

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

125 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE STORY TIME: UN-BEE-LIEVABLE

Written by
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Follows "To Bee Or Not To Bee"

Curriculum: The kids learn that some flies and other insects look like be bees so that other animals won't bother them.

Learning Goals: Compare how the external body parts of animals and plants are the same and/or different. [The kids compare bee and fly bodies.]

LS2d: Explore how different external features of an animal help it survive in its environment. [The kids learn why flies and other insects pretend to be bees.]

FIRST DRAFT: 07-NOV-19
SECOND DRAFT: 26-NOV-19

1. EXT SCHOOLYARD -- DAY

It's recess. MZ MOLE (carrying a cloth bag), ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE are in the schoolyard looking at some beautiful planted flowers. Bumblebees are nectaring on the flowers. See photos of *Bombus impatiens*: <https://bugguide.net/node/view/56797> *
*

1 MZ. MOLE 1 *
I'm so glad I planted these flowers
here. The bees just love them.

2 ELINOR 2
(amazed) I've never seen so many
bees in my whole life.

CUT TO on the bees. One of them is a bee-mimicking flower fly (eg. *Mallota posticata*). Zoom in on the flower fly. See photos here: <https://bugguide.net/node/view/55258> *
*

3 ELINOR (O.S.) (CONT'D) 3
Hey. That bee looks different from
the others.

4 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) 4 *
Great observation, Elinor! That one
isn't a bee at all. It's...

BACK ON Mz. Mole and the kids.

5 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 5 *
(with conspiratorial excitement)
... PRETENDING to be a bee. *

4 <SFX: KID WALLA GASP> 4

6 OLIVE 6
If it's not a bee, then what is it?

7 MZ. MOLE 7 *
I've got a book that'll explain
everything. *

Mz. Mole goes and sits on a stump (or chair, whatever works) and pulls a book out of her bag. The kids sit down in front of her. Mz. Mole opens the book to a page showing a bumblebee perched on a flower and a flower fly perched on another flower. *

8 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 8 *
That insect you spotted is a kind
of fly. It's called a flower fly
because it hangs out on flowers.

3. EXT OUTSIDE (BOOK) -- DAY

Close up on the book, with the bee and the flower fly.

9	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	9	*
	See, this is a bee.		

The bee shimmies.

10	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	10	*
	And this is a flower fly.		

The fly shimmies.

11	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	11	*
	And they look a lot alike. They both have see-through wings.		

Two arrows appear that point to the wings. Both insects shake their wings.

12	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	12	*
	They both have SPECTACULAR stripes.		

Arrows point to the stripes. The bee and fly shimmy to show off their stripes.

13	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	13	*
	But look closely. Do you see any differences?		*
			*

14	ELINOR (O.S.)	14	*
	The bee has four wings, but the fly only has two.		*

Arrows point to the wings as the bee and fly raise them. The bee raises its four wings triumphantly, and the fly droops its two wings.

15	OLIVE (O.S.)	15	*
	Plus the fly has big, bulging eyes.		*

Arrows point to the bee and fly eyes. The fly's big bulging eyes sparkle beautifully.

16	ELINOR (O.S.)	16	*
	And the bee has long antennae sticking off of its head. The fly has short antennae.		*

Arrows indicate the bee and fly antennae as they wiggle them. Cut back to Mz. Mole and the kids. *

17	MZ. MOLE	17	*
	Right! Even so, that fly looks a		*
	lot like the bee. It's pretty good		*
	at pretending.		*
18	ELINOR	18	*
	But Mz. Mole, why pretend to be a		
	bee at all?		
19	MZ. MOLE	19	*
	Good question.		*
			*
	Cut back to the book. A generic songbird flies up, looks at		*
	the bee and fly, then turns around and flies away.		*
20	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	20	*
	Most animals know not to bother		*
	bees because bees can sting. By		
	pretending to be a bee, this fly		
	won't get bothered by anyone.		
	The fly does a triumphant little dance.		*
21	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	21	*
	In fact, lots of insects pretend to		
	be bees, like some moths and		
	beetles.		
	The bee jumps, shocked as a bee-mimic moth (eg. Snowberry		
	clearwing moth) and a bee-mimic beetle (eg. Hairy flower		
	scarab) fly in for a landing. They high five the fly.		
	Photos of Snowberry Clearwing moth:		*
	https://bugguide.net/node/view/2639		*
	Hairy flower scarab photo references:		*
	https://bugguide.net/node/view/24645		*
22	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	22	*
	So when you're exploring nature,		
	you need to keep an eye out for		
	pretenders.		
	3. EXT SCHOOLYARD -- DAY		
	Mz. Mole is now wearing her Bee costume from 121B.		*
23	MZ. MOLE	23	*
	Huh? Where did Mz. Mole go?		*
	She puts the book down and buzzes around the kids.		
24	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	24	*
	Bzz! Bzz!		

<SFX: KID GIGGLE>

25	ELINOR	25
	(amused) We know it's you, Mz.	
	Mole.	

The flower fly buzzes up and lands on Mz. Mole's hand.

26	MZ. MOLE	26	*
	Sigh. (to the fly) Well, fly, these		*
	kids are too smart. They just don't		
	BEE-lieve us!		*

<SFX: KID LAUGHTER>

THE END.