

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 134 Ari's Lucky Shirt

By: Michael Foulke

Elinor's Question: Why did this snake lose its skin?

Logline: When a baby snake in the care of Ranger Rabbit loses its skin, Elinor and friends try to help before learning that shedding skins is just a part of growing for snakes.

Curriculum Goals:

LS2: Understand that all animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs, and that plants have different parts to help them survive and grow. [The snake's skin works differently than our characters' skin in that it doesn't grow with the animal, but rather sheds and creates a new layer of brand new skin when it becomes too small.]

ND1: Understand that modes of life in the natural world and engineered solutions in the designed world have common patterns, and engineers often look to natural patterns for inspiration. [Much like the snake needs a new layer of skin because he has grown bigger, Ari needs a new shirt for the same reason.]

SEP3: Planning and carrying out investigations: compare and contrast objects by describing similarities and differences in detail. [Elinor and friends investigate why the snake lost its skin by comparing and contrasting the old skin to the new one.]

SEP7: Engaging in argument from evidence: Engage in discussions before, during and after investigations. Support thinking and argue ideas with evidence. [Elinor determines that the skin is not a second snake, but it the first snake's old skin by looking at the evidence of the old skin and showing her friends that the old skin and the new one are the same, except for the fact that the old skin is a bit smaller, because the snake has grown.]

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Olive, Ranger Rabbit

LOCATIONS: Ari's Bedroom, Soccer Field, Ranger Station, Forest

PROPS: Blue Shirt, Red Shirt, Soccer Balls, Terrarium, Snake Skin, Magnifying Glass

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We are close on ELINOR and OLIVE as they wait, somewhat patiently, in ARI's upside down bedroom as clothes, hats and a few toys, come flying into frame.

Elinor and Olive duck out of the way of a few things, but then a blue shirt lands right on Elinor, draping itself over her like she was a coat-rack. With the shirt still over her:

We go wide on Ari's bedroom as we see Ari's legs sticking up in the air as he searches through a messy pile of things.

Ari suddenly pops up, triumphant, holding a red, long-sleeved shirt. Suddenly, Elinor and Olive are intrigued.

Ari points to his desk, where some pictures are set up. As he speaks, we look through the pictures of the different events. The pictures are: Ari, Elinor and Olive at a baseball game, Ari giving a thumbs up with a big bug on his shoulder and finally, Ari, Elinor and Olive smiling as they eat cake.

Ari pops out from his closet, now wearing the red shirt. It's so tight that Ari can barely move his arms, which are stuck out to the sides (like Randy in *A Christmas Story*).

6 ARI (CONT'D) 6
Every time I wear this shirt,
something good happens!

7 ELINOR 7
I don't know, Ari. It looks a
little... tight.

8 ARI 8
What?! It's fine!

Ari goes to open the bedroom door, but can't move his arms.
(DESIGN NOTE: the idea is that the shirt is so tight it
constricts Ari's arms from moving and they stick out - will
this play? If not, happy to adjust).

9 ARI (CONT'D) 9
Can one of you get this? I just
need to stretch my lucky shirt out.

As Elinor opens the door, she also grabs the blue shirt that
fell onto her head and puts it into Olive's satchel.

10 ELINOR 10
I got it. And let's bring a bigger
shirt too, you know, just in case.

11 ARI 11
Okay, but we won't need it. We have
luck on our side!

As the kids all walk out, Ari's arms smack against the door-
frame, so he has to walk out sideways.

2. EXT. SOCCER FIELD -- DAY

Elinor, Olive and RANGER RABBIT arrive at the soccer field
next to school.

12 ELINOR 12
Thanks for walking with us, Mom.

13 RANGER RABBIT 13
It was my pleasure, honey bunny.
It's right on my way to the Ranger
Sta-- Oh, what do we have here?

Suddenly, Ranger Rabbit sees something in the grass field and
goes over to it. A curious Elinor and Olive follow her.

14 ELINOR 14
What do you see, Mom?

A beat later, Ari finally waddles into frame, still not able to move his arms.

15 ARI 15
Oooh! What is it?

Ranger Rabbit is crouched over, facing away from camera as the kids approach. With each word, their anticipation grows.

16 RANGER RABBIT 16
It's a cute... little... baby...

Ranger Rabbit then turns around, holding a BABY GARTER SNAKE by the base of its head.

17 RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D) 17
 Garter snake!

Elinor and Olive smile right back at the snake <SFX: AWWW WALLA>, while Ari looks frightened.

18 ARI 18
S-s-s-s-snake? Ahhh!

Ari backs up quickly, falling backwards. He tries to get up, but can't move his arms to lift himself.

19 ARI (CONT'D) 19
Little help, please?

Elinor helps Ari up as Olive moves closer to the snake.

OLIVE

Wow! Can I see it?

21 RANGER RABBIT 21
Sure, Olive, but remember, you
should never touch a snake...
unless you're with a grown-up, like
me.

Elinor and Olive both move in close as Ranger Rabbit holds it in both hands, still making sure to hold its neck, so it can't bite (NOTE: garter snakes are not poisonous but they do bite sometimes)

SCIENCE ECU: the sweet little snake flicks his tongue.

22 OLIVE 22
Look at its tongue flicking. Why
does it do that?

23 RANGER RABBIT 23
To smell things.

24 ELINOR 24
Oooh, that's so interesting. Come
look, Ari.

Ari stays behind them, still unsure about this.

25 ARI 25
That's okay, I can see it just fine
from back here, thanks.

Elinor is fascinated by the snake.

26 ELINOR 26
It's so pretty. Check out the zig
zag patterns on its back.

27 OLIVE 27
Yeah, but the snake's skin is kind
of flaky. It's not shiny and smooth
like snake skin usually is.

28 ARI 28
How do you know that?

29 OLIVE 29
Oh, I love looking at pictures of
snakes in my nature book. They're
so cool!

Ari gently <SFX: SHUDDER> in nervousness. At this moment,
MARY and LIZZIE come running through. <SFX: HAPPY PLAYING
WALLA>

As the kids pass, the snake very slowly curls up on Ranger
Rabbit's arm, as if its scared.

30 ELINOR 30
Hmm, it seems like this poor snake
is moving kinda slowly. Do you
think it's okay?

31 RANGER RABBIT 31
I'm sure it's fine, Elinor. All the
things you've observed are just a
normal part of growing up for a
little snake like this.

KOA then comes running through the middle of them, once again
causing the snake to slowly curl up.

32 KOA 32
Mary, Lizzie, wait up!
(then, oblivious)
Whoa! Excuse me!

33 RANGER RABBIT 33
I think it's time to get this guy
to a safer place. With all the kids
running around here, he could get
stepped on, or bite someone.

34 ELINOR 34
And that would NOT be good. Where
will you take him, Mom?

35 RANGER RABBIT 35
Snakes should be in the forest,
where there is plenty of food and
places for them to find shelter, so
I'll drop him off in the forest
near the ranger station. There's
lots of snakes out in those woods.

Suddenly, Olive and Elinor look kind of sad.

36 OLIVE 36
Aww, I was hoping we could spend
some more time with the snake.

Ranger Rabbit then gets an idea.

37 RANGER RABBIT 37
How about you all have your practice,
then you can help me put the snake
back into the forest when it's over?

38 ELINOR/OLIVE 38
Really? / That would be amazing!

39 RANGER RABBIT 39
Great. We have a terrarium at the
Ranger Station that will keep him
nice warm and cozy for a while.
Then we'll all go and bring him
home together this afternoon.

As Ari and Olive run onto the field, Elinor gives her Mom a
hug.

40 ELINOR 40
Thanks, Mom, you're the best.

41 RANGER RABBIT 41
Just doing my duty as a Park
Ranger! Have fun, honey!
(then, to snake)
Ready to take a walk, little guy?

Elinor waves to her mom as she runs off to join her friends.

3. EXT. SOCCER FIELD -- DAY

Ari stands in front of the goal, his arms still stuck out to the sides as Elinor and Olive stand by, ready to shoot.

42 ARI 42
 Alright, goalie Ari is READY! Give
 me your best shot!

Suddenly, a ball sails right past his right hand and into the net. A beat later, a ball sails into the net past his left hand. In both cases, Ari takes a swing at it, but just can't move well enough to stop the shots.

43 ARI (CONT'D) 43
 Okay, maybe not your best shot.
 Gimme a good shot.

On the field, Elinor and Olive look at each other, unsure about this. They just shrug and keep shooting.

We then see a quick montage of Ari scuttling around the net as shot after shot goes in without him being able to stop it. The first shot from Elinor sails over his head.

44 ARI (CONT'D) 44
Too high.

A shot from Olive rolls in on the ground. Ari bends to get it, but can't move his arms in time.

45 Too low.

ARI (CONT'D)

45

A shot from Elinor sails right past him before he can react.

46 ARI (CONT'D) 46
Too fast.

A shot from Olive slowly rolls in as Ari runs over to stop it, but goes right past it. He tries to recover and reach back for the ball, but can't.

47 ARI (CONT'D) 47
Too slow.

Elinor and Olive have seen enough as they approach the goal.

48 OLIVE 48
Ari, your shirt is too tight for
you to move! Why don't you just
change it?

58 ELINOR 58
Yeah! Let's go!

Olive and Elinor runs off eagerly, as Ari lags behind.

4. INT. RANGER STATION -- DAY

Ranger Rabbit is sitting at her desk as the kids walk in, with Ari trailing a beat behind.

[illegible]

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60                                RANGER RABBIT                                60
    Hey there, kids! You ready to see
    the snake again?
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61 OLIVE 61
We sure are.

As Ari walks in, his arms still stick straight out and he almost knocks over a plant on Ranger Rabbit's desk, but luckily she catches it before it falls.

62	ARI	62
	Oops. Sorry.	

63 RANGER RABBIT 63

That's okay, Ari. The snake is
right back there in the terrarium.
I'll be right over as soon as I'm
done with this recycling report.

64 ELINOR 64
Okay, Mom.

Elinor and Olive walk over to the terrarium as a still nervous Ari stays a step behind.

OLIVE

65 There he is. Right in the corner.

65

Olive points to the front of the terrarium, but Elinor sees something different.

66	ELINOR	66
	Wait, no! There he is, in <i>that</i> corner?	

67	OLIVE		67
	Wow! Are there two snakes now?		

Suddenly, Ari pops up, even more worried.

68 ARI 68
That's too many snakes. Get it?
TOO many, because there's two?

Olive and Elinor <SFX: GIGGLE> then Elinor pulls out her magnifying glass.

69 ELINOR 69
We need more observations!

We see Elinor's MAGNIFYING POV as she looks at the snake, who sticks his tongue out at her and moves around in the back of the terrarium.

70 ELINOR (O.S.) (CONT'D) 70
There's one snake...

Her POV then moves to the front of the terrarium on the snakeskin. She runs the magnifying glass along with the length on it. The pattern on it looks like a snake.

71 ELINOR (O.S.) (CONT'D) 71
This other thing looks like a
snake...

However, when her POV gets to the end of it, the skin is just hollow. We are now back on the kids as they think it over.

72 ELINOR (CONT'D) 72
But it isn't. It looks almost like
a thin paper bag that kinda looks
like a snake, but there's no snake
in it.

As Elinor and Olive think about this, Ari takes a deep breath and leans in close to the side of the terrarium. He is still nervous, but he is facing his fears.

We see from inside the terrarium as the snake slithers by in the FG as Ari looks in, studying the snake and the skin on the ground.

73 ARI 73
This paper bag doesn't *kinda* look
like the snake.

The snake, whose skin is now much more smooth and shiny than it was before, slithers by the skin and Ari notices that the pattern on both skins is exactly the same!

74 ARI (CONT'D) 74
It looks *exactly* like the snake.
See, they both have the same zig
zag patterns.

75 OLIVE 75
You're right, Ari. They do.

Ari turns to face his friends and make a hypothesis.

76 ARI 76
It's almost like that snake... lost
its skin! Is that possible?

This discovery floods the kids with curiosity and questions
as they gather around the terrarium.

77 OLIVE 77
His skin fell off? Poor snake!

Elinor once again observes the snake, who seems fine.

78 ELINOR 78
He seems okay, but why did his skin
fall off? We definitely need some
more observations now.

The kids all gather around the terrarium and look at the
snake, who stops to rest right next to the stretched out
skin. When they are next to each other, it is very apparent
by the pattern on the skin that they are identical.

79 OLIVE 79
These are the same pattern on the
skins, for sure. But now his skin
is shiny and bright, not all flaky
like before.

Suddenly, Elinor notices something.

80 ELINOR 80
The pattern may be the same, but
the size of the pattern is just a
little bit different. The new zig
zags on the snake are just a teensy
bit bigger than the old zig zags.

Ari then observes that the old skin isn't quite as long as
the snake is now.

81 ARI 81
You're right, Elinor! And look! The
old skin is just a little too short
for this snake.

82 ELINOR 82
Yeah! It's almost like this other
skin came from... a smaller snake.

83 RANGER RABBIT 83
You kids are right about that... in
a way.

The kids turn around to find Ranger Rabbit observing their investigation in the background.

84 OLIVE 84
We are? So there ARE two snakes?

85 RANGER RABBIT 85
No, Olive, there's just the one
snake, but this snake used to be
smaller, then he grew and had to
shed his old skin so that his new
skin could be just the right size.

The kids look on at Ranger Rabbit, minds blown!

86 ELINOR 86
So when a snake grows, it's skin
just comes off in one big piece?

87 RANGER RABBIT 87
That's right, Elinor. This shedding
is a process called molting.

Ari suddenly has a scary thought.

88 ARI 88
My Mom says I'm due for a growth
spurt. Is my skin gonna molt off?

89 RANGER RABBIT 89
No, Ari. You have nothing to worry
about. Many animals, like bats, and
rabbits and elephants, grow their
skin as they grow. But some
animals, like snakes, have to molt
their skins as they grow, leaving
behind their entire skins, like you
saw in the terrarium.

90 OLIVE 90
Ranger Rabbit, does it hurt the
snake when they molt?

91 RANGER RABBIT 91
No, they actually feel much better
because their old skin was getting
tight and uncomfortable.

At that moment, Ari tries to stretch his arms in his tight shirt, but can't. He then thinks about something.

92 ARI 92

But, what if the snake liked the
old skin? What if it was his lucky
skin and he did all these cool
things in it?

93 RANGER RABBIT 93

Ari, growing up is a good thing,
and sometimes that means we outgrow
the things that used to fit us.

94 ELINOR 94
Plus, think of all the new and
awesome things that the snake can
do with his new skin!

Ari thinks about this for a moment and nods his head.

95 ARI 95
I guess you're right. Say, Elinor,
do you still have that other shirt?

Elinor pulls out the blue shirt and hands it to Ari.

96 ELINOR 96
I sure do! Now you can move around,
just like our snake friend in its
new skin!

5. INT. RANGER STATION -- SONG SEQUENCE

As the music starts, the kids sing and dance around the terrarium as Ranger Rabbit and the snake watch.

97 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 97
ELINOR: When you're a snake
And it's time to grow
OLIVE: There is one thing
That you need to know.

Ari jumps in, now wearing the new blue shirt, which fits perfectly. Just to be sure, he moves his arms with ease.

ARI: Your skin will start
To feel real tight
ELINOR But don't you worry
You'll be all right!
ALL: Because your old skin
Will molt and shed
And you'll be fresh and new
From your tail to your head!

As the song finishes, the kids dance right out of frame.

6. EXT. FOREST -- DAY

As if it was continuous action, the kids then run into frame, with Ranger Rabbit one step behind, once again holding the snake at a forest clearing.

ELINOR

Welcome home, little guy.

Ranger Rabbit puts the snake gently on the ground and it slithers away happily.

99 ARI 99

Look at him go! He can really move
now that he has comfortable skin.

100	OLIVE	100
	(a little whistful)	
	Bye, bye little snakey-snake.	
	(to Ranger Rabbit)	
	Will he be okay, Ranger Rabbit?	

As they look into the forest, another garter snake slithers by and our snake follows him into the forest.

101	RANGER RABBIT	101
	I think he'll be just fine, Olive.	
	Now don't you kids have a game to	
	play soon?	

The kids all realize the game is about to start. They were so wrapped up in this investigation, they almost forgot.

102 ELINOR 102
Ooh, you're right, Mom! We'd better
hurry!

Ari runs off, now able to run at full speed.

103 ARI 103

Me first!

As the kids run off, Ranger Rabbit waves to them.

104 ELINOR 104
Alright! Let's go, let's go...

As Elinor runs out of the forest, we:

CUT TO:

7. EXT. SOCCER FIELD -- DAY

As if continuous her line, we see Elinor running on the soccer field and Olive dribbling the soccer ball between them - they're pretty good. We see on the scoreboard that it's 1-0.

105 ELINOR 105
Let's go! Only one minute left and
we're up by one!

As we go wide, we see Elinor and Olive are playing against Mary and Lizzie. Koa and Ari are the two goalies.

106 OLIVE 106
Pass it to me, Elinor.

Elinor does a fake crossover to send Mary going in one direction, then passes to Olive in the other direction. Unfortunately, Lizzie intercepts the pass and takes off down the field all by herself!

107 Oh no! ELINOR 107

As time ticks down, Ari gets ready to defend the net. He now has full mobility as Lizzie shoots the ball and Ari jumps up, arms fully extended, and catches it to make the save, just as the SFX: HORN blows, signaling the end of the game. <SFX: CROWD CHEERS>

Elinor and Olive run over to Ari, who still holds the ball.

108 ELINOR (CONT'D) 108
We won! We won!! Way to go, Ari!

109 OLIVE 109
It looks like your new shirt is
lucky for you too.

110	ARI	110
	Oh, I'm lucky all right. Lucky to have you two on my team!!	

Elinor, Olive and Ari all high five, celebrating their victory. <SFX: CHEERS AND LAUGHTER>

THE END.