

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

Secondary Characters: Mr. Bat, Mz. Mole

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

Props - stuffed plush robin, pile of dirt/dust, book, notebook, crayon, sandwich, lunchboxes, water, towel, two birds

OUTLINE: April 4, 2019

FIRST DRAFT: May 6, 2019

SECOND DRAFT: May 28, 2019

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 from the silhouetted trees we see that 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 favorite toy.		*

4	ANGLE ON: Ari flying Robin through the air.	4	*
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ANGLE ON: MRS. BAT walks by and stands next to Mr. Bat. *

4	ARI (CONT'D)	4	
	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!		

Mr. and Mrs. Bat look at each other. *

5 MR. BAT 5 *

5 Hmm, I don't know. It's important *
5 to take baths...but I suppose it's *
5 okay for tonight, since you're *
5 having so much fun playing with
5 Robin.

6 ARI 6

Yay!

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

7	ARI (CONT'D)	7
	Can you believe it, Robin? No bath!	
	AND extra playtime!	*
	(considering, while flying	*
	Robin around)	*
	Dad said baths are important...I	*
	wonder how I'll feel in the	*
	morning...?	*

FADE TO:

2. EXT. ARI'S HOUSE - THE NEXT MORNING

Exterior shot of Ari's house with the sun rising and <SFX:
BIRDS CHIRPING>.

CUT TO: *

3. 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.

ANGLE ON: Ari wakes up, stretches, and smiles. He flutters to the ground, holding Robin. *

8 ARI 8
Good morning, Robin!

Ari has a sudden realization. He looks down at his body. *

9 ARI (CONT'D) 9

 (examining himself all *

 over) *

That's right - I skipped my bath

last night! And nothing bad *

happened. This is amazing! *

 (with fists in the air) *

FREEDOM!!!!!!

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

10	ARI (CONT'D)	10	
	From now on, I will NEVER! TAKE! A		*
	BATH! AGAIN!		*

CUT TO:

4. INT. CLASSROOM - LATER THAT MORNING	*
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We pan over the classroom, where children enter, greet each other, and hang up their coats <SFX: children murmuring>.	*
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ANGLE ON: Elinor and Olive put their backpacks in their cubbies by the door. Ari enters, skipping happily.	*
	*

11	ARI	11	
	Hi, Elinor! Hi, Olive!		

12	ELINOR	12	
	Hi, Ari!		

13	ARI	13	
	Notice anything different about me?		

14	OLIVE	14	
	Well, you look really happy.		

15	ELINOR	15	
	But you ALWAYS look happy!		

16	ARI	16	
	I'm happy for a reason! Last night, I skipped my bath.		

Elinor and Olive <SFX: GASP!>

17	ARI (CONT'D)	17	
	And guess what! NOTHING BAD HAPPENED!!		
	(he spins around)		
	Look at me, I'm fine!		

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

18	ARI (CONT'D)	18	
	I even got extra time to play with Robin.		

He holds Robin up.

19	ELINOR (laughing) Hello, Robin! Welcome to our class.	19	
20	ARI (as Robin) Tweet!	20	
	Elinor and Olive giggle.		*
21	ARI (CONT'D) I'm going to bring him next week for the big show-and-tell!	21	* * *
22	OLIVE (to Ari) Sometimes I skip baths, too. It's pretty fun.	22	
	As they talk, the kids walk over to the art table, sit, and start drawing with markers.		* *
23	ARI I know! But I'm not just talking about skipping yesterday's bath. I'm going to skip baths...forever!	23	* * *
	Olive pauses her drawing.		*
24	OLIVE Ari, you can't do that! Everybody needs to take baths.	24	
25	ELINOR Or do they?	25	* *
26	OLIVE Huh?	26	* *
27	ELINOR I mean, look at Ari. If he skipped his bath, and he's doing fine, how important can baths really be?	27	* * * *
	CU on Elinor, looking curious.		*
28	ELINOR (CONT'D) I wonder...why do we need to keep ourselves clean?	28	* * *
	ANGLE ON: Shot of all three kids at the table. Ari looks down and sees that he's accidentally colored all over his hand with the marker. He looks slightly shocked at first, then happy. He holds up his marked-on hand.		* * * *

29	ARI	29	*
	And what happens when we don't?		*

	WIPE TO:	*
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5. INT. CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

	Elinor and Olive chat while eating lunch.	*
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30	OLIVE	30	*
	Elinor, what should we do for the		*
	big show-and-tell? I don't have any		*
	ideas.		*

31	ELINOR	31	*
	Me neither. But we'll think of		*
	something.		*

	Ari enters. He sits with them and takes a sandwich out of his	*
	lunch box.	*

32	ARI	32	*
	Ah! Another day without a bath!		*

33	OLIVE	33	*
	You still haven't taken a bath?		*
	It's been two days.		*

34	ARI	34	*
	Nope!		*

35	OLIVE	35	*
	(suspicious)		*
	Are your parents letting you do		*
	this?		*

36	ARI	36	*
	For now. They said I could skip		*
	baths until after the big show-and-		*
	tell next week.		*

	Ari digs Robin out of his pocket.	*
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37	ARI (CONT'D)	37	*
	(as Robin)		*
	Tweet! I'm skipping baths, too!		*

	Elinor and Olive giggle.	*
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38	ELINOR	38	*
	My Mom told me sometimes birds like		*
	Robin have little bugs that live in		*
	their feathers. So they use their		*
	beaks to get the bugs off.		*
39	ARI	39	*
	Well, there are no bugs on me!		*
	Ari points to himself, and as he does, a glob of jelly falls		*
	from his sandwich and lands on his arm.		*
40	ELINOR	40	*
	But there is jelly.		*
41	OLIVE	41	*
	Are you going to wash it off?		*
42	ARI	42	*
	Nope! I think it looks good, right		*
	where it is. This way, if I get		*
	hungry, I can just lick my arm!		*
	ANGLE ON: Ari holds Robin up to his arm.		*
43	ARI (CONT'D)	43	*
	Here you go, Robin!		*
	He pretends to feed Robin the jelly on his arm; some jelly		*
	gets on Robin's beak. Then Ari gives his own arm a lick.		*
44	OLIVE	44	*
	(ad lib)		*
	Eww!		*
45	ELINOR	45	*
	Wait a minute, I just had an idea		*
	for our show and tell!		*
	CU on Ari, who frowns a little.		*
46	ARI	46	*
	Hmm. I think I taste some peanut		*
	butter from yesterday.		*

WIPE TO: *

6. EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - THE NEXT DAY *

Elinor and Olive sit on a log, sharing a book. Ari enters. *

He's definitely looking dirtier now. *

47	ARI	47	*
	Ah! Another day without a bath!		*
	Elinor and Olive don't look up. Ari approaches closer and looks at the book, too.		*
			*
48	ARI (CONT'D)	48	*
	What's this book about?		*
49	OLIVE	49	*
	Mz. Mole gave it to us. We're going to do our big show-and-tell about animals keeping clean.		*
			*
			*
50	ELINOR	50	*
	Did you know that chickens stay clean by rolling around in the dust?		*
			*
			*
51	ARI	51	*
	Wouldn't that just make them dirtier?		*
			*
52	OLIVE	52	*
	The book says their feathers are smooth, so the dust doesn't really stick to them.		*
			*
			*
53	ARI	53	*
	Now that's my kind of bath!		*
	Still holding Robin, Ari dives headfirst into a dust pile, rolling around and clucking like a chicken. <SFX: Elinor and Olive laugh.>		*
			*
			*
54	OLIVE	54	*
	(still giggling)		*
	Ari, you're not a chicken.		*
	Laughing and clucking, Ari stops rolling around. He and Robin are now filthy.		*
			*
55	ARI	55	*
	Hmm. The dust only made me dirtier.		*
56	ELINOR	56	*
	Well, I think you're a lot stickier than a chicken.		*
			*
57	OLIVE	57	*
	NOW do you want to take a bath?		*
	With water?		*

Ari looks at his dust-covered body and holds up a dust-covered Robin.

58 Nah. ARI 58

Ari flutters to his feet, which kicks up a dust cloud. Olive and Elinor shield their faces and <SFX: cough>.

WIPE TO:

7. EXT. FOREST NEAR STREAM - A COUPLE DAYS LATER

Elinor and Olive sit near a very shallow stream in the forest, gazing into it. Olive has Mz. Mole's book open, and Elinor is sketching on a note pad. Ari enters; he is now a grayish mess shaped like Ari.

59 ARI 59
Ah! ANOTHER day without a bath!

He starts to scratch himself <SFX: scratching.

60 ELINOR 60
How many days has it been, Ari?

61 ARI 61
 (happily)
 A LOT.

He sits next to Elinor and Olive and <SFX: scratches> himself again.

62 ARI (CONT'D) 62
What are you looking at?

63 ELINOR 63
The little fish in the stream. They
keep nibbling each other.

Ari peers into the stream.

ANGLE ON: Looking upward, from the stream, at Ari's face.

64 ARI 64
Oh yeah! Why are they doing that?

He <SFX: scratches> himself.

ANGLE ON: The three kids sit by the stream.

65	ELINOR	65	*
	The book says that's how they keep clean.		*
			*
66	ARI	66	*
	(scratching again)		*
	I thought fish were always clean.		*
	It's like they live in a big bath!		*
67	OLIVE	67	*
	Speaking of baths...don't you think it's time you took one? You seem awfully itchy.		*
			*
68	ARI	68	*
	That's why I learned to scratch myself with my fingers AND toes!		*
			*
	Ari plops onto his bottom, wraps his arms and legs around himself, and scratches with all four appendages.		*
			*
	WIPE TO:		*
			*
	8. INT. CLASSROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER		*
	The class sits on the rug, facing MZ. MOLE, each clutching a special object. Olive holds the book; Elinor holds a cup of water and a towel; and Ari holds Robin. Ari is now not only gray and patchy, but actively dripping from time to time. Robin is in the same condition.		*
			*
			*
			*
69	MZ. MOLE	69	*
	Okay, class! It's time for the big show-and-tell! Who would like to go first?		*
			*
			*
70	ARI	70	*
	Ooh! I would!		*
			*
	He runs to the front of the class. ANGLE ON: Mz. Mole squints at him and adjusts her glasses.		*
			*
71	MZ. MOLE	71	*
	Oh, er, uh...I don't think I recognize you. Are you a new student? Welcome to the class!		*
			*
			*
72	ARI	72	*
	Mz. Mole, it's me, Ari!		*

73 MZ. MOLE 73 *
You don't look like Ari. But, *
whoever you are, you're welcome in *
our classroom. 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 favorite *
toy. He flies through the air *
during the day, and at night, he *
helps me fall asleep.

ANGLE ON: The toy is now so filthy you can't even see what it is. *

ANGLE ON: The class looks quizzically at Robin. *

ANGLE ON: Ari looks closer at Robin to see what they're all looking at, and for the first time he starts to notice how dirty Robin has become. *

75 ARI (CONT'D) 75 *
He's kind of dirty right now. He's *
kind of...really dirty. *

Ari turns Robin around. *

76 ARI (CONT'D) 76 *
Oops--I think this part is his *
face. *

ANGLE ON: Ari sits back down on the rug. *

Elinor raises her hand. *

77 ELINOR 77 *
Mz. Mole? Can Olive and I do our *
show and tell now? *

ANGLE ON: Mz. Mole bends down and addresses Ari. *

78 MZ. MOLE 78 *
Sure. And thank you for going *
first, new student! *

Elinor and Olive walk to the front of the room; Olive holds the book, and Elinor holds the cup of water and towel. *

79 ELINOR 79 *
For our show-and-tell, we learned *
that animals stay clean in *
different ways. *

	Olive holds open the book and shows the class.		*
	TEXTBOOK CU: A page shows simple illustrations of a bird preening, a chicken dust bathing, and fish nibbling each other clean.		*
			*
			*
80	OLIVE (V.O.)	80	*
	Birds nibble their feathers,		*
	chickens roll around in the dust,		*
	and some fish clean each other!		*
	ANGLE ON: Elinor and Olive stand in front of the class.		*
81	ELINOR	81	*
	But the best way for us to stay		*
	clean is--ta da!		*
	She holds up the cup and towel.		*
82	ELINOR (CONT'D)	82	*
	Water!		*
	Olive bends down to Ari.		*
83	OLIVE	83	*
	(whispering)		*
	Come up here with us!		*
	Ari stands up next to Elinor and Olive.		*
84	ELINOR	84	*
	(indicating Ari)		*
	When you don't take baths, all of		*
	the dirt that gets on your body		*
	just stays there.		*
85	OLIVE	85	*
	And then you can start to get		*
	itchy.		*
86	ARI	86	*
	(sniffing himself)		*
	And a little smelly.		*
87	ELINOR	87	*
	That's why, no matter what kind of		*
	animal you are, it's important to		*
	stay clean.		*
	She pours a little of the water on the towel and hands it to		*
	Ari, who wipes the filth off of his face.		*
	Music begins underneath the next few lines.		*

88	MZ. MOLE Ari! Is that you?	88	* *
89	ARI It's me.	89	* *
	He applies the towel to Robin's face, which gets a little cleaner.		* *
90	ARI (CONT'D) And Robin.	90	* *
	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, alternating with shots of the kids singing at the front of the class.		* *
91	ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI (singing) ELINOR: When you run and sweat and play, OLIVE: The dirt builds up, The dirt builds up. ELINOR: You get grimy every day OLIVE: 'Cause the dirt builds up, The dirt builds up. ELINOR: You get itchy, and you smell OLIVE: When the dirt builds up, The dirt builds up. ELINOR: Keeping clean means feeling well. OLIVE: Since the dirt builds up, The dirt builds up.	91	* * * * * * * * * * * * *
	ANGLE ON: Ari stands forward.		
	ARI: (spoken) So maybe...(sings) When you start to clean yourself, ELINOR AND OLIVE: The dirt comes off, The dirt comes off. ARI: And it's better for your health ALL: When the dirt comes off, The dirt comes off, The dirt, comes, OOOOOFFFFF!		* * * * * *
	END MONTAGE, with Ari holding the last note longer than everyone else. He finishes, and the kids laugh at this.		

92 ARI 92 *

Robin, there's something we need to
do.

CUT TO:

9. INT. ARI'S LIVING ROOM - THAT EVENING *

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

93 MR. BAT 93 *

Hi, Ari! What did you learn in
school today?

94 ARI 94

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

95	MR. BAT	95	*
	Coming right up!		*

96	ARI	96	*
	What about Robin?		

97 MR. BAT 97
Robin's going to have his own
special bath - in the washing
machine.

CUT TO:

10. 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.

98 ARI 98
 (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.

99

ARI (CONT'D)

99

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.

*