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 and 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)

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Deputy Mouse
Secondary Characters: Ari's Cousin, Mrs. Gorilla
Incidental Characters: Martha Cow, Kao Wombat
Props: Worm, Ribbon, Umbrellas, Notebook, Bench, City Bus, Mailbox, Bird
Locations: Path, Animal Town Main Street - Bus stop, bench, corner, various

FIRST DRAFT: 25-FEB-19
SECOND DRAFT: 14-MAR-19
POLISH: 16-APR-19

1 **EXT. PATH - DAY - CLEARING RAIN** 1

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.

PULL OUT to reveal ELINOR and OLIVE crouched near the worm.

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

2 OLIVE 2
(she spots something)
There's another one!

Elinor looks over at the "worm" Olive noticed a little distance from them: A RED RIBBON WITH BRIGHT YELLOW DOTS.

3 ELINOR (GIGGLES) 3 *
I don't think that's a worm, Olive.

4 OLIVE 4
Are you sure? It's long and curvy like one.

The girls approach. Elinor picks up the ribbon.

5 ELINOR 5
It's a ribbon!
(she spots a nearby worm)
That's a worm! Look, worms aren't red <u>or</u> covered in polka dots.

Olive looks between the ribbon and the worm.

6 OLIVE 6
You're right. And ribbon's aren't brown *or* slimy like a worm.

The girls <LAUGH> as ARI approaches, holding a COLLAPSED RED UMBRELLA. *

7 ARI 7
Hi Elinor! Hi Olive!

8 ELINOR 8
Heya Ari! Where are you going?

9 ARI 9
My cousin is coming to visit today, * and I need to meet her at the bus * stop. Wanna come with me? *

10 OLIVE 10 *
Sure! *

11 ARI 11 *
Thanks! My parents are busy making *
her a special dinner, so they said *
I should ask you to come with me. *

12 ELINOR 12
Of course, we'd love to meet your
cousin. *

13 ARI 13
Me too, I've never met her either.
(noticing the ribbon)
Oh hey, cool worm. *

14 ELINOR 14
(giggle) It's not a worm, it's a
ribbon. *

15 OLIVE 15
I thought the same thing until we
compared them.

16 ARI 16
Compared?

17 ELINOR 17
That's when you notice how things *
are different or the same. *

18 OLIVE 18
Like... ribbons and worms are both
long and curvy... *

19 ARI (GETTING IT) 19
But worms aren't red and don't have
yellow polka dots. I get it! *
(suddenly realizes) *
Oops, we better get going. My *
cousin is going to be there soon. *

Elinor pockets the ribbon and they head down the path.

2 **EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS** 2

As the kids approach Main Street, Olive realizes something:

20 OLIVE 20
Ari, if you haven't met your cousin
before, how will you know what she
looks like?

21 ARI 21
Easy! My mom told me that she'll be
carrying a red umbrella, like mine. *

Ari proudly shows off his COLLAPSED UMBRELLA, opening and *
closing it. *

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, DEPUTY MOUSE, MARTHA COW, KAI WOMBAT. ARI'S COUSIN shouldn't be among them) *
*

22 ELINOR 22
Uh oh. This might be harder than we thought.

23 ARI 23
Everyone has a red umbrella today? Didn't they have any other colors at the store?

24 ELINOR (SCANNING THE CROWD) 24
Your cousin could be anybody. How will we know who she is?
(then, to Ari)
What else do you know about her, *
Ari? *

25 ARI 25
Hmmm... I know she loves peanut *
butter and pickle sandwiches, that's what my mom said.

Olive scrunches her trunk.

26 ELINOR 26
Peanut butter and... pickle?!

27 ARI 27
Yeah! It's my favorite too.

28 ELINOR 28
<GIGGLING> But Ari, what does your cousin *look* like?

29 ARI 29
Oh! Well, my Mom says she looks *
just like me.

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

30 OLIVE 30
Well if we know she looks like Ari, what should we look for?

31 ARI 31
Hmm.... I have...
(he looks himself over)
...brown fur!

32 ELINOR 32
This means that your cousin must *
have brown fur, too. Let's go look *
for someone with a red umbrella and
brown fur. *

33 OLIVE (EXCITED) 33
Ooooo! I'll make a list of things we should look for. *
(drawing) *
A red umbrella... and brown fur. *

Olive opens her NOTEBOOK and starts a CHECKLIST with a PICTOGRAM OF AN UMBRELLA, ANOTHER OF BROWN FUR, and room for more below. The kids look at the list and share a nod.

34 ELINOR 34
Great. Now let's look for your cousin.... *

The kids scan the street until Olive spots a partially obscured animal (MRS. GORILLA) sitting on a CITY BUS BENCH.

35 OLIVE 35
Over there! A red umbrella and brown fur!

36 ARI 36
<GASP!> It must be my cousin!

The kids run over.

3 **EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - MAIN STREET - BUS STOP - CONTINUOUS** 3

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

37 ARI 37
Mrs. Gorilla? You're not my cousin, are you?

Ari picks up Mrs. Gorilla's umbrella and compares it to his.

38 ARI (CONT'D) 38
Because we know my cousin has a red umbrella, just like mine.

39 OLIVE 39
And we know Ari's cousin has brown fur like you, Mrs. Gorilla!

40 ELINOR 40
Hmmm... Can we compare you to Ari?

41 MRS. GORILLA 41
(shrugs)
Sure, kids. I still have some time before my bus comes.

The kids look at Olive's list.

42 ELINOR 42
First... red umbrella? Yes!

They look at the next item...

43 OLIVE 43
Next... Brown fur?

Ari jumps onto the bench beside Mrs. Gorilla and holds his arm up next to hers. He and Elinor move in for a closer look.

SCIENCE MOMENT CU: Their fur is the same color.

44 ELINOR 44
Yes!

Olive looks at her list and smiles.

45 OLIVE 45 *
A red umbrella and brown fur.

Ari wraps his arms around her neck!

46 ARI 46
You must be my cousin!

47 MRS. GORILLA 47
Sorry Ari... but I don't think I'm your cousin.

The kids are surprised: <SFX SURPRISE WALLA> *

48 ARI 48 * *
But... but... we both have brown fur.

49 MRS. GORILLA 49
Yes, but I'm a gorilla and gorillas are <u>not</u> bats. Even though we have something in common, we have lots of differences. For one, gorillas are usually taller than bats.

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.

50 ARI 50
I guess you are <u>a bit</u> taller.

51 ELINOR (NOTICING) 51
Hmm... that's so interesting! And your ears are <u>much</u> smaller.

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

52 ARI 52
It's true, my ears <u>are</u> big. Watch this!

Ari proudly wiggles his LARGER EARS.

53 OLIVE 53
Wow! I never knew you could do that Ari. *

54 ARI (SHRUGGING IT OFF) 54
It just takes practice.

55 ELINOR (THINKING) 55
Ari, if your cousin looks like you, then she'll have big ears too.

56 OLIVE 56
Let's add it to the list. *

Olive adds a PICTOGRAM OF EARS to the list.

57 ARI 57
Let's go find my brown furred, big eared cousin. *
(then, to Mrs. Gorilla)
I'm sorry we're not cousins, Mrs. Gorilla.

58 MRS. GORILLA 58
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.

59 ELINOR 59
Bye, Mrs. Gorilla!
(to Olive and Ari)
C'mon, we need more observations. *

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.

60 OLIVE 60
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.

4 **EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - MAIN STREET - CORNER - CONTINUOUS** 4

The kids arrive at the corner to find DEPUTY 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. The girls <GIGGLE>.

61 DEPUTY MOUSE 61
Now what's all this about? I'm on duty here.

62 ARI 62
We're looking for my cousin who looks like me, with brown fur and big ears.

63 ELINOR 63
Do you mind if we compare you to Ari, Deputy Mouse?

Deputy Mouse looks at the kids suspiciously, then notices Olive with her open notebook.

64 DEPUTY MOUSE 64
Well, I do approve of any behavior that involves note-taking. You may proceed. * *

Olive and Elinor look at the list then at Deputy Mouse.

65 OLIVE 65
Red umbrella... Yes!

66 ELINOR 66
Next, let's compare the color of your fur.

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

67 ELINOR (CONT'D) 67
Brown fur: yes!

Elinor looks at the next item on the list (big ears)... *

68 ELINOR (CONT'D) 68
May I take a closer look at your ears, please?

69 DEPUTY MOUSE 69
Certainly, but please don't yell when you're up close.

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

70 ELINOR (STAGE WHISPER) 70
It looks like Deputy Mouse has big ears like Ari.

Ari wiggles his ears proudly. Olive reviews the list:

71 OLIVE 71
Red umbrella, brown fur, big ears... maybe Deputy Mouse <u>is</u> Ari's cousin. *

72 ARI 72
Really? Gimmie a high-five, cousin. *

Ari holds up his hand for a high-five.

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

The kids are disappointed <SFX: DISAPPOINTED WALLA>

74 DEPUTY MOUSE (CONT'D) 74
I'm a mouse, not a bat. While we have some things in common, we also have differences. Like this long tail I have. *

Deputy Mouse turns to show off his tail. Ari turns around to reveal... No tail.

75 ARI 75
You're right... I don't have a tail, although I wish I did. *

76 DEPUTY MOUSE 76
Well, I don't have wings like you Ari, and I wish I did... I could keep watch over all of Animal Town if I could fly.

Deputy Mouse flaps his arms, getting nowhere. Ari opens his wings and hovers a few inches off the ground.

77 DEPUTY MOUSE (CONT'D) 77
How cool is that? Wings are one of the most important parts of a bat.

78 OLIVE (LIGHT BULB GOES OFF) 78
Right! And if Ari has wings, his cousin <u>must</u> have wings too.

Olive adds a PICTOGRAM OF WINGS to the list. Elinor has an idea and pulls the ribbon out of her pocket.

79 ELINOR 79
Hmm.... Olive, remember when we thought this ribbon was a worm?

80 OLIVE 80
Yeah, it looked a little bit like one. But the more we compared them, the more we saw how they were different.

81 ELINOR (REALIZING) 81
Right! So the more things that we can compare, the easier it will be to tell them apart. *

82 OLIVE 82
OK, Let's add more things we know about Ari to the list.

Ari strikes his superman pose from earlier.

83 ARI 83
Yeah, everyone look at me. *

84 ELINOR 84
Let's see... Ari has sharp front teeth.

Ari shows off his fangs and chomps them.

85 ARI 85
They're great for opening nuts.

86 OLIVE 86
And he has a small, short nose. <TRUMPET>!! Not like mine. *

87 ARI 87
<GIGGLES> I love it when she does that. *

Olive adds a PICTOGRAM OF FANGS and a PICTOGRAM OF A SMALL NOSE to the list. Elinor looks Ari over...

88 ELINOR 88
Hmm... is there anything else we should add?

89 ARI 89
I love peanut butter and pickle sandwiches. *

90 DEPUTY MOUSE 90
Pickles? Everyone knows peanut butter sandwiches tastes best with cheddar cheese.

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

Olive adds a PICTOGRAM OF A SANDWICH to the list. Elinor looks over it and summarizes.

92 ELINOR 92
OK, now we have lots of things to compare to find Ari's cousin. Red umbrella, brown fur, big ears, wings, fangs, a short nose...

93 ARI 93
And peanut butter and pickle sandwiches!
(then, to Deputy Mouse)
Too bad we're not related. It'd be fun to have a deputy for a cousin.

94 DEPUTY MOUSE 94
If I ever need to find someone that looks like me, I know just who to ask for help.

He holds up his paw for a high five, Ari gives it to him.

95 ARI 95
You got it!
(then, to his friends)
Now let's find my cousin. *

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

5 **EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - MAIN STREET - VARIOUS - CONTINUOUS** 5

MUSICAL MONTAGE: The kids sing as they bounce around Main Street, comparing Ari to various animals.

96 ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI 96
(singing)
ALL - Compare and see, compare and see!
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 arm. *

OLIVE - Your spot is brown, just like Ari,
But that's just one similarity!

Next, they compare Ari to KOA WOMBAT. Ari checks Koa for wings, while Elinor notices their noses. * *

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

Ari perches on a MAILBOX next to a BIRD.

(MORE)

ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI (CONT'D)
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 a little discouraged and slumps on a BENCH. *

97 ARI 97
<SIGH> I've compared myself to *
everyone and no one is the same as
me.... I'll never find my cousin. *

98 OLIVE 98
Don't give up, Ari.

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

99 ELINOR 99
Wait a minute... Look! *

Elinor runs off and her friends follow.

They approach ARI'S COUSIN, who looks almost exactly like him and holds a red umbrella.

100 ELINOR (CONT'D) 100
Hi! Are you looking for someone?

101 ARI'S COUSIN (NODDING) 101
Yeah, my cousin. My mom told me
that he looks like me so I compared
myself to everyone... but no one is
the same as me.
(then, sadly)
<SIGH>... I'll *never* find him.

102 ARI 102
<SIGH>. Ya, I was just saying the
same thing about *my* cousin.

Olive looks between Ari and his cousin, flabbergasted.

103 OLIVE 103
I think you two *are* each other's *
cousin. You look almost exactly *
alike!

104 ELINOR 104
Let’s compare and see!

Olive and Elinor start going down the list. *

105 ELINOR (CONT’D) 105
They both have the same red
umbrella and brown fur. *

They hold up their arms and compare fur and umbrellas.

106 OLIVE 106
And the same big ears, and wings...

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

107 ELINOR 107
And the same fangs and short nose. *

They both look down at their noses and grit their fangs.

108 ARI (STILL NOT CONVINCED) 108
Hmm... we sure have a lot in
common... *maybe* we are cousins...

Elinor notices the final item on the list...

109 ELINOR 109
There’s one way to be <u>sure</u>. On the *
count of three... what’s your
favorite food? 1... 2... 3!

110 ARI / ARI’S COUSIN 110
Peanut Butter and Pickle Sandwiches!

The cousins suspicious glares turn instantly to huge smiles!
They wrap each other in a hug!

111 ARI 111
Cousin! It’s really you. I’m so *
glad we found you.

112 ARI’S COUSIN 112
Me too. Nice to finally meet you. *

113 ARI 113
Welcome to Animal Town. What should *
we do first?

114 ARI’S COUSIN 114
Well, all this comparing has made
me hungry... how about a snack?

115 ARI 115
I was just thinking the <u>same thing.</u> *

116 ELINOR 116
Let me guess, peanut butter and
pickle sandwiches. *

The Elinor, Ari, Olive and Ari’s cousin share a <SFX:LAUGH> and head home. **END.**