

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

136 INTERSTITIAL: MZ. MOLE STORY TIME: DIFFERENT DRUMMERS

Written by
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Follows 136A "The Little Drummer"

Curriculum: The kids learn that different kinds of woodpeckers make different kinds of drumming patterns to talk to each other.

Learning Goals: LS2c: Compare how the external body parts of animals and plants are the same and/or different. [The kids learn that woodpeckers come in many shapes, sizes, and colors.]

LS8a: Observe and describe similarities and differences across different types of plants and animals. [The kids learn to tell different woodpecker drumming calls apart.]

FIRST DRAFT: 17-Apr-20
SECOND DRAFT: 29-Apr-20

1. EXT SCHOOLYARD -- DAY

It's recess. ELINOR, OLIVE, and ARI are hanging out together. We hear <SFX: BIRD SONG> in the background.

1	ELINOR	1	
	I love being outside. I can hear so		*
	many birds!		*

On top of the bird sound, we hear a <SFX: PILEATED WOODPECKER DRUMMING>, a deep, drumming sound that trails off.

2	OLIVE	2	
	I hear a woodpecker drumming on a		
	tree.		

Ari points at a Hairy Woodpecker perched in a nearby tree.

3	ARI	3	
	I SEE a woodpecker. Is that it?		*

We see the Hairy Woodpecker drumming, and we hear <SFX: HAIRY WOODPECKER DRUMMING>.

4	OLIVE	4	
	That one is making a different		*
	sound.		*

A Pileated Woodpecker flies in to the adjacent tree and we hear <SFX: PILEATED WOODPECKER DRUMMING>.

5	ELINOR	5	
	Oh! There's the first sound. There		*
	are two different woodpeckers		*
	making two different drumming		*
	sounds. That's SO INTERESTING!		*

MZ MOLE pokes her head into the scene.

6	MZ. MOLE	6	
	In fact, there are more than TWO		
	HUNDRED kinds of woodpeckers!		

The kids <SFX: WOAH>.

7	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	7	
	Here, I'll show you.		

Mz. Mole sits on a stump and pulls out a book about woodpeckers as Ari, Olive, Elinor, and the rest of the kids settle around her.

2. EXT OUTSIDE (BOOK) -- DAY

Mz. Mole's book shows a nice spring forest. We see a songbird singing (an American Robin? A Yellow Warbler?) and hear <SFX: BIRD SONG>.

8	MZ. MOLE (O.S.)	8	
	Lots of birds talk to each other by singing songs.		*

A second songbird of the same kind lands nearby. The birds look at each other and second songbird sings <SFX: BIRD SONG> at the first one.

9	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	9	
	Woodpeckers don't sing.		*

A Hairy Woodpecker lands nearby. It watches thoughtfully and scratches its head with its wing. *

10	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	10	
	But don't worry - woodpeckers can still talk to each other.		*

The woodpecker suddenly gets an idea. *

11	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	11	
	Instead of singing, they drum with their beaks! Listen to this Hairy Woodpecker.		*

The Hairy Woodpecker drums, and we hear its real sound. A Pileated Woodpecker flies up near the Hairy Woodpecker. *

12	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	12	
	This is a Pileated Woodpecker. It looks different, and it SOUNDS different.		*

We see the Pileated Woodpecker drumming and hear <SFX: PILEATED WOODPECKER DRUMMING>. Next, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flies up to join the woodpeckers.

13	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	13	
	My favorite woodpecker is this one, the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. It gets creative, switching between fast and slow drumming!		*

We hear the weird, random drumroll of the <SFX: YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER>. As Mz. Mole continues to talk, the woodpeckers hop from tree to tree, or show off their wings and bob their heads. *

14	MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)	14	
	These are just a few of the over		
	two hundred kinds of woodpeckers.		
	They come in different sizes,		*
	shapes, and colors, and they make		*
	different drumming sounds.		*

3. EXT SCHOOLYARD -- CONTINUOUS

15	ARI	15	
	I love it. I want to drum like a		*
	woodpecker.		*

16	MZ. MOLE	16	
	I thought you'd never ask! I		*
	brought enough drumsticks for		
	everybody.		

Mz. Mole passes out drumsticks to the kids. With a <SFX: YAY>
they run up to different trees and start banging out
different types of <SFX: WOODPECKER SOUNDS> to each other, as
if they're communicating to each other. It's total mayhem.
Mz. Mole stands in the middle, enjoying the chaos.

17	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	17	
	Ahh, I love the soothing sounds of		
	nature.		

THE END.