

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW interstitial: 131

Mz. Mole Storytime

Ants Share Food

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Follows: ep 131A "Olive's Library"

Curriculum: the kids learn about the Honeypot Ant, an ant which stores up food when food is plentiful in the form of honey in their abdomens, and then shares the stored honey when food is scarce.

LS1. Understand that in some environments, food is sometimes plentiful and sometimes scarce.

LS2. Understand that ants live in large, communal groups called colonies, with different ants performing different functions.

LS3. Understand that certain individuals in a Honeypot Ant colony store up food as honey in their bodies when food is plentiful, so that they can share it later when food is scarce.

FIRST DRAFT: Feb. 10, 2020

Olive stands at the front of the class proudly showing off a jar of preserved cherries. Mz. Mole stands by as the rest of the class sits in audience. We join Olive with her "show and share" already in progress.

The kids marvel at the red, glistening treasure. <SFX: 0000! AHHH!>

6 MZ. MOLE 6

You know, that reminds me of a
special kind of ant, that can store
up food when it is plentiful, and
share that food later.

8 MZ. MOLE 8
Sure - I have a book all about
that!

The kids crowd around to get a closer look as Mz. Mole opens up her Magic Pop-up Book.

As we peer into Mz. Mole's book, we see ants scurrying around a dry forest floor, collecting food.

9 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) (CONT'D) 9
 These are special kinds of ants,
 called "Honeypot Ants"!

10 ARI (O.C.) 10
 "Honeypot Ants"...! That's a funny
 name. They don't look like
 honeypots.

11 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) 11
 Oh, just you wait. These honeypot
 ants collect food when it is
 plentiful. More food than they can
 eat.

12 ELINOR (O.C.) 12
 "More food than they can eat..?" I
 wonder why...

13 OLIVE (O.C.) 13
 To make preserves..?

14 ARI (O.C.) 14
 To open a restaurant?

The kids laugh at the thought of an ant restaurant . <SFX:
 KIDS LAUGH>

15 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) 15
 You see, there isn't always so much
 food around. So when there is a
 lot of food around, the ants
 collect the extra, and *they store*
it for later.

In the book, we see an ant with a bit of food in its mouth,
 walking toward a tiny refrigerator.

16 ELINOR (O.C.) 16
 But they don't have jars, do
 they..?

17 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) 17
 Good observation, Elinor! Ants do
 not have jars.

(In book) The refrigerator disappears in a poof. <SFX: POOF>

18 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 18
 So lots of ants work together and
 bring all the extra food to just a
 few, special ants.

(In book) the ant walks right by where the imaginary refrigerator was, and joins a cue leading up to our hero ant. The normal worker ants are all lined up in one direction, while hero ant faces them. The workers deliver their food to the hero one by one.

19 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 19
 These special ants collect the food
 from the others, and they grow...
 and grow.... And grow...! To store
 the food!

(In book) close up on hero ant's body as she transforms from a normal looking ant and gradually swells to have the iconic honeypot ant shape. Her abdomen is huge and translucent, full of golden liquid food. Her little legs wiggle around, unable to move her body. She looks stuffed!

20 ELINOR (O.C.) 20
 Woah, there's so much food in
 there, it looks like honey!

21 ARI (O.C.) 21
 Oh, I get it! That's why they're
 called "honeypot ants!" Their
 bodies are like pots full of honey!

22 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) 22
 And what do you think happens when
 the ants need food later?

23 OLIVE (O.C.) 23
 Oh, I have an idea! Then the big
 honeypot ant shares her food with
 the rest of the ants!

24 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) 24
 Well I think you're right, Olive!
 There she goes, sharing her food
 around.

(In book) the hero ant gradually shrinks and shrinks and shrinks back to size, at which time she gives a sigh of relief and walks off on her own power.

25 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 25
 Thanks for sharing, little honeypot
 ant!

3. INT CLASSROOM

26 ELINOR 26
I get it; so the honeypot ants
store food in their bodies, so they
can share it later.

Olive proudly holds her jar of cherries aloft again.

27 OLIVE 27

And we jar cherries in the summer,
and that's how we can share them
later.

Olive pops off the lid of the jar with her trunk with a flourish, and as she does so says..

28 OLIVE (CONT'D) 28
Let's eat.