

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

127 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE STORY TIME: STINKY SURPRISE

Written by
Rosemary Mosco

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
POLISH DRAFT: 9-JAN-20

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.

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

Cut to the kids, who shrug.

Olive sniffs and points towards Mz. Mole's desk with her trunk.

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.

Mz. Mole sniffs it and makes a funny face.

The kids <SFX: EWW>.

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.

9		MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	9
		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.

10		MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	10
		This is a pinacate beetle. It walks	
		around right in the open.	

The beetle struts across the sand, looking proud of itself. A hungry lizard appears in front of the beetle. It licks its lips.

11		ELINOR	11
		Isn't the beetle worried that the	
		lizard will try to eat it?	

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

12		MZ MOLE (O.S.)	12
		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.

13		ELINOR	13
		Does it have an extra-strong shell?	

14		ARI	14
		Can it make a scary noise?	

15		OLIVE	15
		Or fly super fast?	

BACK ON: The book.

16		MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	16
		Let's see what happens when this	
		lizard comes closer.	

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

17		MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	17
		First, the beetle stands on its	
		head.	

The lizard steps a little closer.

18	MZ MOLE (O.S.)	18
	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.

19	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	19
	The lizard does NOT like that stinky stuff. It leaves and the beetle is safe. Saved by the stink!	

3. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

Mz. Mole puts down the book.

20	MZ. MOLE	20
	See, sometimes stinky smells are useful.	

She holds up the banana, looking at it thoughtfully.

21	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	21
	So, maybe we should keep this old banana around?	

22	ARI	22
	Uh, Mz. Mole, I don't think that banana will protect us from any lizards.	

23	MZ. MOLE	23
	Maybe it scared them all away already!	

<SFX: KID LAUGHTER>.

THE END.