

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

SECONDARY: Mz. Mole

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

PROPS: Green 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 shirt lands right on Elinor, draping itself over her like she was a coat-rack. With the shirt still over her:

3 OLIVE 3
Yeah, we're supposed to practice
before the big game.

We go wide on Ari's bedroom as we see an upside down dresser with several open drawers. Ari hangs from the ceiling with his head buried inside one of the drawers as he searches through it. As he throws things out, they fall to the ground - one pair of shorts falls on Olive's head.

4 ARI (O.S.) 4
I know, but I can't go until I find
my lucky shirt.

Olive removes shorts from her head then she and Elinor look at each, puzzled..."lucky shirt?".

5 ARI (CONT'D) 5
A-HA! I found it!

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

6 OLIVE 6
That IS a nice shirt... What's so
lucky about it?

Ari points to his open cupboard doors (DESIGN NOTE: Or some other appropriate place), where some pictures are hanging. Ari then flies down from the ceiling and points to each picture as he describes it. 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. In each picture, Ari is wearing his red shirt.

7	ARI	7	
	Do you remember when I got that big hit in the baseball game last year?		
	(different picture)		
	Or the time that cool bug landed on my shoulder?		
	(different picture)		
	Or that day that Mz. Mole brought in a yummy cake and it wasn't even anyone's birthday?		
8	OLIVE	8	*
	Yeah, those were pretty fun days.		*
9	ARI	9	
	And on every one of those days, I was wearing THIS shirt. That's why I call it my lucky shirt! Every time I wear it, something good happens!		*
			*
			*
			*
	Ari pops out from behind his dresser, 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 <i>A Christmas Story</i>).		*
			*
			*
10	ELINOR	10	
	I don't know, Ari. It looks a little... tight.		
11	ARI	11	
	What?! No, it's fine! I just haven't worn it in a while. I'm sure it will stretch out.		*
			*
			*
	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).		*
	As Elinor opens the door, she also grabs Ari's green shirt and puts it into Olive's satchel.		*
			*
12	ELINOR	12	
	I got it. And I'll bring a bigger shirt too, you know, just in case.		*
13	ARI	13	
	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 and Olive walk through the forest near the school and approach the soccer field.

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

14	ARI	14	*
	Okay, who's ready for some soccer?		*

Suddenly, Olive sees something in the distance. *

15	OLIVE	15	*
	Ranger Rabbit?		*

Oblivious, Ari continues his speech. *

16	ARI	16	*
	No... I meant me! Now that I have		*
	my lucky shirt, I'm gonna stop		*
	every shot. Ones to the left...		*

Ari jumps to the left and then to the right, where he bumps
into Ranger Rabbit, who is walking away from the soccer field
carrying a little terrarium.

17	RANGER RABBIT	17	*
	Hi, kids!		*

This startles Ari and he begins to fall over, and because he
can't move his arms, does fall over. As Elinor helps him up,
she smiles at her mom.

18	ELINOR	18	*
	Hi, Mom! What are you doing here?		*

19	RANGER RABBIT	19	*
	Well, we got a call at the Ranger		*
	Station that there was an animal on		*
	the soccer field that shouldn't be		*
	there, so I came to bring it back		*
	to the forest where it belongs.		*

The kids gather around the terrarium, intrigued. *

20 ARI 20
Oooh! What is it?

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

21 RANGER RABBIT 21
It's a cute... little... baby...

Ranger Rabbit then turns around, revealing a BABY GARTER SNAKE is in the terrarium. *

22 RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D) 22
Garter snake!

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

23 ARI 23
S-s-s-s-snake? Ahhh!

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

24 ARI (CONT'D) 24
Little help, please?

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

25 OLIVE 25
Wow! Can I see it?

26 RANGER RABBIT 26
Sure, Olive, but remember, you should never touch a snake... unless you're with a grown-up, like me. Garter snakes aren't poisonous, but they do bite sometimes, so be very careful. *

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. *

SCIENCE ECU: the sweet little snake flicks his tongue.

27 OLIVE 27
Look at its tongue flicking. Why does it do that?

28 RANGER RABBIT 28
To smell things.

29 ELINOR 29
(giggle)
Oooh, it smells with its tongue? That's so interesting! Come look, Ari. *

Ari stays behind them, still unsure about this.

30	ARI	30	
	That's okay, I can see it just fine from back here, thanks.		
	Elinor is fascinated by the snake.		
31	ELINOR	31	
	It's so pretty. Check out the zig zag patterns on its skin.		*
32	OLIVE	32	
	Those are pretty, but why is this snake's skin is kind of flaky? It's not shiny and smooth like snake skin usually is.		*
			*
33	ARI	33	
	How do you know that?		
34	OLIVE	34	
	Oh, I love looking at pictures of snakes in my nature book. They're so cool!		*
35	ARI	35	
	(sceptical)		*
	Really?		*
36	ELINOR	36	
	Hmm, it seems like this poor snake is moving kinda slowly. Do you think it's okay?		
37	RANGER RABBIT	37	
	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.		*
	In the background, Mz. Mole SFX: BLOWS HER WHISTLE.		*
38	MZ. MOLE	38	
	Okay, kids, this is your last chance to practice before the big game later today!		*
			*
	As the kids gather around Mz. Mole, Ranger Rabbit starts to walk away.		*
			*
39	RANGER RABBIT	39	
	I think it's about time to get this little snake some food and water and then take it to a safer place.		*
			*
			*

40	ELINOR	40	
	Where will you take it, Mom?		*
41	RANGER RABBIT	41	
	Snakes should be deep in the forest		*
	away from where kids play, and		*
	where there is plenty of food and		*
	places for them to find shelter, so		*
	I'll drop it off in the forest near		*
	the ranger station.		*
	Suddenly, Olive and Elinor look kind of sad.		
42	OLIVE	42	
	Can we go watch?		*
	Ranger Rabbit then gets an idea.		
43	RANGER RABBIT	43	
	Of course! How about you all have		*
	your practice, then you can help me		
	put the snake back into the forest		*
	when you have a break?		
44	ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI	44	*
	Really? / That would be amazing!/ (a little cautious) I guess.		*
			*
45	RANGER RABBIT	45	
	Great. I'll be waiting for you at		*
	the Ranger Station. Then we'll all		*
	go and bring it to the woods		*
	together this afternoon.		
	As Ari and Olive run onto the field, Elinor gives her Mom a hug.		
46	ELINOR	46	
	Thanks, Mom, you're the best.		*
47	RANGER RABBIT	47	
	Just doing my duty as a Park		
	Ranger! Have fun, honey!		
	(then, to snake)		
	Ready to take a walk, little one?		*
48	ELINOR	48	*
	Bye, little snake!		*
49	OLIVE	49	*
	We'll see you soon!		*

Elinor and Olive wave at the snake. Ari tries to wave, but can't move his arm, so he just kind of twists around as they all run off to join their 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, who no longer has her satchel, stand by, ready to shoot.

*

50	ARI	50
	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.

51 ARI (CONT'D) 51
 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.

52 ARI (CONT'D) 52
Too high.

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

53 ARI (CONT'D) 53
Too low.

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

54 ARI (CONT'D) 54
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.

55 ARI (CONT'D) 55
Too slow.

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

56 OLIVE 56
Ari, your shirt is too tight for
you to move! Why don't you just
change it?

57 ARI 57
And lose all my good luck? How will
we win the big game later today? *

58 ELINOR 58
But you haven't stopped any shots
yet.

Despite all facts to the contrary, Ari remains confident.

59 ARI 59
That's because you don't need luck
in practice. Once the game starts,
my lucky shirt is going to work and
guess who'll be stopping all the
shots?

Ari points his thumb up and tries to point to himself, but he
can't move his arms, so he just up to the sky. Olive looks up
and sees a tree above them.

60 OLIVE 60
The tree?

Ari tries harder and finally bends his arm, slightly.

61 ARI 61
No.
(straining)
This bat right here!

As Elinor looks over on the other side of the field, Mary and
Lizzie are passing the ball back and forth and score easily
on Koa. As they <SFX: CELEBRATE> their goal, Elinor looks
concerned.

62 ELINOR 62
I sure hope so because Mary and
Lizzie are *really* good at soccer.

63 ARI 63
Ahh, don't worry about them. With
this lucky shirt, I don't even need
to practice.

On the other side of the field, Mz. Mole SFX: BLOWS HER WHISTLE again. *
*

64	MZ. MOLE	64	*
	Okay, kids. Take a little break and		*
	let's meet back here for the big		*
	game this afternoon.		*
65	OLIVE	65	
	Can we go to the Ranger Station and		*
	see the snake now?		*
66	ELINOR	66	
	Yeah! Let's go see my Mom.		*
	(to Koa and the Goat		*
	Twins)		*
	We'll be back for the big game -		*
	see ya!		*

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. Olive is once again carrying her satchel. *

67	ELINOR	67	
	Hi, Mom.		
68	RANGER RABBIT	68	
	Hey there, kids! Are you ready to		*
	help me bring the snake to the		*
	forest?		*
69	OLIVE	69	
	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.

70	ARI	70	
	Oops. Sorry.		
71	RANGER RABBIT	71	
	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.		
72	ELINOR	72	
	Okay, Mom.		

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

73	OLIVE	73	*
	There it is. Right in the corner.		
	Olive points to the front of the terrarium, but Elinor sees something different.		
74	ELINOR	74	*
	Wait, no! There it is, in <i>that</i> corner?		
75	OLIVE	75	
	Wow! Are there two snakes now?		
	Suddenly, Ari pops up, even more worried.		
76	ARI	76	
	That's too many snakes. Get it? TOO many, because there's two?		
	Olive and Elinor <SFX: GIGGLE> then Elinor goes to her Mom's desk and grabs a magnifying glass.		
77	ELINOR	77	* *
	We need more observations! Let's take a closer look!		
	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.		
78	ELINOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)	78	
	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.		
79	ELINOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)	79	
	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.		
80	ELINOR (CONT'D)	80	* *
	But it isn't. It's not moving. It looks like it's made out of paper.		
81	OLIVE	81	* * *
	Yeah. It's really thin and there's no snake inside.		

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.

82	ARI	82	*
	This paper-looking thing does 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!

83	ARI (CONT'D)	83	*
	Actually, it looks <i>exactly</i> like the snake.		*

84	ELINOR	84	*
	Wait a minute, the real snake's skin looks shiny and new now. Remember before it looked old and flaky. Hmm... that is soooo interesting!		*
			*
			*
			*
			*

Ari turns to face his friends and make a hypothesis.

85	ARI	85	*
	It's almost like that snake's skin came off! Is that possible?		*

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

86	OLIVE	86	
	His skin fell off? Poor snake!		

Elinor once again observes the snake, who seems fine.

87	ELINOR	87	*
	He seems okay, but why did its skin fall off? We definitely need some more observations now.		

			*
			*

The kids gather around the terrarium and look at the snake, who stops to rest right next to the old skin. Olive observes that the old skin isn't quite as long as the snake is now.

88	OLIVE	88	*
	Look! The old skin is just a little too short for this snake.		*

89	ELINOR	89	
	Yeah! It's almost like this other skin came from... a smaller snake.		
90	RANGER RABBIT	90	
	You kids are right about that... in a way.		
The kids turn around to find Ranger Rabbit observing their investigation in the background.			
91	OLIVE	91	
	We are? Is this skin from a smaller snake?		*
			*
92	RANGER RABBIT	92	
	No, Olive, there's just one snake, but this snake used to be smaller, then it grew and had to replace its old skin so that its new bigger skin would fit just right.		*
			*
			*
			*
The kids look on at Ranger Rabbit, minds blown!			
93	ELINOR	93	
	So when a snake grows, its skin just comes off in one big piece?		*
94	RANGER RABBIT	94	
	That's right, Elinor. This is a process called molting.		*
Ari suddenly has a scary thought.			
95	ARI	95	
	My Mom says I'm growing really fast. Is my skin gonna come off? Will I molt too?		*
			*
			*
96	RANGER RABBIT	96	
	(chuckles)		*
	No, Ari. You have nothing to worry about. With many animals, like bats, and rabbits and elephants, their skin grows as the animal grows. But in other animals, like snakes, their skin doesn't grow. Instead they grow a new skin underneath, and their old skin falls off.		*
			*
			*
			*
			*
			*
			*
97	OLIVE	97	
	Ranger Rabbit, does it hurt the snake when they molt?		

98	RANGER RABBIT	98
	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.

99	ARI	99
	But, what if the snake liked the old skin? What if it was its lucky skin and it did all these cool things in it?	* *

100	RANGER RABBIT	100
	Ari, growing up is a good thing, and sometimes that means we outgrow the things that used to fit us.	

101	ELINOR	101
	Plus, think of all the new and awesome things that the snake can do with its new skin!	*

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

102	ARI	102
	I guess you're right. Maybe it's time to say goodbye to my lucky shirt. It doesn't really fit me any more. Elinor, do you still have that other shirt?	* * * * *

Elinor pulls out the green shirt out of Olive's satchel and hands it to Ari. *

103	ELINOR	103
	I sure do! Now you'll be nice and comfy, like a snake with 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.

104	ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI	104
	All living beings grow and grow From your head down to your toe Some take years and some one day Because we all grow in our own way!	* * * *
	ELINOR: When you're a snake And it's time to grow (MORE)	

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI (CONT'D)

*OLIVE: There is one thing
That you need to know.*

Ari jumps in, now wearing his green 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 feel good
From your tail to your head!

*All living beings grow and grow
From your head down to your toe
Some take years and some one day
Because we all grow in our own way!*

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 terrarium at a forest clearing.

105 ELINOR 105
Welcome home, little guy.

Ranger Rabbit puts the terrarium gently on the ground and slowly turns it over, so the snake can slither away happily.

106	ARI	106
	Look at it go! He can really move now that it has comfortable skin.	

107	OLIVE	107
	(a little whistful)	
	Bye, bye little snakey-snake.	
	(to Ranger Rabbit)	
	Will it be okay, Ranger Rabbit?	

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

108	RANGER RABBIT	108
	I think it'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.

109 ELINOR 109
Ooh, you're right, Mom, we'd better hurry! *

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

110	ARI	110
	Me first!	*

111 ELINOR 111
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. *

112 ELINOR 112
Let's go! Comin' at ya, Olive! *

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

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!

113 Oh no! ELINOR (CONT'D) 113

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. <SFX: CROWD CHEERS>

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

114 ELINOR (CONT'D) 114
Way to go, Ari! *

115 OLIVE 115
It looks like your new shirt is
lucky for you too.

116

ARI

116

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.