ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWW126 INTERSTITIAL: SEÑOR TAPIR: HOLD ON TIGHT!

Written by

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FOLLOWS: EPISODE 152 "BIG TREES"

CURRICULUM: Scientist and explorer John Muir once climbed a giant pine tree to experience what trees experience in a wind storm.

LS2: Plants have different parts that help them grow and survive.

FIRST DRAFT: November 05, 2019
SECOND DRAFT: November 21, 2019

1. EXT FOREST -- WINTER DAY

Open on Señor Tapir, with his guitar, standing in the snow next to Elinor, Ari and Olive. Everyone is wearing winter coats and hats. They all marvel at a youngish pine tree (not much taller than Sr. Tapir) that is bent over to the ground by the weight of the snow covering it.

1 OLIVE 1
Señor Tapir, look at that little tree all covered in snow. It's bent right over.

2 ARI 2
It looks like it's going to break.

3 SEÑOR TAPIR 3
Oh, don't worry. Trees like this one were born to bend but not break. An explorer named John Muir once climbed a very tall pine tree during a wind storm, to feel how much it could bend. *

Señor Tapir starts to strum his guitar and sings. After a few words, we transition to a simpler style of animation that describes what he is singing.

4 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 4
John Muir was a man who loved to explore,

2. EXT CALIFORNIA MOUNTAIN FOREST -- DAY

We see John Muir (depicted as a black bear with a beard and wearing a traveler's hat, brown slacks, a brown vest over a white long-sleeve collared shirt) hiking through a California mountain forest full of very tall pine trees.

5 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 5
He felt right at home in the great outdoors.
So He went for a hike where the trees grew wild and free. *

The wind begins to blow very strong. John Muir's hat blows off and his beard blows sideways. Bits of twigs, leaves and pine needles fly through the air. He looks up at the trees which begin to sway wildly.

6 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 6

And whoah the wind really started
to blow,
And that's when John wanted to know
How it feels at the top of swaying
tree.

John climbs up a 100 foot tall Douglas Fir (Douglas Spruce) tree to the very top. A rope around his waist is tied to the tree trunk at the top for safety. The tree sways back and forth, nearly half way to the ground, taking John for a very wild ride. Back and forth, back and forth - John is loving it.

7 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 7

He climbed a tree to the tippity *
top.
And didn't come down til the wind
had stopped.
Just holding on tight and loving
the way,
The tree would bend…but it would
not break.

As he sways, John looks out over the mountain slopes as the wind rolls over the forests. It looks like a grand field of wheat swaying in the wind, only it's trees. *

One hundred feet high swinging in
the breeze,
John Muir was amazed by the other *
trees,
He watched them move and bend and *
sway. *

Trees are strong but flexible too.
And only John Muir really knew,
What it was like to be a tree on
that stormy day.

The tree sways back and forth, nearly half way to the ground, taking John for a very wild ride. John is loving it.

8 SEÑOR TAPIR (CONT'D) 8

He climbed a tree to the tippity *
top,
And didn't come down til the wind
had stopped.
Just holding on tight and loving
the way,
The tree would bend…but it would
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3. EXT FOREST -- WINTER DAY

The kids <SFX: CHEER> as Señor Tapir finishes his song. *

10 ELINOR 10
Trees are amazing!

11 SEÑOR TAPIR 11
Si. Gracias amigos. *

Señor Tapir brushes the snow off the pine tree, and it suddenly springs upright, showering Señor Tapir with snow <SFX: WHAAA!> . Everyone <SFX: LAUGHS>.

END