVE	13
	I thought the same thing until I compared them.	
14	ARI	14
	Compared?	
15	ELINOR	15
	That's when you look at things side by side and see what's different and what's the same.	
16	ARI	16
	Oh, handy!	

Elinor puts the ribbon in her pocket and they continue down the path.

EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

As the kids approach Main Street, Olive realizes something:

17 OLIVE 17
Hmm.. if you haven't met your
cousin before, how will you
recognize her?

18 ARI 18
Easy! My mom told me that she'll be
carrying a red umbrella.

The kids arrive at Main Street to see the town is quite busy and everyone is carrying COLLAPSED RED UMBRELLAS. (Animals should include MRS. GORILLA, JACK MOUSE, MARTHA COW, MARY AND LIZZIE. ARI'S COUSIN shouldn't be among them)

19 ELINOR 19
This might be harder than we
thought.

20 ARI 20
Everyone has a red umbrella? Didn't
they have any other colors at the
store?

21 OLIVE (SCANNING THE CROWD) 21
Your cousin could be anybody. How
will we know who she is?

22 ELINOR (TO ARI) 22
Hmm... what do you know about her,
Ari?

23 ARI 23
She loves peanut butter and pickle
sandwiches, that's what my mom
said. They're my favorite, too.

Olive scrunches her trunk.

24 ELINOR 24
Peanut butter and... pickle?!

25 ARI 25
Yummmm... yeah! I like the
nuttness of the peanuts and the
crunchiness of the pickles.

26 ELINOR 26
<GIGGLING> I meant, what does your
cousin *look* like.

27 ARI 27
Oh! Well, she's a bat, and Mom says
she looks just like me.

Ari stands proudly, hands on hips, showing himself off.

28 OLIVE 28
Well if we know she looks like Ari,
what *features* should we look for?

29 ARI 29
Huh? What's a "feature"?

30 OLIVE 30
A feature is something about you
that stands out.

31 ARI 31
Well, I have...
(he looks himself over)
...brown fur! Is that a feature?

32 ELINOR 32
For sure! Now we know your cousin
has a red umbrella and *brown fur*.

Olive opens her NOTEBOOK. She draws a TABLE. At the top of
the second column, she draws AN UMBRELLA, and on the third
column A PICTURE OF BROWN FUR. The kids look at the table and
share a nod.

33 ELINOR (CONT'D) 33
Great! Let's go find your cousin.

The kids scan the street until Olive spots a partially obscured animal with brown fur and a red umbrella (MRS. GORILLA) sitting on a CITY BUS STATION BENCH.

34 OLIVE 34
Over there! A red umbrella and brown fur!

35 ARI 35
<GASP!> My COUSIN!

The kids run over.

EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - MAIN STREET - BUS STOP - CONTINUOUS

The kids arrive at the bench to find... MRS. GORILLA? The kids appear shocked and exchange curious looks.

36 ARI 36
Mrs. Gorilla? You're not my cousin, are you?

Ari picks up Mrs. Gorilla's umbrella and opens it <FWOOMP>!

37 ARI (CONT'D) 37
Because we know my cousin has a red umbrella, just like this one.

38 ELINOR 38
And we know Ari's cousin has brown fur like his, so... We need more observations!

39 OLIVE 39
Can we compare you to Ari, Mrs. Gorilla?

40 MRS. GORILLA 40
(shrugs)
Sure, kids. Just as long as I don't miss my bus.

Ari jumps onto the bench beside Mrs. Gorilla. Olive flips open her NOTEBOOK and draws a PICTURE OF MRS. GORILLA in the first column. Ari holds his arm up next to Mrs. Gorilla's and he and Elinor move in for a closer look.

SCIENCE MOMENT CU: though Mrs. Gorilla's fur is longer, it's the same color as Ari's.

41 ARI 41
Yup! It looks like our fur's the same color.
(MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)
(then, proudly)
Brown's my favorite color.

42 MRS. GORILLA 42
<Gasp!> Mine too!

Olive makes a check under BROWN FUR in her notebook. Ari wraps his arms around her neck!

43 ARI 43
Hi cousin! Nice to meet you!

44 MRS. GORILLA 44
Sorry Ari... but I don't think I'm your cousin.

45 ARI/OLIVE/ELINOR 45
(ad lib surprise)
Really?/Awww/Hmmmm.

46 ARI 46
But...but...our brown fur!

47 MRS. GORILLA 47
Yes, but I'm a gorilla, Ari, and gorillas are not bats. Even though we have something in common, we have lots of differences. For example, I'm taller than you.

Mrs. Gorilla stands up and Ari hops off the bench. Ari "measures himself" against her by putting his hand on his head and seeing it lines up to her waist.

48 ARI 48
Hmm, I guess you are a bit taller.

49 ELINOR (NOTICING) 49
Mrs. Gorilla's hands are much bigger than yours, too.

Mrs. Gorilla holds up her hand and Ari puts his up next to it, showing how much smaller it is.

50 OLIVE 50
And her ears are much smaller.

Mrs. Gorilla bends over and puts her head next to Ari's. She wiggles her SMALL EARS.

51 ARI 51
It's true, my ears are big. Watch this!

Ari proudly wiggles his LARGER EARS.

52 OLIVE 52
Wow! I never knew you could do
that Ari!

Elinor puts her hand to her chin to think.

53 ELINOR 53
Ari, if your cousin looks like you,
then she'll have big ears too.

Olive opens her notebooks and adds a DRAWING OF BIG EARS next to the DRAWING OF BROWN FUR. Olive adds an "X" in the Big Ear column in the Mrs. Gorilla row. Elinor looks at the table. She points at the drawings as she explains:

54 ELINOR (CONT'D) 54
We need to find someone with brown
fur and big ears.

55 ARI 55
Then let's go find my brown furred,
big eared cousin!
(then, to Mrs. Gorilla)
I'm sorry we're not cousins, Mrs.
Gorilla.

56 MRS. GORILLA 56
That's okay, Ari! Just because
we're not cousins doesn't mean we
can't be friends.
(then)
Oh, gotta go! My ride's here.

The CITY BUS pulls up and Ari hops back on the bench to give Mrs. Gorilla a high-five before she boards and leaves. The kids scan the street.

57 ELINOR 57
Let's see...red umbrella, brown fur
and big ears...hmm...
(she spots something)
Ari! I think I see your cousin!

Olive runs off, followed by Ari and Elinor.

EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - MAIN STREET - CORNER - CONTINUOUS

The kids arrive at the corner and stop in front of JACK MOUSE. He stands sternly, with hands on his hips, a red umbrella hanging from his wrist. Ari stands next to him, copying his stern pose, his hands on his hips.

58 JACK MOUSE 58
Now what's all this about? I'm on
duty here.

59 ARI 59
We're looking for my cousin who
looks like me, with brown fur and
big ears.

60 ELINOR 60
Do you mind if we compare your
features to Ari's, Deputy Jack?

Jack looks at the kids suspiciously, then notices Olive with
her notebook.

61 JACK MOUSE 61
Well, I do approve of any behavior
that involves note taking. Proceed.

Olive opens up her notebook and adds a DRAWING OF JACK MOUSE
under the DRAWING OF MRS. GORILLA.

62 ELINOR 62
First, let's compare the color of
your fur.

Ari holds up his arm next to Jack's. SCIENCE MOMENT CU:
reveals their fur is the same color.

63 ELINOR (CONT'D) 63
Yup! Brown fur: check!

64 JACK MOUSE (TO ARI) 64
Brown is my *favorite* color.

65 ARI 65
<GASP> Mine too!

Olive adds a check mark in the FUR column.

66 ELINOR 66
May I take a closer look at your
ears, please?

67 JACK MOUSE 67
Certainly, but please don't yell
when you're up close.

Ari moves his head next to Jack's so they can compare ears.
Elinor moves in for a closer look.

68 ELINOR 68
(whispering)
It looks like Jack's ears are about
the same size as Ari's.

69 OLIVE (STRAINING TO HEAR) 69
What's that? I can't hear you!

Elinor moves away.

70 ELINOR 70
That's sooo interesting. Jack Mouse
has brown fur and big ears like
Ari.

Ari wiggles his ears proudly. Olive adds a check mark in the
BIG EARS column for Jack. She checks the list:

71 OLIVE 71
Maybe Jack Mouse is Ari's cousin!

72 ARI 72
Really? Great! Gimmie a high-five,
cousin Jack!

Ari holds up his hand for a high-five.

73 JACK MOUSE 73
I'm afraid I'm going to have to
leave you hanging there, Ari... I
don't think I'm your cousin.

74 ARI/OLIVE/ELINOR 74
(disappointed ad lib)
Awww.

75 JACK MOUSE 75
I'm a mouse, not a bat! While we
have some features in common, we
also have differences. Like this
long tail I have.

Jack turns to show off his tail. Ari turns around to
reveal... No tail.

76 ARI 76
You're right! I don't have a tail,
although I wish I did.

77 JACK MOUSE 77
Well, I don't have wings like you
Ari, and I wish I did... I could
really see what was going on if I
could fly.

Jack holds out his arms and flaps them, getting nowhere. Ari
opens his wings and hovers a few inches off the ground.

78 JACK MOUSE (CONT'D) 78
How cool is that? Wings are one of
important features of a bat.

79 OLIVE 79
Right! And if Ari has wings, his
cousin must have wings too.

90 JACK MOUSE 90
Pickles? Ewww! Everyone knows
peanut butter sandwiches tastes
best with cheddar cheese.

91 OLIVE 91
 I like mine with bananas.
 (then)
 But your mom said your cousin likes
 peanut butter and pickle sandwiches
 too.

Olive adds a DRAWING OF A SANDWICH to the table. Elinor looks
 at it and summarizes.

92 ELINOR 92
 OK, now we have lots of features to
 compare to help us find Ari's
 cousin. Brown fur, big ears, wings,
 fangs, a short nose...

93 ARI 93
 And peanut butter and pickle
 sandwiches!
 (then)
 I'm getting hungry.

94 OLIVE 94
 And a red umbrella. It should be
 much easier to find your cousin
 now, Ari!

95 ARI 95
 Awesome!
 (then, to Jack)
 Too bad we're not related. It'd be
 fun to have a deputy for a cousin.

96 JACK MOUSE 96
 You're a great investigators
 anyway. If I ever need to find *my*
 cousin, I'll know just who to ask
 for help.

97 ARI 97
 You got it!
 (then)
 Now let's find my cousin!

The kids run off in search of Ari's cousin.

EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - MAIN STREET - VARIOUS - CONTINUOUS

MUSICAL MONTAGE: The kids sing as they bounce around Main
 Street, comparing Ari to various animals. Olive keeps track
 in her notebook. Candidates have one or two features in
 common with Ari, but never a lot.

98 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI 98
 (singing)
 ALL - Compare and see, compare and
 see!
 (MORE)

ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI (CONT'D)
ARI - Let's find someone that looks
like me!

The kids compare MARTHA COW to Ari. Olive points out that his
fur matches a BROWN SPOT on her neck.

OLIVE - Your spot's the same color
as Ari,
But that's the only similarity!

Next, they compare Ari to MARY AND LIZZIE. Ari compares his
fur color to Mary's, and checks Lizzie for wings.

ELINOR - You three have the same
short nose,
But that's as far as the sameness
goes!

Ari perches on a MAILBOX next to a BIRD.

ARI We both have wings, that's
plain to see,
But you don't look at all like me!

The kids scan the street, searching for more animals, but
they've compared Ari to everyone.

ALL Compare and see, compare and
see!
ARI (slumping) There's no one here
that looks just like me!

SONG ENDS.

The kids have looked everywhere and haven't found Ari's
cousin. He's upset and slumps on a BENCH.

99

ARI
I give up! I've compared myself to
everyone and no one is the same as
me.
(then)
<SIGH>... I'll never find my
cousin.

99

100

OLIVE
Don't give up, Ari

100

As Olive comforts Ari, something catches Elinor's eye OS.

101

ELINOR
Wait a minute...

101

Elinor runs off, followed by her friends. The kids run up to ARI'S COUSIN. She looks almost exactly like him and holds a red umbrella.

102 ELINOR (CONT'D) 102
Excuse me! Are you new to town?

103 ARI'S COUSIN (NODDING) 103

Yeah, I'm supposed to meet my
cousin. My mom told me that he
looks like me so I've been
comparing myself to everyone... but
no one looks quite like me.
 (then, sadly)
<SIGH>... I'll never find him.

104 ARI 104
 <SIGH>. Ya, I was just saying the
 same thing about *my* cousin.

Olive looks between Ari and his cousin, flabbergasted.

105 OLIVE 105
But you two must be cousins! You
look almost exactly alike!

106 ELINOR 106
We need more observations. Let's
compare and see!

Olive adds a DRAWING OF ARI'S COUSIN to the table in her notebook. Ari and his cousin exchange a look, unsure. Elinor and Olive start to compare them...

107 ELINOR (CONT'D) 107
They both have the same brown fur!

108 ARI / ARI'S COUSIN (IN UNISON) 108
Brown's my favorite color!
 (reacting to each other)
 <GASP!> Mine too!

109 OLIVE 109
 <GIGGLE> They both have the same
 big ears, and wings...

Ari and his cousin flap their wings then wiggle their ears.

110 ELINOR 110
And the same fangs and short nose!

Ari and his cousin both look down at their noses and grit their fangs. Olive adds check marks to her table in every column, except for the PICKLE column.

111	OLIVE	111
	They have so many features in common. They <i>must</i> be cousins!	

112 ARI (NOT CONVINCED) 112
 Hmm... *Maybe...*

Elinor thinks for a second and looks down at Olive's table
and the unchecked "Pickle" column.

113 ELINOR 113
 There's one way to be sure you're
 cousins! On the count of three...
 what's your favorite food?
 (then)
 1... 2... 3!

114 ARI / ARI'S COUSIN 114
 Peanut Butter and Pickle
 Sandwiches!

The cousins suspicious glares turn instantly to huge smiles!
They wrap each other in a hug! Olive adds a big check to the
Pickle column.

115 ARI 115
 Cousin! It's really you! I'm so
 glad we found you.

116 ARI'S COUSIN 116
 Me too! Nice to finally meet you.

117 ARI 117
 Welcome to Animal Town! What should
 we do first?

118 ARI'S COUSIN 118
 Well, all this comparing has made
 me hungry... how about a snack?

119 ARI 119
 <GASP> I was just thinking the same
 thing!

120 ELINOR 120
 Let me guess, peanut butter and
 pickle sandwiches.

121 ARI, OLIVE, ELINOR, ARI'S COUSIN 121
 <LAUGH>

The friends share a <LAUGH> and head home. **END.**