

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

127 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE STORY TIME: STINKY SURPRISE

Written by
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Follows "Follow Your Nose"

Curriculum: The kids learn that some animals use stinky smells to protect themselves.

Learning Goals: LS2c: Compare how the external body parts of animals and plants are the same and/or different. [The kids learn that pinacate beetles store a stinky liquid in their bodies.]

LS2d: Explore how different external features of an animal help it survive in its environment. [The kids learn that this stinky liquid helps keep pinacate beetles safe.]

FIRST DRAFT: 11-DEC-19
SECOND DRAFT: 20-DEC-19

1. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

MZ. MOLE is standing in front of the class, teaching a lesson on beetles. She's drawn some beetles on a chalkboard and she's pointing at them.

*
*

1	MZ. MOLE	1	
	There are many kinds of amazing		*
	beetles. They really are my		*
	favorite insects...		*

Mz. Mole pauses and lifts up her nose. <SFX: SNIFF>

2	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	2	
	Does anyone else smell something		
	stinky?		

Cut to the kids, who shrug.

3	ELINOR	3	
	I don't.		

4	ARI	4	
	Nope.		

Olive sniffs and points towards Mz. Mole's desk.

*

5	OLIVE	5	
	I do! It's coming from your desk.		*

Back on Mz. Mole, who goes around her desk, sniffing, then comes back to the front of it to open the drawer. (If there's no time, she can just go right to the spot in the desk.) Mz. Mole opens a drawer and pulls out a rotten banana.

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*
*
*

6	MZ. MOLE	6	
	Aha! An old banana.		*

Mz. Mole sniffs it and makes a funny face.

*

	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)		*
	That doesn't smell very good.		*

The kids <SFX: EWW>.

7	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	7	
	Hey, did you know that some stinks		*
	can be USEFUL?		

The kids <SFX: GASP, HUH?>. Mz. Mole walks back to the front of the class, puts the banana down on her desk, and pulls out a book.

*

8	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	8	
	It's all right here in this book		
	about my favorite insects: beetles!		*

2. EXT OUTSIDE (BOOK) -- DAY

We see a pinacate beetle standing on the sandy desert ground.

9	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	9	
	This is a pinacate beetle. It walks		*
	around right in the open.		*

The beetle struts across the sand, looking proud of itself.

	ELINOR		*
	Isn't it worried that something		*
	will try to eat it?		*

The beetle shakes its head or swats a paw, looking unconcerned.

11	MZ MOLE (O.S.)	11	
	Don't worry. This beetle has a		*
	secret power. Can you guess what it		
	is?		

CUT TO: The kids, with a PAN from one to the other. *

12	ELINOR	12	*
	Does it have an extra-strong shell?		

13	ARI	13	*
	Can it make a scary noise?		

14	OLIVE	14	*
	Or fly super fast?		

BACK ON: The book. A hungry lizard appears in front of the beetle. It licks its lips. *

15	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	15	
	Let's see what happens when this		*
	lizard comes close.		*

The beetle flips around and does a headstand, pointing its butt at the lizard.

16	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	16	
	First, the beetle stands on its		*
	head.		*

The lizard steps a little closer.

17	MZ MOLE (O.S.)	17	
	Then, it sprays stinky stuff at the		*
	lizard.		*

A jet of reddish-brown stinky fluid flies out and hits the lizard in its face. The kids <SFX: EWW> or laugh in surprise. The lizard looks disgusted and runs away. The beetle resumes its confident strut.

18	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	18	
	The lizard does NOT like that		*
	stinky stuff. It leaves and the		*
	beetle is safe. Saved by the sink!		*

3. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

Mz. Mole puts down the book.

19	MZ. MOLE	19	
	See, sometimes stinky smells are		*
	useful.		*

She holds up the banana, looking at it thoughtfully.

20	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	20	
	So, maybe we should keep this old		*
	banana around?		*

	ARI		*
	Uh, Mz. Mole, I don't think that		*
	banana is protecting us from any		*
	lizards.		*

	MZ. MOLE		*
	Maybe it scared them all away		*
	already!		*

	<SFX: KID LAUGHTER>.		*
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THE END.