

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW136 Rain, Rain Don't Go Away

By: Rachel Lipman

Elinor's Question: What is rain good for, anyway?

Logline: Disappointed that the rain has ruined their cloud gazing, the kids investigate where the rain goes to understand why it rains.

Curriculum Goals:

ES 1 Earth Science Core Ideas ES1. Understand that the Earth is made up of a variety of natural materials. a. Explore and describe the characteristics of earth materials such as sand, rocks, soil, water, and air. (Elinor and her friends observe the rain (water).

SEP1. Asking questions (science) and defining problems (engineering)

b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena

c. Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation. (Elinor and her friends try to answer the question, "Why does it have to rain?")

SEP6. Constructing explanations (science) and Designing Solutions (engineering)

a. Use background knowledge experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena (science)

b. Look for and describe patterns and relationships in natural phenomena (science)

c. Use and apply productive science discourse to support an explanation

d. Use evidence to support a theory or solution to a problem (engineering) (Elinor and her friends observe the effects of the rain on the world around them and come up with explanations of why it is necessary).

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mrs. Bat

Locations: The Park, the Pond, The Bat' House

Props: Olive's notebook, Olive's satchel, Frog, Snails (Norma and Lulu) Glass of Water, Fan, Rain ponchos, umbrellas, rain boots

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OPEN ON ELINOR, OLIVE and ARI walking toward the park. Olive carries a colored pencil set and her drawing notebook.

3 OLIVE 3
Oh yeah - I knew I liked it. I
really want to draw the clouds with
my new coloured pencils.

ON THE SKY - lots of puffy clouds, a few darker ones.

ON ARI - he gently stops Elinor gently by holding her arm.

WIDEN: Elinor steps away from the edge of the pond.

Olive points at something in the pond.

ON THE POND - a frog <SFX: RIBBITS> from the top of a rock that's sticking up out of the pond. Elinor follows Olive's gaze, and frowns.

Ari and Olive go closer to look at the pond level.

9 ARI 9
Maybe. How can we tell?

Elinor points to the frog.

10 ELINOR 10
That frog always sits on that rock,
right?

11	OLIVE	11
	Right...	

12 ELINOR 12
But we mostly only see the top part
of the rock.

13 ARI 13

Oh yeah, now we can see the whole thing.

14 ELINOR 14
So, either that rock got bigger,
or...

15 OLIVE 15

The water got lower! There's the
wet mark on the rock from where the
water used to hit.

ON THE POND - there's a darker mark on the rock.

16 ARI 16

I wonder why? Don't the fish need
the pond to be full?

17 ELINOR 17
 Maybe it's drying up in the sun? Is
 anything else looking dry around
 here?

They walk around, and stop at some dried-out looking plants.

18 ARI 18

These plants are looking a little droopy.

19 OLIVE 19
And their leaves are turning brown.

Just then, the kids stop as they spot the two snails, NORMA and LULU, at the edge of the path.

Ari squints, turns his head this way and that.

29	ARI	29
	(at a loss)	
	I dunno. I guess it looks like...	
	like...	

<Plink!> A drop falls on his forehead.

30	ARI (CONT'D)	30
	Rain!	

Elinor and Olive react, surprised.

31	OLIVE	31
	Rain?	

32	ELINOR	32
	I don't see any rain--	

<Plink! Plink!> A drop lands on each of their foreheads and rolls down their faces.

33	ELINOR (CONT'D)	33
	I see it now.	

More drops fall here and there, sporadically at first.

34	OLIVE	34
	(disappointed)	
	Oh, no! It's raining.	

Olive snatches up her notebook and pencils and puts them in her satchel.

35	ARI	35
	So much for our cloud watching.	

She points up to the sky, where a fine drizzle has begun.

36	ELINOR	36
	Yeah, the clouds are all mushed up	
	into one big gray lump!	

37	OLIVE	37
	We'd better go inside.	

38	ARI	38
	Let's go to my house, it's close.	

They start jogging back through the park.

EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Olive tries to protect her satchel as they jog.

39 OLIVE 39
Awww. My satchel is getting wet.
Why does it have to rain, anyway?

Elinor stops dead.

40 ELINOR 40
That's a really good question,
Olive. What is rain good for? We
need MORE observations.

41 OLIVE 41
Observations? Now? In the rain?

42 ELINOR 42
That's the best time!

43 OLIVE 43
If you say so.

Elinor and Ari look up as the rain falls (still gentle), as
Olive takes shelter under a tree.

44 ARI 44
Oooh, this rain is warm and soft -
it's like a giant outdoor shower!

Ari spreads out his arms to enjoy the rain coming down.

45 ELINOR 45
Or a water fountain from the sky!

Elinor tilts her head back to drink. Meanwhile Olive calls
from under her shelter.

46 OLIVE 46
(calling)
Uhh, maybe we should go inside
where it ISN'T raining.

Ari runs through frame enjoying himself ala "Singing in the
Rain!"

47 ARI 47
But Olive, this is AWESOME!

48 ELINOR 48
Don't you want to figure out what
rain does?

49 OLIVE 49
Welllll...

50 ELINOR 50
We'll be rain detectives. Come on!!

Elinor and Ari start dancing in the rain.

51 OLIVE 51
(to herself)
I guess we can always dry off
later.

Olive comes out from under the tree and joins them. A beat as they run around, dancing in the rain. <SFX: HAPPY WHOO-HOO RAIN DANCE WALLA>>

Elinor twirls, face uplifted to the rain.

52 ELINOR 52
Rain, Rain NEVER GO AWAY!!!

Olive looks the flowers nearby that are perking up.

53 OLIVE 53
Hey, look - the flowers are
pointing up again.

The kids stop dancing and observe.

54 ELINOR 54
Maybe they were thirsty?

55 ARI 55
The rain is a drink of water from
the sky for them.

56 OLIVE 56
Oooh, I'll bet the flowers love
that.

57 ELINOR 57
Let's see what else loves the rain!

EXT. PARK - FISHPOND - MOMENTS LATER

As Elinor, Ari and Olive walk along, they get to the pond.

58 ARI 58
Look, the rock is getting wetter.

ON THE POND - the frog is still sitting on the rock, basking in the water coming down.

59 OLIVE 59
And the water is getting higher.

60 ELINOR 60
The frog looks so happy - he has
more pond to swim in! And look at
the fish!

ANGLE ON: happy fish swimming in the pond.

61 OLIVE 61
Do the fish even know it's raining?

A happy fish JUMPS out of the pond and lands with a <SPLASH>

62 ELINOR 62
I dunno, but they sure look happy!

Olive, Ari and Elinor continue on their way.

63 OLIVE 63
...The rain makes everybody happy,
the flowers, the frogs, the fish
and....

She steps out into the path, near a puddle.

64 ELINOR 64
Watch out!

Olive looks - Elinor was pointing to Norma and Lulu, who are
now (slowly) crossing the pathway!

65 OLIVE 65
Norma and Lulu are crossing the
path again.

66 ELINOR 66
But they're sure going a lot faster
this time.

67 ARI 67
Maybe the rain help the snails
move?

Elinor puts a hand out on the ground, and the snails scoot
over her.

68 ELINOR 68
(giggles)
That tickles! Look at their shiny
slime trails.

She shows Ari and Olive her hand before wiping it on a leaf.

Ari's mom sets out some beach towels to dry off the floor and the kids.

78 ARI'S MOM 78
No worries, kids. Rain is wet, you
can't avoid it.

As the kids dry off, Ari's mom returns with some water for each of them.

79 ARI'S MOM (CONT'D) 79
Here you go - thought you might be
thirsty, just like the plants out
there.

80 ARI 80
Thanks, Mom.

Olive drains her glass and holds it up.

81 OLIVE 81
May I have more, please?

82 ARI'S MOM 82
Sure Olive, be right back.

As Ari's Mom goes off to refill Olive's glass, Elinor sets hers down excitedly.

83 ELINOR 83
I just thought of something - when
we want more water, we can just get
it from the kitchen. But when
plants, or ponds or snails need
more water, they have to wait for
rain!

84 ARI 84
Right, maybe rain falls down from
the sky to give a drink to all
nature's creatures.

85 OLIVE 85
And my notebook <sigh>.

Olive holds up her notebook just as Ari's Mom returns with another glass of water for her, and some rain gear for the kids.

86 ARI'S MOM 86
Here's more water, Olive, and also
some ponchos and umbrellas to keep
you all dry if you go back outside.

87 OLIVE 87
Thanks, Mrs. Bat.

As they put on the rain ponchos and pick out umbrellas, Olive sets down her wet notebook with a sigh.

88 OLIVE (CONT'D) 88
I sure wish I'd had an umbrella for
this.

Ari's Mom sees Olive's wet notebook.

89 ARI'S MOM 89
Don't worry - I have something to
your wet notebook, Olive.

Mrs. Bat switches on a nearby fan and puts it in front of the notebook, and it flutters the pages. The she exits.

Elinor watches the fan, impressed.

90 ELINOR 90
Wow. Your notebook will be dry in
no time, Olive.

91 OLIVE 91

And I don't even mind that it got
wet - now that I know why we need
the rain.

As the kids wait for Olive's notebook to dry, they sing.

92 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 92
 (chorus)
Why do we need the rain,
to fall down from the sky?
Why do we need the rain,
Why can't it just stay dry?

OLIVE: Rain makes the grass so
green, It waters every tree,
ARI: Rain helps the flowers bloom,
for all the birds and bees.

ELINOR: The earth gets thirsty too,
Just like me and you,
OLIVE: Rain waters dusty streets,
And makes the air so sweet.
ARI: Frogs and slugs and snails,
Move better when they're wet,
ALL: And we love splashing in
puddles, With rain-boots don't
forget.

(MORE)

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI (CONT'D)

ALL: Why do we need the rain? To
fall down from the sky? Why do we
need the rain? Now I know the
reasons why!

They come out of the song to see Olive's notebook flutter in
the fan breeze. Olive picks up her notebook and flips through
it.

93	OLIVE	93
	It worked - the pages are dry! And I'm going to <u>keep</u> it dry under my rain poncho!	

WIDEN TO REVEAL: Ari, Olive and Elinor are all wearing their
rain ponchos. Ari has on his rainboots, and they all have
umbrellas.

94	ARI	94
	We're all set.	

95	ELINOR	95
	Yay, now we can go back out and play in the rain!	

96	OLIVE	96
	And I can draw the raindrops!	

As Ari opens the front door, they look outside and all GASP.

INT/EXT. ARI'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

THEIR POV looking out the door - a brilliant sun is shining
through the tail end of the rain.

97	ARI	97
	Sunshine?!!	

EXT. ARI'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

They walk outside, still in disbelief.

98	ELINOR	98
	Where'd all the rain go?	

99	ARI	99
	Just when we got all raincoated and rainbooted, there's no more <u>rain</u> .	

100 OLIVE 100
Everything's the same as it was
before.

As the kids keep walking through the park, Elinor looks around.

101 ELINOR 101
It's not the same, though. Look.
Things look different when they're
wet with rain.

CU on - the flowers and grass glistening in sunshine.

102 ELINOR (CONT'D) 102
We can still be rain detectives and
look for clues about what the rain
did...

103 OLIVE 103
I see something - the grass looks
greener and shinier.

The kids look down at the grass. Olive points to a spiderweb.

104 OLIVE (CONT'D) 104
And that spiderweb is sparkly - the
raindrops must be sticking to it.

105 ELINOR 105
Everything looks clean and washed.
(she sniffs)
The air even smells fresher.

106 OLIVE 106
Wow, the rain gives us soo much -
Whoops!

SPLASH! Elinor and Olive get splashed with some big drops.
They look over to see Ari, laughingly apologetic.

107 ARI 107
Sorry, I couldn't resist.

108 ELINOR 108
(laughing)
That's okay, Ari.

109 OLIVE 109
I think you found the BEST thing
rain gives us.

Olive and Elinor look at each other, smile, then JUMP...

110 OLIVE (CONT'D) 110
PUDDLES!!!!!!

As the kids laugh and play in the puddle, <SFX: LAUGHING AND
PUDDLE JUMPING WALLA> we

IRIS OUT:

THE END