ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWW 138A Sr Tapir Says Adios

By Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: What can we give to Sr Tapir to say farewell?

Logline: Sr Tapir is on his way out of town, and Elinor learns a lesson from migrating birds about how to say farewell.

Curriculum Goals:

LS8. Begin to understand that there are many different kinds of living things and how they may be the same or different:

d. Identify seasonal adaptations in physical characteristics or behaviors of animals

(Elinor observes and identifies the different behaviors of birds who migrate in the fall).

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

a. Demonstrate curiosity about the greater world outside of their local environment

b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena

(Elinor is curious, and asks questions, about the bird calls and about the idea of migration, learning the birds from her local environment will travel somewhere else).

SEP7. Engaging in argument from evidence

a. Engage in discussions before, during, and after investigations

b. Support thinking and argue ideas with evidence

(Elinor and her mother observe and discuss the bird behavior and Elinor argues that from the evidence it seems they are all leaving at once i.e. migrating).

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SECOND DRAFT: May 15, 2020

POLISH: June 2, 2020

RECORD DRAFT: June 09, 2020

1. EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

It's a late Fall afternoon in Animal Town and we open as SR. TAPIR is finishing singing a fun song. He sings the last chorus of "Let's Explore" (from EWW101 Interstitial - Jacques Cousteau):

1 SR. TAPIR 1
(singing)
When something you see,
Tickles your curiosity
When you have to know more
And questions pull you out the door
Let's go! Let's Explore!

As he sings, we pan over the happy faces of the kids (ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE and OTHERS (in Fall accessories, Olive has a scarf) gathered around him. They are gleefully paying attention, rocking their heads and playing along with simple instruments (e.g. toy xylophone, tambourine, etc). The song ends.

2 SR. TAPIR (CONT'D) 2
And that's a song about a scientist
who explored the ocean!

The kids <SFX: CLAP/CHEER/AWESOME!>.

3 ELINOR 3
We love your songs about
scientists, Sr. Tapir.

4 OLIVE 4
Yeah, they're so interesting.

5 ARI 5
My favorites are the ones where you
sing about a scientist who
explores..! And then they ask
questions..! And then... They
discover something!

As Ari talks, he strikes dramatic explorer poses in front of the group, culminating in a flip in the air before the final pose. The kids <SFX: GIGGLES>.

6 SR. TAPIR 6
Ha HA! Yes, isn't learning about
scientists fun? I'm so glad you
like them. And I love playing and
sharing these songs with all of
you.

He strums/plays his guitar for emphasis.

7 ELINOR 7
Will you sing us another one, Sr. Tapir?

Sr Tapir bows gracefully.

8 SR. TAPIR 8
Ah, I would love to, Elinor, but now I have to tell you something important.

9 OLIVE 9
What is it Sr. Tapir?

10 SR. TAPIR 10
The time has come for me to leave Animal Town.

The kids are flabbergasted. <SFX: HUH?/LEAVE ANIMAL TOWN?/WHAT? WALLA>.

11 ELINOR 11
You're leaving?

12 SR. TAPIR 12
Yes, tomorrow I'm sad to say. Now that winter is coming, it's time for me to go to another town.

13 ARI 13
To another town?

14 OLIVE 14
But... why?

15 SR. TAPIR 15
It's my job, you see. I'm a traveling musical instrument sales-animal, and my job is to go from town to town playing music and sharing these wonderful instruments with everyone.

As he talks, we see a **THOUGHT BUBBLE** of Sr. Tapir walking with his full backpack down a trail, arriving at a signpost, and then walking towards another town.

16 OLIVE 16
I hope they love your songs as much as we do.

17 ELINOR 17
Yeah, we really love your songs, Sr. Tapir.

18 SR. TAPIR 18
Aw, thank you kids. That really makes my heart sing. And you know how much my heart likes to sing.

Sr. Tapir strums his guitar and does a fun and expressive <SFX: LA-LAAA-LAAAAAA!!> which makes the kids <SFX: GIGGLE>.

19 SR. TAPIR (CONT'D) 19
But don't worry, kids, I'll be back again next year.

20 ARI 20
Next year?

21 SR. TAPIR 21
Yes, I always come back to Animal Town in the Spring. Before you know it, the flowers will be in bloom and you'll see me again. Who knows, maybe I'll have new songs to sing to you.

The kids seem happy about that <SFX: YAY/WOO HOO! WALLA> and they begin to return their instruments to Sr. Tapir, who adds them to his traveler's backpack, which is loaded with instruments (fiddle, kazoo, banjo, tuba, drums, etc.) and other things.

22 SR. TAPIR (CONT'D) 22
(to kids returning instruments)
Thank you. Muchas gracias.
(to all) Well, I hope to see you again tomorrow to say good bye before I leave. But now it's time for you to go. Do you know why?

The kids look confused.

23 SR. TAPIR (CONT'D) 23
Listen....

Sr. Tapir puts a hand to his hear, miming listening. Suddenly, Ari's stomach <SFX: GROWLS>.

24 SR. TAPIR (CONT'D) 24
...it's almost dinner time!

Everyone giggles, and they start to disperse.

25 ELINOR 25
Bye, Sr. Tapir! See you tomorrow.

26 SR. TAPIR 26
Adios! Hasta Luego. See you later.

They head off in different directions.

2. EXT FOREST PATH -- LATE AFTERNOON

Elinor, Ari and Olive walk along the forest path to their house. In the trees we hear a few birds here and there.

A breeze blows through.

27 OLIVE 27
Brr, it is getting kinda chilly. It feels a little like Winter already.

She wraps her scarf around her neck.

28 ELINOR 28
It’s too bad Sr. Tapir has to leave.

29 ARI 29
Yeah, who’s gonna sing us songs about scientists now?

Elinor has an idea.

30 ELINOR 30
Hey! I know. Why don’t we do something special for Sr Tapir before he leaves?

31 OLIVE 31
Great idea, Elinor! He’s always doing nice things for us. We should do something nice for HIM. But, what should we do?

32 ARI 32
We could give him a good bye present?

33 ELINOR 33
Yeah! So he remembers us.

34 ARI 34
What should we get him?

35 ELINOR 35
We could make him a hat?

A THOUGHT BUBBLE shows the kids giving Sr. Tapir a funny kid-made hat.

36 OLIVE 36
Mmm, I think he already has a hat.

37 ARI 37
Oooh! I know, let's get him a big jar of pickles! I love pickles, I'll bet he'll love them too.

We see a THOUGHT BUBBLE of the kids giving Sr. Tapir a giant jar of pickles, pulling up in a wagon.

38 OLIVE 38
That's fun. But he has a long way to walk and his bag already seemed really full. How is he going to carry it?

In the thought bubble, Sr Tapir struggles with the weight and can't find a place to put the giant jar in his bag.

39 ELINOR 39
Hmmm....

The kids ponder a bit as they walk and arrive at Elinor's house. Ranger Rabbit filling the bird feeder on the porch.

40 RANGER RABBIT 40
Hi, kids. You look like you're trying to figure something out.

41 ELINOR 41
Mom, Sr. Tapir is leaving tomorrow.

42 RANGER RABBIT 42
Yes, I heard. I bet you kids must be sad.

43 OLIVE 43
Yeah, we're really going to miss him.

44 ELINOR 44
Mom, we want to give Sr. Tapir something special before he leaves, but we don't know what.

45 ARI 45
And it can't be something big, like a big jar of pickles. I already thought of that.

46 RANGER RABBIT 46
That's very sweet of you, kids. I'm sure you'll find just the right thing to give Sr. Tapir before he leaves tomorrow.

47 ELINOR 47
I hope so.

48 OLIVE 48
We should go home. Good night, Elinor, good night Ranger Rabbit!

Olive and Ari turn to go and they all wave goodbye

49 ARI 49
Bye!

50 ELINOR 50
See you tomorrow!

Ranger Rabbit and Elinor go inside.

3. EXT ELINOR'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

The sky darkens, night passes and the sun begins to rise.

4. INT ELINOR'S BEDROOM -- DAWN/MORNING

It's barely light out, and we see Elinor sleeping peacefully. Her window is open. Suddenly, we hear some bird calls. [https://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Hylocichla-mustelina (look at type "calls" or "nocturnal flight calls") Suggested by Emily DuVal, our bird expert] NOTE: we are using the WOOD THRUSH and MAGNOLIA WARBLER>

Elinor stirs in her bed. Then we hear more sounds again. Elinor wakes up and listens.

51 ELINOR 51
Huh? What's that?

She gets out of bed and opens the window all the way. She listens for a moment, using her special bunny hearing. She hears it, and a few other sounds like it, a couple of times.

52 ELINOR (CONT'D) 52
Hmmm, I wonder what those sounds are.

5. PARENT'S BEDROOM - DAWN/MORNING

Elinor tiptoes into her parent's bedroom, where both of them are sleeping. Elinor leans over and whispers in her mom's ear.

53 ELINOR (LOUD WHISPER) 53
Mom!

Ranger Rabbit stirs <SFX: HMMRM>.

54 ELINOR (LOUDER WHISPER) (CONT'D) 54
Mooooom!

Ranger Rabbit opens her eyes.

55 RANGER RABBIT 55
Elinor, is everything ok? What is it, dear?

56 ELINOR 56
I heard an interesting sound outside that woke me up!

57 RANGER RABBIT 57
Hmmm. What kind of sound was it?

58 ELINOR 58
I don't know. It sounded like a bird. Or a cricket. Is there such a thing as a cricket bird?

Ranger Rabbit suspects she knows what it is.

59 RANGER RABBIT 59
Mm, I don't think so.

60 ELINOR 60
I want to go outside and find out. Will you come with me, Mom?

Ranger Rabbit sits up and <SFX: YAWNS>.

61 RANGER RABBIT 61
Well, I guess it's never too early in the morning to be curious, is it?

62 ELINOR 62
Yay! (hears the <SFX: BIRD CALLS> again) There are the sounds again. C'mon, we need more observa-!

Mr Rabbit stirs. Ranger Rabbit puts her finger to her lips.

63 ELINOR (WHISPERING) (CONT'D) 63
We need more observations!

6. HOUSE AND FOREST -- EARLY MORNING

It's early morning and the sky is still dawn-hued. The two of them walk outside and together they listen. As they walk a little bit into the trees, we hear the unusual <SFX: WOOD THRUSH BIRD CALL> sounds again. Elinor is in her pajamas and Ranger Rabbit is in her robe.

64 ELINOR 64
There it is! That's the sound I heard!

65 RANGER RABBIT 65
That IS an interesting sound. What do you think it is?

66 ELINOR 66
I don't know. I don't think I've ever heard it before.

We hear a <SFX: SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT BIRD CALL (MAGNOLIA WARBLER)> coming from another tree. We see hint of birds rustling in the branches.

67 ELINOR (CONT'D) 67
There it is again. But where is it coming from?

68 RANGER RABBIT 68
Alright, let's listen very carefully.

Elinor and Mom's bunny ears turn in sync and narrow in on the <SFX: BIRD CALLS (BOTH WOOD THRUSH AND MAGNOLIA WARBLER>.

69 ELINOR 69
I think it's coming from over there.

70 RANGER RABBIT 70
I think you're right.

They walk over and see as a few birds emerge from the branches, making the <SFX: BIRD CALLS> she heard.

71 ELINOR 71
Look, it's those birds in the trees that are making the sound.

72 RANGER RABBIT 72
Mm-hmm. Those are Wood Thrushes and Magnolia Warblers.

The birds make the sound again. Elinor thinks.

73 ELINOR 73
But Mom, I've never heard a bird make those sounds before. Birds usually sound like (chirping) chirp chirp.
(Elinor looks thoughtful.)
These sound more like cheep cheep. I wonder... why do these birds sound different?

74 RANGER RABBIT 74
Keep observing, Elinor, I think you might find out soon.

Soon, some birds start leaving, one after the other but then all at once. They see a flock of birds fly off together and making that particular sound. Then they see another flock. We are in the midst of a natural wonder.

75 ELINOR 75
Wow, look at that all those birds leaving. It looks like they're all going the same way.

Suddenly, a little early morning breeze blows through, causing the trees to stir and Ranger Rabbit to close her nightgown tighter.

76 ELINOR (CONT'D) 76
Mom, are the birds leaving for the Winter, like Sr. Tapir?

77 RANGER RABBIT 77
Yes, they are. They're migrating. You see, some birds don't like the cold, so when it's almost Winter, they fly away somewhere warmer.

Elinor hears the <SFX: BIRD CALLS>.

78 ELINOR 78
Migrating... (gasp!) Is that why they are making that special sound? Because they're going on a trip?

79 RANGER RABBIT 79
Yes! Some birds make a special sound, or call, when they're flying away together for the winter.

Elinor and her mom observe the birds fly away, and Elinor looks a bit thoughtful.

80 RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D) 80
What's wrong, Elinor?

81 ELINOR 81
I'm a little sad that the birds are leaving, just like Sr. Tapir.

Ranger Rabbit kneels down and comforts her.

82 RANGER RABBIT 82
Don't worry, Elinor. The birds and Sr. Tapir will be back again next year. Sometimes things in Nature leave, but then they come back.

Elinor cheers up.

83 ELINOR 83
Yeah. It's nice that the birds make special sounds when they leave. It's like they're saying goodbye.

84 RANGER RABBIT 84
Special calls are a nice way to say goodbye.

85 ELINOR 85
Mom, that's it! I think I know what we can give Sr. Tapir before he leaves. C'mon!

7. EXT PARK -- MORNING

It's later that day, and we see Sr. Tapir putting the finishing touches on his bulging backpack as he gets ready to hit the trail.

There's a small pack of town residents gathered to say goodbye. Just as Sr. Tapir hoists the pack on his back, Mr. Raccoon comes up to wish him safe travels.

86 MR RACCOON 86
Well, have a good trip, Sr Tapir. Here, I baked you some fresh snacks for your trip.

87 SR. TAPIR 87
Wow, thank you, Mr. Raccoon! I should sing a song about how yummy your treats are.

88 MR RACCOON 88
Oh, well thank you. I do bake the best treats in town. (Of course, I'm also the only baker in town...)

Sr. Tapir finds a place to squeeze the snacks into his pack.

Next, Mz. Llama steps up and makes a fuss over Sr Tapir.

89 MZ. LLAMA 89
Thanks for all of your beautiful songs, Sr. Tapir.

90 SR. TAPIR 90
Thank you, Mz. Llama. I'll miss your fruits and your special sauces. Muy deliciosas!

91 MZ. LLAMA 91
Aww, gosh...

We see him shake hands with or wave to a few other gathered town residents, and gets ready to start his journey.

92 SR. TAPIR 92
Well, adios, Amigo-

Just then, Elinor arrives followed by Olive, Ari, the rest of the kids from before, and Ranger Rabbit.

93 ELINOR 93
Sr. Tapir! Sr Tapir!

94 SR. TAPIR 94
Elinor, kids! I'm so glad you came to say goodbye. I didn't want to leave Animal Town before saying Adios one last time.

95 ELINOR 95
Sr. Tapir, we made something special for you to take on your trip.

Sr. Tapir brightens.

96 SR. TAPIR 96
Wow! Something special? What is it?

97 ELINOR 97
Well, we were trying to think of what to give you.

98 OLIVE 98
Because you're always singing fun songs to us.

99 ARI 99
But pickles would be TOO heavy.

100 ELINOR 100
And then last night, I heard some sounds coming from outside my window.

101 OLIVE 101
Yeah, Elinor told us all about it. It was birds, and they were leaving too.

102 ARI 102
And when they leave for the winter, they make a special bird call.

103 SR. TAPIR 103
That's so interesting!

104 ELINOR 104
Yes it is! So we had the idea to make a special song for you to say goodbye. Just like the birds have a special call.

105 SR. TAPIR 105
That's wonderful, kids. I can't wait to hear it.

All the kids gather together and sing a farewell choir song:

106 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI/SALLY/KOA/TITO 106
(singing)
It's time for some birds
To fly. Fly away
It's getting too cold
For them to stay

And just like the birds
We sing. Sing a song
To say "good bye"
But not for long.

(chorus)
(MORE)

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI/SALLY/KOA/TITO
When friends say goodbye
Just sing them this tune
And they'll come right back
You'll see them soon
You'll see them soon.

Oh, Señor Tapir,
Thanks for your songs
Please think of us
As you travel along

Oh, Señor Tapir,
Please hear our words
Please come right back
Just like the birds

(chorus)
When friends say goodbye
Just sing them this tune
And they'll come right back
You'll see them soon
You'll see them soon.

Sr. Tapir wipes a tear from his cheek.

107 SR. TAPIR 107
That song was absolutely wonderful, kids! I'll remember this special song and take it with me on my travels.

108 OLIVE 108
We're so glad you liked it, Sr. Tapir.

109 ELINOR 109
It's our way of saying goodbye.

110 SR. TAPIR 110
Where I come from, we say "Adios and Hasta Luego" which means "Good bye and see you later."

111 OLIVE 111
"Hasta Luego", I like that.

They have a nice group hug.

112 ARI 112
I'm going to miss your songs about scientists, Sr. Tapir.

113 SR. TAPIR 113
Well, you don’t need me to sing to you about scientists, Ari. You are all great scientists yourselves. Just look how much you learn by listening and observing!

The kids beam.

114 ELINOR 114
Adios, Sr. Tapir.

115 OLIVE 115
And Hasta Luego!

116 SR. TAPIR 116
Goodbye, everyone!

He walks over the hill as everyone waves.

117 SR. TAPIR (CONT’D) 117
Adios... and hasta luego, amigos!

END *