

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 129 Bath Time

By: Adam Ruben

Elinor's Question: What happens if you don't take a bath?

Logline: When Ari decides to boycott bathing, he learns why animals keep themselves clean.

Curriculum Goals: LS5. Begin to understand that animals and plants depend on other living things and nonliving things in the environment to meet some of their needs. (Ari learns that animals use water, or other means, to remove accumulated grime.)

ND5. Appreciate that events are connected to each other via cause and effect and that similar links can be found in the natural and designed worlds. (Ari's choice not to bathe leads to filthiness; a similar fate befalls his unwashed toy.)

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data: Use the five senses and simple tools to gather and record data. (Elinor and Olive study Ari's increasing filth and its effects.)

SEP6. Constructing explanations: Use background knowledge, experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena. (Elinor, Ari, and Olive learn that Ari's refusal to bathe is making him grimmer.)

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mz. Mole

Secondary Characters: Mr. Bat, Mrs. Bat, Koa Wombat

Backgrounds - Ari's bedroom, classroom, school playground, Ari's living room

Props - stuffed plush robin, pile of dirt/dust, book, Olive's notebook, crayon, classroom sink, sandwich, puddle, tricycle

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1. INT. ARI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Open on a CU of a friendly-looking stuffed plush robin appearing to soar through the air.

1	ARI (O.C.)	1
	(singing to himself)	
	Here comes super-robin, flying	
	through the aiiirrrr...whooosh	

We slowly zoom out to see that the bird is being held by ARI, though we only see his arm at first, coming up from the bottom of the screen. Once we've zoomed out a little more, we see the window in the background. It's dark outside, and the moon is visible, but the window is upside-down!

We zoom out some more to see the rest of Ari. He's right-side up, but the room is upside-down. The camera angle then turns 180 degrees so that we can see what's really happening: Ari is hanging from his bedroom ceiling, dangling the robin below him. <SFX: WHOOOSH WALLA> of the robin flying continue, and we can see that it's Ari making the sounds.

Suddenly Ari drops and flutters to the floor, then giggles.

ANGLE ON: MR. BAT walks by Ari's bedroom door.

2	MR. BAT	2
	Ari, it's getting late. Time to	
	take a bath and get ready for bed.	

3	ARI	3
	(disappointed)	
	Aw, dad. But I'm having fun playing	
	with Robin! He's my new favorite	
	toy.	

ANGLE ON: Ari flying Robin through the air.

4	MR. BAT	4
	Why do you call him Robin?	

5	ARI	5
	Because he's a robin.	

6	MR. BAT	6
	That makes sense.	

7	ARI	7
	And I'm a bat, man!	

8 MR. BAT 8
(laughs)
Well, that's great, but it's still
bath time.

MRS. BAT walks by and stands next to Mr. Bat.

9 ARI 9
Can't I skip my bath, just this
once? I mean, what's the point of a
bath anyway? You get wet, and then
you get dry again? I'm already dry!

10 MRS. BAT 10
(looking at Mr. Bat)
Well, I suppose it's okay for
tonight, since you're having so
much fun playing with Robin.

11 ARI 11
Yay!

ANGLE ON: Mr. and Mrs. Bat walk away. Ari holds up Robin.

12 ARI (CONT'D) 12
Can you believe it, Robin? No bath!
(considering)
I wonder what's going to happen...

FADE TO:

2. INT. ARI'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

CU on Ari's face as he hangs from his bed, fast asleep,
wearing pajamas and holding Robin. Outside the window, the
sun is rising.

13 MRS. BAT (O.S.) 13
Ari! It's time to get up for
school!

ANGLE ON: Ari wakes up, stretches, and smiles.

14 ARI 14
(calling)
Okay, Mom!

He flutters to the ground, holding Robin.

15 ARI (CONT'D) 15
Good morning, Robin!

Ari has a sudden realization.

16 ARI (CONT'D) 16
That's right - I skipped my bath
last night!

Ari gives himself a glance all over.

17 ARI (CONT'D) 17
And nothing bad happened. This is
amazing! FREEDOM!!!!

ANGLE ON: Closer shot of Ari's face; he has determination in his eyes.

18 ARI (CONT'D) 18
From now on, I will NEVER! BATHE!
AGAIN!

CUT TO:

3. INT. CLASSROOM - LATER THAT MORNING

We pan over the classroom, where children enter, greet each other, and hang up their coats <SFX: children murmuring>. When we pan over to the door, ELINOR and OLIVE are standing there.

Ari enters, skipping happily.

19 ARI 19
Hi, Elinor! Hi, Olive!

[illegible]

21 ARI 21

Notice anything different about me?

22 OLIVE 22
Well, you look really happy.

ELINOR

But you ALWAYS look happy!

24 ARI 24

I'm happy for a reason! Last night,
I skipped my bath.

Elinor and Olive <SFX: GASP!>

25 ARI (CONT'D) 25
And guess what! NOTHING BAD
HAPPENED!!
 (MORE)

ARI (CONT'D)
(he spins around)
Look at me, I'm fine!

Ari pulls Robin out of his backpack to show the toy to Elinor and Olive.

26 ARI (CONT'D) 26
I even got extra time to play with
Robin.

He holds Robin up.

27 ELINOR 27
(laughing)
Hello, Robin! Welcome to our class.

28	ARI	28
	(as Robin)	
	Tweet!	

29 OLIVE 29
 (to Ari)
Sometimes I skip baths, too. It's
pretty fun.

30 ARI 30

I know! And I'm not just talking
about skipping yesterday's bath.
I'm going to skip baths...forever

31 OLIVE 31
Ari, you can't do that! Everybody
needs to take baths.

MZ. MOLE passes behind the kids.

32 ELINOR 32
Isn't that right, Mz. Mole, don't
all animals take baths?

Mz. Mole stops.

33 MZ. MOLE 33

No, not all animals. Some animals
keep themselves clean in other
ways.

ANGLE ON: Mz. Mole bends down to a low bookshelf to locate a book.

34 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 34
Let's see, where is that book?

She selects a book and opens it.

POP-UP BOOK CU: Cartoonish illustrations appear as Mz. Mole describes the following.

35	MZ. MOLE (V.O.)	35
	Animals have different ways of keeping themselves clean. You may have seen ducks pecking at their feathers. That's called "preening," and it's one way they keep clean. Some kinds of fish help clean each other by nibbling off dead skin.	

Ari, Olive and Elinor: <SFX WALLA: Ewwwww>

36	MZ. MOLE	36
	Chickens even take dust baths.	

37	ARI	37
	Now that's my kind of bath!	

38	OLIVE	38
	(giggling) Ari, you're not a chicken.	

39	ARI	39
	(holding up Robin) Robin's kind of like a chicken. They're both birds.	

40	MZ. MOLE	40
	What a sweet little guy. You should bring him back next week for our big show-and-tell.	

41	ARI	41
	That's a great idea! Did you hear that, Robin?	

The bell rings <SFX: ring!> for recess.

42	MZ. MOLE	42
	Okay! Recess time, everyone!	

ANGLE ON: The class excitedly runs outside.

CUT TO:

4. EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

Elinor, Olive, and Ari walk out together toward the playground.

43 OLIVE 43

Elinor, what should we do for the
big show-and-tell? I don't have any
ideas.

44 ELINOR 44
Me neither. But we'll think of something.

They stop at a big pile of dirt and dust. Elinor stares at it, thoughtful.

45 ELINOR (CONT'D) 45
Mz. Mole?

Mz. Mole approaches.

46 MZ. MOLE 46
Yes, Elinor?

47 ELINOR 47
You said chickens take baths in the
dust. But how can something dirty
make chickens clean?

48 MZ. MOLE 48

That's a good question. Sometimes chickens have little bugs living in their feathers, and rolling in the dust can help get rid of the bugs.

49 ARI 49
You mean like THIS?

Still holding Robin, Ari dives headfirst into the dust pile, rolling around and clucking like a chicken. Mz. Mole looks shocked, but Elinor and Olive are <SFX: GIGGLING HYSTERICALLY WALLA>.

50 MZ. MOLE 50
 (laughing)
 I said chickens take dust baths,
 Ari, not bats!

Laughing and clucking, Ari stops rolling around. He and Robin are now filthy.

51 ARI 51
I feel so dusty, and yet so clean!

Mz. Mole sees Koa Wombat struggling on the swings.

52 MZ. MOLE 52
Whoops, Koa needs a push!

Mz. Mole exits.

53 ARI 53

Looks like nothing's going to
happen to me if I never take a bath
again.

Ari flutters to his feet, Olive and Elinor look at him with interest.

54 ELINOR 54
Olive, I know what we can do for
the big show-and-tell!

What?

OLIVE

56 ELINOR 56
Let's study Ari!

Ari laughs as he stands up.

57 ARI 57
You want to study me?

58 ELINOR 58

Sure! You want to know what happens
if you don't take a bath, so we'll
keep track.

59 OLIVE 59
Great idea, Elinor!

60 ELINOR 60
Let's get started!

MONTAGE: A series of scenes shows Ari getting progressively dirtier over the course of the next week. When possible, he holds Robin, who gets equally dirty.

The kids wait in line for the classroom sink, each washing their hands quickly before grabbing a snack, but when it's Ari's turn, he holds his hands in the air and continues past the sink. Elinor and Olive observe <SFX: Ooooh> and Olive writes in her book.

WIPE TO:

Ari enters the classroom a couple days later and greets Elinor and Olive, who exchange a shocked and amused look at Ari's dirtiness. He twirls to show off his filth, and Olive eagerly writes observations (unseen) in her notebook.

WIPE TO:

Ari sits at the lunch table with his friends. He takes a bite of his sandwich, and a glob of jelly falls onto his fur. He giggles and spreads it around. Olive and Elinor look at each other and giggle.

WIPE TO:

Ari enters the classroom again, even dirtier than before; again he shows off his filth to Elinor and Olive. Elinor inspects Ari's handiwork while Olive records the results of their experiment so far.

WIPE TO:

Ari walks home from school with Elinor and Olive. A CHILD drives by on a tricycle, through a mud puddle, which splashes all over Ari's legs. He looks surprised at first, then smiles and splashes in the mud puddle, laughing, while Olive and Elinor shield themselves.

END MONTAGE

5. INT. CLASSROOM - ONE WEEK AFTER START OF MONTAGE

Elinor and Olive talk to a completely mud-covered Ari.

61	OLIVE	61
	(pinching the end of her trunk)	
	Wow, Ari! It's been a whole week since you took a bath, and you've just gotten dirtier and dirtier.	
62	ARI	62
	(scratching his body)	
	I know! Isn't it great? At first, nothing happened, but after a while, the dirt really built up.	
63	ELINOR	63
	And you've given us a lot of good observations for the big show-and-tell today.	
64	OLIVE	64
	Why are you scratching so much?	
65	ARI	65
	(still scratching)	
	I'm a little itchy. Actually, I'm a lot itchy.	
66	ELINOR	66
	Hmm. Another observation.	

Olive makes a note in her notebook.

67 MZ. MOLE 67
 Okay, class! It's time for show-and-tell!

ANGLE ON: Children excitedly run to the rug, each clutching a special object.

68 ARI 68
 Oh boy!

He quickly rummages in his cubby and produces Robin. Robin is as filthy as Ari and is barely recognizable other than by his shape.

69 OLIVE 69
 Is that Robin?

70 ARI 70
 Yeah. I guess he got a little dirty too.

The kids take their seats.

71 MZ. MOLE 71
 So, who would like to go first?

72 ARI 72
 Ooh! I would!

73 MZ. MOLE 73
 Okay, Ari. Let's see what you've brought.

ANGLE ON: Ari stands in front of the class, holding Robin.

74 ARI 74
 This is Robin. He's my new favorite toy. He flies through the air during the day, and at night, he helps me fall asleep.

Ari holds up Robin. ANGLE ON: The toy is now so filthy you can't even see what it is.

ANGLE ON: The class is aghast.

75 ELINOR 75
 (to Olive)
 Is that...

86 ELINOR 86
And so SO INTERESTING. So Olive and
I decided to observe what happens
when you don't take a bath.

They consult their notes.

87 OLIVE 87
At first, not much.

88 ELINOR 88

But soon we noticed that all of the dirt that got on Ari's body just stayed there.

89 OLIVE 89
He got dirtier and dirtier.

90 ELINOR 90
And started to get itchy.

91 OLIVE 91
And even a little smelly.

ANGLE ON: Ari looks at Robin. The penny drops.

[illegible]

ANGLE ON: Elinor and Olive each put their arms around Ari, and they start to sing.

SONG MONTAGE: We see quick cuts of Ari and Robin getting dirty.

93 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI 93
(singing)
ELINOR: When you run and play and
sweat,
OLIVE: The dirt builds up,
The dirt builds up,
The dirt builds up.
ARI: I just don't feel like getting
wet!
OLIVE: The dirt builds up,
The dirt builds up,
The dirt builds up.

ANGLE ON: Ari stands forward.

ARI: (spoken) but maybe...(sings)
If you wash it all away,
(MORE)

ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI (CONT'D)

ELINOR AND OLIVE: The dirt comes
off,
The dirt comes off,
The dirt comes off.
ARI: Then you're gonna feel okay
ALL: When the dirt comes off,
The dirt comes off,
The dirt comes OOOOOOFFFF!

END MONTAGE, with Ari holding the last note longer than everyone else. He finishes, and the kids laugh at this.

ANGLE ON: Ari looks out the classroom window, where he sees two birds happily splashing in a puddle. Then he looks at Robin.

94	ARI	94
	Robin, there's something we need to do.	

CUT TO:

6. INT. ARI'S LIVING ROOM - THAT EVENING

Ari enters through the front door, looking a little contrite. His parents are waiting.

95	MRS. BAT	95
	Hi, Ari! What did you learn in school today?	

96	ARI	96
	I learned that's it's fun to get dirty, but sometimes....ya gotta get clean. (beat) Can I take a bath now?	

97	MRS. BAT	97
	With bubbles? Coming up!	

She leaves the room. Ari looks down at this toy.

98	ARI	98
	What about Robin?	

99	MR. BAT	99
	Robin's going to have his own special bath - in the washing machine.	

CUT TO:

7. INT. ARI'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

A squeaky clean Ari in pajamas sighs contentedly, holding the newly laundered Robin. Once again the camera angle turns so that we can see he is hanging upside-down from the ceiling in his bedroom.

100	ARI	100
	(to Robin)	
	I'm glad you're not the kind of	
	bird that takes baths in the dust.	
	And I'm not the kind of bat who	
	does, either!	

Ari yawns and starts to close his eyes.

101	ARI (CONT'D)	101
	Don't worry. We'll get dirty again	
	tomorrow.	

He falls asleep, and we PAN OUT to see two birds in the tree next to Ari's window, preening their feathers.

FADE OUT, THE END.