

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW156: The Litterbug

By Michael Foulke

Elinor's Question: Who is the Animal Town litterbug?

Logline: Elinor and her friends help Mrs. Hippo, the Animal Town custodian try to find a litter bug, who is leaving trash all over Animal Town.

Curriculum Goals:

ES3: Understand that things people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them, but they can make choices that reduce their impacts on the land, water, air, and other living things: b. Demonstrate an awareness of and the ability to discuss in simple terms the need for conservation, recycling, and respect for the environment c. Participate in simple activities to care for the environment (Elinor and her friends pick up the litter in Animal town and the determine to find the source.)

SEP4: Analyzing and interpreting data a. Collect, describe, and record observations in greater detail and in various ways b. Use the 5 senses and simple tools to gather and record data c. Record observations to describe patterns and/or relationships in the natural and designed world(s) in order to answer scientific questions and solve problems. d. Talk about and reflect on what happened during an investigation or when solving a problem, and why it might have happened

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Olive

SECONDARY: Mrs. Hippo, Mrs. Llama, Mr. Raccoon

LOCATIONS: Animal Town Main Street, Park, Mrs. Llama's Restaurant

PROPS: Golf Cart, Trash, Trash Bags, Old Food, Compost, Hose

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We see Animal Town Park on a beautiful spring day. All is quiet, until ELINOR and ARI can be heard in the distance.

A Frisbee disc then floats through the frame as Ari jumps up to catch it, but fumbles <SFX: WHOOPS>. At the last second, though, OLIVE jumps up from the bottom of frame and catches the Frisbee with her trunk.

Confused, the kids look around and the park looks great. *

8 ARI 8
Litter? You mean, like trash? But...
I don't see any litter. *

9 MRS. HIPPO 9
That's because I already cleaned up
this part of the park, so thanks a
bunch, but I still have lots to do. *

10 ELINOR 10
Keeping all of Animal Town clean must
be a big job. *

11 MRS. HIPPO 11
Oh, you betcha! And an important one. *

12 OLIVE 12
I wish we could help, but we're just
kids. What could we do? *

As Elinor and Olive think, Mrs. Hippo steps up with some
garbage bags for the kids.

13 MRS. HIPPO 13
Plenty! Anyone can pitch in to keep
their town clean. Even the smallest
things help. *

14 ELINOR 14
Really? Can we help you? *

15 MRS. HIPPO 15
The more, the merrier, let's go clean
up the park! *

As the kids run off, excited, we: *

DISSOLVE TO:

2. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK -- DAY

Now holding litter bags, the kids walk around the park with
Mrs. Hippo, picking up any litter they find on the ground
with claw sticks and putting it in big, paper bags. (NOTE:
The litter is colourful and not gross). *

16 ARI 16
Got one!

Ari picks up a paper cup and throws it in his bag. As they
walk, they find random candy wrappers or cans around.

17 ELINOR 17
Where did all this litter come from?

18 OLIVE 18
Yeah? Everyone loves Animal Town. Why
would they leave litter around like
this? *

19 MRS. HIPPO 19
Even towns as wonderful as Animal
Town have litter. Sometimes, people
drop litter by accident or it falls
out of trash cans or may even get
blown around by the wind... *

Suddenly, a paper bag blows through frame and Olive catches
it with her trunk.

20 OLIVE (O.S.) 20
I see what you mean.

As Elinor picks up a candy wrapper off the ground and puts it
in her bag, she looks around and doesn't see any more litter.

21 ELINOR 21
It looks good around here, Mrs.
Hippo. Where to next?

22 MRS. HIPPO 22
Actually, Elinor, we're all done
cleaning up the park. You kids were
such a huge help, we finished early. *

23 ARI 23
Aww... but I really liked helping
clean up Animal Town.

24 MRS. HIPPO 24
Don't worry, there's always plenty to
do. But since we finished so early, I
thought I might take my helpers on a
cart ride around town! Whaddya think? *

The kids all celebrate as they run towards the nearby cart! *

<SFX: YEAH! WHOO-HOO WALLA> Everyone puts their bags on the *

back of the golf cart as we: *

CUT TO:

3. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - VARIOUS (MONTAGE)

We see a musical montage of the ecstatic kids (with seat-
belts) riding around Animal Town with Mrs. Hippo.

- They zig-zag through trees in the park.
- Drive down the sidewalks in town, waving to the townspeople, who wave right back.
- They go past their clubhouse, where kids play in the BG.
- Finally, they are back in the park, <LAUGHING> as they zoom around the paths of the park, leaning into each other with every turn!

4. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK -- DAY

As the music fades, we see what the kids see: the park now has new pieces of litter here and there all around! *

25	ARI	25	*
	Wow, Mrs. Hippo. My mom makes me		*
	clean my room all the time, but I've		*
	NEVER had this much fun!		*

26	MRS. HIPPO	26	*
	Oh, thanks a bunch, Ari. You kids		*
	really made cleaning easy today. I've		*
	never been done so fast.		*

Suddenly, Olive notices something. *

27 OLIVE 27 *
Uh... I'm not so sure we're done. *

Elinor then sees it too as they all step out of the cart. *

28 ELINOR 28
Oh, no! What happened? *

29 OLIVE 29
There's more litter in the park! *

30 MRS. HIPPO 30 *
But we haven't been gone very long. I *
wonder where did it came from. *

CU a piece of litter on the ground as Ari steps into frame and picks it up, examining it closely. He seems very serious all of the sudden.

ARI

There's only one explanation for how
all this litter got here so fast...
(dramatic pose)
Animal Town has...a litterbug!

32 OLIVE 32 *

A litterbug? *

33 ARI 33 *

Yeah! Someone who leaves litter on *

the ground. *

34 MRS. HIPPO 34 *

A litterbug? No sirree. I mean, who *

would do such a thing?

Elinor and Olive step out of the cart then Olive then steps up in dramatic fashion. *

35 OLIVE 35

Dun, dun, duuuun... it's a MYSTERY!

Elinor shakes her head, refusing to believe that.

36 MRS. HIPPO 36 *

Well, hold on, kiddos! Maybe whoever *

left this litter did it by accident *

and doesn't know they did it. *

37 ELINOR 37 *

You're right, Mrs. Hippo! And if they *

don't know they're doing it... *

38 ARI 38 *

They could still be doing it! *

39 OLIVE 39

We need to figure out where all this *

litter came from, fast. *

Meanwhile, Mrs. Hippo steps out of the cart. *

40 MRS. HIPPO 40 *

Great idea! So let's work as a team. *

I'll pick up the litter here and you *

kiddos look around town for who is *

helping and who might not be helping *

keep our town clean. *

She uses a claw to start picking up the trash. *

41 ELINOR 41

You got it, Mrs. Hippo. We'll find

out where this litter is coming from.

(then, to Olive)

So... where should we start?

They look around and see a trail of litter leading to town.

42 OLIVE 42 *

I know! If you wanna find out where
the litter is coming from, follow the
litter. Let's go!

As the kids follow the trail of litter, they pick up each
piece and put it in a bag as they head to town.

DISSOLVE TO:

5. ANIMAL TOWN MAIN STREET -- DAY

As the kids arrive on Main Street in town, they continue to
pick up litter, which still lines the sidewalk.

43 ARI 43 *

Looks like the litterbug came this
way.

44 ELINOR 44 *

Sure does.

Suddenly, the kids stop as Mz. Llama walks out of her shop
with a big bag of kitchen scraps and dumps it right into a
pile on the ground! *

45 OLIVE 45 *

Look, there's Mz. Llama! What is she
doing? *

46 ELINOR 46 *

Is she... she looks like she's
putting her litter on the ground! *

47 ARI 47 *

(gasp)
Could Mz. Llama be the litterbug?! *

The kids all run over. *

6. EXT. BACK OF MZ. LLAMA'S RESTAURANT -- DAY

As the kids run over, Mz. Llama is just finishing dumping her
bag of trash into the pile as three old, half-eaten tomatoes
hit the pile with an SFX: PLOP, PLOP, PLOP. With each plop,
our three kids' heads each pop up behind Mz. Llama, one by
one in unison with the PLOPS. *

As Mz. Llama finishes, she turns and smiles at the kids. *

48	ELINOR	48	
	Hi, Mz. Llama. May we ask what you're doing?		* *
49	ARI	49	
	Yeah, it looks like you're putting litter on the ground.		* *
50	MZ. LLAMA	50	
	Oh, goodness gracious, no Ari. This isn't litter, it's scraps of food for composting. See?		* * *
	Mz. Llama shows the kids her compost pile, which surrounded by three walls to keep the compost in place.		* *
51	MZ. LLAMA (CONT'D)	51	
	Composting is a great way to reuse old scraps of food and help grow new food in my garden.		* * * *
52	ELINOR	52	
	So you reuse old food to grow new food?		* * *
53	MZ. LLAMA	53	
	That's right, Elinor. Whenever I have leftover fruits or vegetables or bread from my restaurant, I always compost it rather than throw it away. Over time, all this food will break down and turn into...		* *
	Mz. Llama opens a drawer on the the bottom of her compost pile and dark, rich compost comes out.		* *
54	ARI	54	
	Compost! Whoa, that's amazing.		*
55	MZ. LLAMA (laughing)	55	
	Yes it is. And compost works wonders in my vegetable garden. Would you kids like to help me spread it around?		* * * *
56	ARI	56	
	Hmm... sounds messy. I'm in.		* *
57	OLIVE	57	
	Every little bit helps, right?		* *

As Mz. Llama takes a shovel full of compost from the bottom of her compost pile and dumps it in the garden, the kids get down in the garden and spread the compost around on the soil. *

58 ELINOR 58 *
I can't believe all that food can be *
turned into compost and go right back *
into the dirt like this. *

59 ARI 59
So... does composting mean you make
less litter?

60 MZ. LLAMA 60
It sure does.

61 ARI 61
Phew... And here, I thought you might
be the litterbug.

62 MZ. LLAMA 62
The what?

63 ELINOR 63
It looks like someone has been *
leaving litter around Animal Town. *

64 OLIVE 64
Yeah, and we want to find out where *
it's coming from. *

65 MZ. LLAMA 65
Oh, no. Well, maybe whoever is doing *
it doesn't realize they're leaving *
litter around. It isn't me, though. *
I always reduce, reuse and recycle.
After all, we all have to do our
part.

66 OLIVE 66
Yup! It's up to all of us to take *
care of our town. *

67 ELINOR 67
Just like Mz. Llama! She's looking *
out for our town by composting all *
this old food and making less litter! *

68 ARI 68
Speaking of less litter, we still *
need to find the litterbug. *

69 MZ. LLAMA 69
Oh, right! You kids better get back
to it. I can finish up here. Bye! *

70 ELINOR 70
Bye, Mz. Llama. And thanks for
helping our town. *

The kids walk out and Mz. Llama kneels in her garden as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

7. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN MAIN STREET -- DAY

As the kids walk away, they spot more litter down the street
a bit, leading away from Mz. Llama's shop.

71 ELINOR 71
There's more litter on the ground.

72 ARI 72
Let's go!

The kids pick up the remaining litter and look around, but
that's everything. The street is once again clean. Olive
picks up the last piece of litter and holds it up.

73 OLIVE 73
Well, it looks like we got it all.
This is the last piece. *

The kids look up and they are standing in front of Mr.
Raccoon's shop.

74 OLIVE (CONT'D) 74
The trail ended at Mr. Raccoon's
shop. Maybe he saw something?

As the kids look around, they see Mr. Raccoon standing next
to his shop and using a hose on the sidewalk. There is a big,
overflowing bag of litter next to him on the ground. *

75 ELINOR 75
What's he doing? He's got a bag of
litter. A BIG bag of litter! *

76 ELINOR (CONT'D) 76
And it looks like he's pouring water
all over the sidewalk. *

77 ARI 77
(gasp)
Could Mr. Raccoon be the litterbug? *

78	ELINOR (not convinced) Hmm... Let's go ask him.	78	* * *
79	ARI Mr. Raccooo...	79	* *
	As Ari calls out, Mr. Raccoon turns and accidentally sprays him with water, causing Ari to turn around as water drips off of him. A very apologetic Mr. Raccoon then runs over to the kids.		* * *
80	MR. RACCOON I am so sorry, Ari! I didn't even see you there! Here you go!	80	*
	Mr. Raccoon grabs a towel off his apron and gives it to Ari to dry off.		* *
81	ELINOR We're trying to figure out who is leaving litter around Animal Town, Mr. Raccoon.	81	* * * *
82	MR. RACCOON Ah yes, I saw a lot of litter here in front of my shop. It took me quite a while to pick it all up. That's what's in this bag.	82	* * * * *
83	OLIVE Well, that explains why the trail ends at Mr. Raccoon's shop.	83	
84	ARI Oh, I thought maybe you were the litterbug, Mr. Raccoon.	84	* *
85	MR. RACCOON Oh, not me. I always try to keep everything clean. That's why I'm spraying down my sidewalk, to clean up where this litter used to be. But don't worry, I'm using rain water.	85	* * * * *
	The kids all look up at the clear, blue sky.		*
86	ELINOR But... it's not raining.	86	*
	Mr. Raccoon gestures to a rain barrel on the side of his shop that the hose is connected to.		* *

87 MR. RACCOON 87 *
That's true, but I get my water from *
a rain barrel.

88 OLIVE 88 *
A rain barrel? *

89 MR. RACCOON 89 *
Yes, it's right over there - take a *
look. *

The kids go over and check out Mr. Raccoon's rain barrel. As *
Mr. Raccoon explains how a rain barrel works, we see a *
THOUGHT BUBBLE over his head. *

90 MR. RACCOON (CONT'D) 90 *
The Rain Barrel collects water every *
time it rains and I use that water to *
wash my sidewalks or water my grass *
so that I'm not wasting any water. *
After all, we all have to do our part *
to keep Animal Town clean. *

Meanwhile, as they walk back to the front of the store, Ari *
is relieved that Mr. Raccoon is clearly not the litterbug. *

91 ARI 91
We sure do.

As they reach the front of the store, Olive spots another *
piece of litter on the sidewalk. *

92 OLIVE 92 *
Hey, there's new litter on the *
sidewalk! *

93 ARI 93
But the sidewalk was just clean. That *
means it must be the litterbug! *

94 ELINOR 94 *
Whoever is leaving this litter must *
be nearby. See you later, Mr. *
Raccoon! *

95 MR. RACCOON 95
Good luck, kids. Great job keeping
Animal Town clean.

96 ARI 96 *
Thanks, Mr. Raccoon! *

As the kids run off, they pick up the litter from in front of
Mr. Raccoon's store, then see a few more up the street.

97 ELINOR 97
The litter is coming from that way!

Suddenly, another piece of litter flutters down the street from around the corner. The kids follow it around the corner just in time to see another piece fall off of something and onto the ground.

98 ARI 98
Oh, we're so close! Come on. We're about to find out that the litterbug is...

As the kids come around the next corner they see Mrs. Hippo driving the cart, then see a piece of litter fall off the back of the cart.

99 ELINOR 99
(confused)
Mrs. Hippo?

Mrs. Hippo turns to see the kids and stops the cart. When she stops, another piece of litter falls off because the litter bags aren't closed up properly, but Mrs. Hippo has no idea.

100 MRS. HIPPO 100
Oh, hey kiddos! I've been looking all over for you, dontcha know. Did you figure out where all that litter is coming from? *

101 ELINOR 101
I think we did, Mrs. Hippo. It's coming from... you. *

Mrs. Hippo is in disbelief.

102 MRS. HIPPO 102
Me? But, what do you mean?! *

Olive, Ari and Elinor walk to the cart to show Mrs. Hippo the opened bags. As Olive explains, a **THOUGHT BUBBLE** appears above her head of the kids driving around and litter falling off the back of the truck. *

103 OLIVE 103
It looks like we didn't close the litter bags properly. *

104 ELINOR 104
So when we drove around town, the litter fell out and went everywhere. *

105 MRS. HIPPO 105
Oh, I didn't know I was spreading
more litter around. *

106 ARI 106
It's okay, Mrs. Hippo. You just made
a mistake. Don't worry, I make 'em
all the time. *

Suddenly, Ari trips over and falls behind the cart. A beat
later, he pops up, just fine. *

107 ARI (CONT'D) 107
See? *

Mrs. Hippo starts to tie the bags up tight. *

108 MRS. HIPPO 108
Well, it won't happen again. From now
on, these bags will be tied up tight! *

Elinor then steps in to help Mrs. Hippo tie the bags. *

109 ELINOR 109
Way to go, Mrs. Hippo! I'll help you
because, after all, we can all pitch
in to make our town cleaner. *

110 MRS. HIPPO 110
You can sure say that again. *

111 ELINOR 111
We will!

Elinor smiles as the music fades up and the ditty begins.
During the song, the kids demonstrate the various ways they
saw in the episode to help the environment.

112 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 112
*ELINOR: To keep your world nice and
green,
You just have to keep it clean,
Follow these steps and you will see
Helping is easy as can be. **

*OLIVE: When you're done with fruit
don't throw it away,
Compost that all night and day,
It makes less litter and that doesn't
hurt,
'Cause compost really helps the dirt! **

*ARI: When watering plants don't use a
hose,
(MORE)*

ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE (CONT'D)

*There's a better way that everyone
 knows,
 Catch some rain as it falls from the
 sky,
 And use that water when your plants
 get dry!*

*

*ELINOR: Here's one more thing that
 you can do,
 To keep the world looking good as
 new.
 When you see litter laying on the
 ground,
 Throw it in the cans that are all
 around!*

*ALL: To keep your world nice and
 green
 You just have to keep it clean
 Follow these steps and you will see
 Helping is easy as can be!*

*

8. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK -- DAY

As the song ends, the kids walk back through the very clean park with Mrs. Hippo.

113	MRS. HIPPO	113
	Thanks again, kids. You helped me clean up, and reminded me to keep my litter in the trash bag.	

114	OLIVE	114
	No problem, Mrs. Hippo. We love to keep Animal Town clean.	

115	ELINOR	115
	Yeah, because no matter how old you are, EVERYONE can do their part to keep their town beautiful!	

*

Just as Mrs. Hippo says that, a snack wrapper falls onto the
 ground right near Mrs. Hippo and the kids. As they look over,
 they see standing next to the wrapper. A sheepish Ari picks
 up the wrapper and puts it in a nearby trash bin.

*

*

*

116	ARI	116
	Whoops! Sorry, I dropped some litter, but don't worry, I'm doing my part.	

*

*

As the kids laugh, we:

FADE OUT.

*