

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

Non-Speaking Character: Mrs. Bat

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

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

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SECOND DRAFT: May 28, 2019

POLISH DRAFT: June 20, 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	*
	Hmm, I don't know. I suppose it's		*
	okay for tonight, since you're		
	having so much fun playing with		
	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) *
Hmmm... 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 I feel great! 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 *

We pan over the classroom, where children enter, greet each other, and hang up their coats <SFX: children murmuring>. *

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!	

Hi, Ari!

ELINOR

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 extra happy today 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 19
 (laughing)
 Hello, Robin! Welcome to our class.

20	ARI (as Robin) Tweet!	20	
	Elinor and Olive <SFX: 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 painting with some brushes.		* *
23	ARI I know! But I'm not just talking about skipping ONE bath. I'm going to skip baths...forever!	23	* * *
	Olive pauses her painting.		*
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, and you've skipped baths too, how important can baths really be?	27	* * * * *
28	ARI Good question!	28	* *
29	ELINOR I wonder... why DO we have to take baths? And what happens when we stop? I never thought about it before.	29	* * * * *
	CU on Elinor, looking curious.		*
30	ELINOR (CONT'D) Wait, I know!	30	* *

Elinor runs off. She grabs a book from a bookshelf, and runs back. *

31 ELINOR (CONT'D) 31 *
 I remember this Nature book has *
 lots of stories about how animals *
 stay clean. I bet if we read it *
 we'll find out why it's important *
 to take baths. *

ANGLE ON: Shot of Olive and Ari at the table. Ari looks down and sees that he's accidentally painted all over his hand with the brush. He looks slightly shocked at first, then happy. *

32 ARI 32 *
 Does it tell what happens when you *
 DON'T take baths? *

33 ELINOR 33 *
 (flipping pages) *
 Hmm, I don't know. *

Ari holds up his smeared hand. *

34 ARI 34 *
 Well, we're going to find out... *

WIPE TO: *

5. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - DAWN *

The sun rises over a new day in Animal Town. *

6. INT. CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY *

Elinor and Olive chat while eating lunch. Elinor has her Nature book open. Ari enters. He's looking slightly dingier than yesterday. He sits with them and takes a sandwich out of his lunch box. *

35 ARI 35 *
 Ah! Another day without a bath! *

36 OLIVE 36 *
 Ari, you still haven't taken a *
 bath? *

37 ARI 37 *
 Nope! *

38	OLIVE	38	*
	It's been two days! (suspicious)		*
	Are your parents letting you do		*
	this?		*
39	ARI	39	*
	For now. They said I should learn		*
	for myself what happens when I		*
	don't take baths. At least until		*
	after the big show and tell next		*
	week, so I can see what happens --		*
	then I really have to take a bath.		*
	Ari digs Robin out of his pocket.		*
40	ARI (CONT'D)	40	*
	(as Robin)		*
	Tweet! I'm skipping baths, too!		*
	Elinor and Olive giggle.		*
41	ELINOR	41	*
	Well, I learned something REALLY		*
	interesting from this Nature book.		*
	She opens the book to a page and Olive and Ari come closer.		*
42	ELINOR (CONT'D)	42	*
	It says that some birds use their		*
	beaks to stay clean! When birds get		*
	little bugs in their feathers, they		*
	use their beaks to pick them off		*
	and eat them. If they didn't, their		*
	bodies would get full of bugs!		*
	In the book, we see some illustrations of a bird preening		*
	itself with a close up bubble showing a little bug. On the		*
	opposite page we see a picture of the bird looking nice and		*
	clean.		*
43	ARI	43	*
	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.		*
44	ELINOR	44	*
	(Giggles) But there is jelly.		*
45	OLIVE	45	*
	Are you going to wash it off?		*
	Ari thinks about it for a beat.		*

46	ARI	46	*
	Nope! That would be like taking a bath. I think it looks good, right where it is. This way, if Robin gets hungry, he can just lick my arm!		*
			*
			*
			*
	ANGLE ON: Ari holds Robin up to his arm.		*
47	ARI (CONT'D)	47	*
	Here you go, Robin!		*
	He pretends to feed Robin the jelly on his arm; some jelly gets on Robin's beak. Then Ari extends his arm toward Elinor and Olive.		*
			*
			*
48	ARI (CONT'D)	48	*
	Anyone want to share?		*
49	ELINOR AND OLIVE	49	*
	(ad lib)		*
	Eww! No thanks!		*
	CU on Ari, who smiles.		*
50	ARI	50	*
	I guess that's more for you, Robin!		*
	Ari again buries Robin's beak in the jelly glob and makes <SFX: MUNCHING NOISES> noises.		*
			*
	ANGLE ON: Olive and Elinor's concerned reaction.		*
			*
	WIPE TO:		*
	7. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - A NEW DAY		*
	The sun rise over Animal Town. It's the third day of our story.		*
			*
	8. EXT. SCHOOL PLAYGROUND - THE NEXT DAY		*
	Elinor and Olive sit on a log, looking at the Nature book together. Ari enters. He's definitely looking grungier and disheveled now, with a layer of dirt on him.		*
			*
			*
51	ARI	51	*
	Ah! Another day without a bath!		*
52	OLIVE	52	*
	How long has it been now, Ari?		*

53	ARI	53	*
	Three days! I have so much more free time now that I don't have to take a bath.		* * *
	He plops down on the grass next to Elinor and Olive. Suddenly, he notices that a leaf is stuck to his arm. He tries to shake it off, and after a few contortions he picks it off with his hand.		* * * *
54	ARI (CONT'D)	54	*
	I am getting a bit sticky, though...		* *
	Olive makes an "uh oh" face. Elinor perks up from reading the book about how animals keep clean.		* *
55	ELINOR	55	*
	Wow, this is SO interesting. Did you know that chickens stay clean by rolling around in the dust?		* * *
56	OLIVE	56	*
	Rolling in the dust? Wouldn't that make them dirtier?		* *
57	ELINOR	57	*
	At first, but the dust helps them rub off sticky stuff on their bodies and little bugs that get in their feathers.		* * * *
58	OLIVE	58	*
	Huh. But how do they get the dust off?		* *
59	ELINOR	59	*
	It says here they just shake it off. Their feathers are smooth, so the dust doesn't really stick to them.		* * * *
	In the book, we see an illustration of a chicken looking dirty, then rolling around in the dust, then looking clean again with dust falling off.		* * *
60	ARI	60	*
	Now that's my kind of bath!		*
	Still holding Robin, Ari dives headfirst into a nearby dust pile, rolling around and clucking like a chicken. <SFX: Elinor and Olive laugh.>		* * *

61 ARI (CONT'D) 61 *
 Hmm. The dust only made me dirtier. *

Hmm. The dust only made me dirtier. *

62	OLIVE	62	*
	(still giggling)		*
	Ari, you're not a chicken.		*

(still giggling) *

Ari, you're not a chicken. *

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

are now filthy. x

He tries to shake it off, but it doesn't come off. CU on
Ari's fur. The dust clings, and we can see remnants of jelly
and other sticky things.

Ari's fur. The dust clings, and we can see remnants of jelly *

and other sticky things. *

63	ELINOR	63	*
	The dust doesn't fall off your fur		*
	like it does off a chicken's		*
	feathers, and neither does anything		*
	else.		*

The dust doesn't fall off your fur *

like it does off a chicken's *

feathers, and neither does anything *

```
else. *
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64	OLIVE	64	*
	NOW do you want to take a bath?		*
	With water?		*

NOW do you want to take a bath? *

With water? *

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

covered Robin. *

65		ARI	65	*
	Nah.			*

Nah. *

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

and Elinor shield their faces and <SFX: cough>. *

WIPE TO: *

9. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - THE NEXT DAY *

Once again, we see the sun rise over animal town. *

10. 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 the Nature book open, and Elinor is sketching on a note pad. Ari enters; he is now a grayish mess shaped like Ari.

forest, gazing into it. Olive has the Nature book open, and *

Elinor is sketching on a note pad. Ari enters; he is now a *

grayish mess shaped like Ari. *

66	ARI	66	*
	Ah! ANOTHER day without a bath!		*
	This is my fourth day!		*

Ah! ANOTHER day without a bath! *

This is my fourth day! *

As he walks in, he's absent-mindedly scratching himself <SFX: scratching>. He sits next to Elinor and Olive and <SFX: scratches> himself again. *

67 ARI (CONT'D) 67 *
What are you looking at? *

68 ELINOR 68 *
The little fish in the stream. *
They're nibbling each other. *

Ari peers into the stream. We see some fishes cleaning each other by nibbling. *

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

69 ARI 69 *
Oh yeah! Why are they doing that? *

He <SFX: scratches> himself. *

ANGLE ON: The three kids sit by the stream. *

70 OLIVE 70 *
We read in the Nature book that's *
how fish keep clean. *

71 ARI 71 *
(scratching again, looking *
confused) *
But, I thought fish were always *
clean. They live in the water, *
which is like living IN a bath! *

72 OLIVE 72 *
The book says that fish can still *
get dirty, even if they are in the *
water. If they don't clean *
themselves, then their scales get *
covered in stuff that's not good *
for them. *

73 ELINOR 73 *
Uh, Ari, are you ok? You seem *
awfully itchy. *

74 ARI 74 *
Yeah, I've been feeling itchier *
ever since I stopped taking a bath. *

75 ELINOR 75 *
Does that mean you're finally going *
to take a bath? *

76	ARI	76	*
	Nah. 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. Elinor and Olive <SFX: GIGGLE>.

WIPE TO: *

11. INT. CLASSROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER

The class sits on the rug, facing MZ. MOLE, each clutching a special object. Olive and Elinor hold the book; and Ari holds Robin. Ari is now not only gray and patchy, but he's at Pig-pen (from Peanuts) level, actively dripping from time to time and leaving a slight dust cloud in his wake. Robin is in the same condition. Throughout this scene, Ari is actively scratching himself.

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77                MZ. MOLE                                77      *
                Okay, class! It's time for the big      *
                show-and-tell! Who would like to go      *
                first?                                    *

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78 ARI 78
Ooh! I would!

He runs to the front of the class. ANGLE ON: Mz. Mole squints at him and adjusts her glasses. She pretends not to recognize him under his filth. *

79	MZ. MOLE	79	
	(she DOES know who he is)		*
	Oh, er, uh...now who are you? You		*
	look so familiar...		*

80 ARI 80
Mz. Mole, it's me, Ari!

81	MZ. MOLE	81	
	Oh, Ari! I didn't recognize you.		*
	Well, let's see what you've		*
	brought.		

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

82 ARI 82

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.

83	ARI (CONT'D)	83	
	Oh, uh... I guess you can't tell		*
	what he is. He's a bird!		*

Ari turns Robin around.

84	ARI (CONT'D)	84	
	Oops--I think this part is his		
	face. Or is it?		*

Ari looks at Robin and realizes that his friend is not in a good shape. *
*

85	ARI (CONT'D)	85	
	It's been so long since he took a		*
	bath, all the dirt and sticky stuff		*
	from our playing has stayed on him.		*
	He doesn't look the same...		*

He takes a whiff of Robin and makes a surprised face. *

86	ARI (CONT'D)	86	
	Or smell the same.		*

Elinor raises her hand and calls Mz. Mole's attention. *

87	ELINOR	87	
	Mz. Mole? Can Olive and I do our		*
	show and tell with Ari?		*

ANGLE ON: Mz. Mole nods and smiles, but then looks around quizzically past Ari. *
*

88	MZ. MOLE	88	
	(making a joke)		*
	Sure. But wait, where's Ari?		*
	(he waves)		*
	Oh, there he is...		*

Elinor and Olive walk to the front of the room; Olive holds the book. *
*

89 ELINOR 89 *

Ari, we learned why it's important
to takes baths. If you don't take
baths, all the dirt and sticky
stuff that gets on you never goes
away and you just get dirtier and
dirtier. *

Olive holds open the book and shows the class. *

90 OLIVE 90 *

Yeah, we learned that from reading
this book. Animals find all kinds
of ways to stay clean. *

TEXTBOOK CU: She flips the pages to show the simple
illustrations of a bird preening, a chicken dust bathing, and
fish nibbling each other clean. *

91 OLIVE (V.O.) 91 *

Birds clean their feathers with
their beaks, chickens roll around
in the dust to clean themselves,
and some fish even nibble yucky
stuff off of each other to stay
clean! *

92 ELINOR 92 *

It's part of Nature to stay clean,
otherwise you won't feel very good. *

Ari is scratching himself. *

93 ARI 93 *

Yeah, I have been feeling kind of
itchy.
(sniffing himself)
And a little smelly. And I can't
even recognize my friend Robin. *

94 ELINOR 94 *

Yup, no matter what kind of animal
you are, it's important to stay
clean. You feel better and smell
good! *

Scratching, Ari looks at Robin. He knows what he has to do. *

95 ARI 95 *

Robin, I think it's time we took a
bath. *

Elinor, Olive and the kids in the class all <SFX: CHEER>. Mz. *

Mole reacts to the cheering. *

96 MZ. MOLE 96 *

Wonderful! Now has anyone seen Ari? *

This is directed at Ari, with a smile, so he knows it's a joke, and he giggles. *

ANGLE ON: Elinor and Olive each put their arms around Ari, and the first bars of the ditty start to play. *

SONG MONTAGE: The song takes place as the kids go home for the day. In the first verse, the kids exit the school and we see them play around, getting dirty. *

97 ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI 97

(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.

The kids examine Ari, and we see the layers of dirt on him, and him scratching. *

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.

Ari arrives home to Mr. Bat, and soon he's in the bath, scrubbing himself. Elinor and Olive are standing around, cheering him on and singing. *

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. *

CUT TO:

12. INT. ARI'S BEDROOM - THAT EVENING

Ari is in bed, squeaky clean now and ready for bed. Mr. Bat is there.

98 MR. BAT 98
Feeling better?

99 ARI 99
Yeah. I learned that's it's fun to
get dirty, but sometimes... ya
gotta get clean.

100 MR. BAT 100
Good! Well, I have someone else
here that also took a bath. In the
washing machine, that is.

Mr. Bat takes out Robin, looking like new.

101 ARI 101
Robin!

CROSSFADE TO:

13. INT. ARI'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Soon, Ari is in bed, 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.

102 ARI 102
(to Robin)
I'm glad you're not the kind of
bird that takes baths in the dust,
Robin. And I'm not the kind of bat
who does, either!

Ari yawns and starts to close his eyes.

103 ARI (CONT'D) 103
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.