

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 161 Nature Walk

By: Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: How can we keep our signs from falling over?

Logline: The kids' Nature Walk signs keep falling over until Elinor and her friends realize they need "roots" like a tree.

Curriculum Goals; LS2. Understand that that plants have different parts that help them survive and grow: b. Identify the basic parts of plants and their function d. Explore how different external features of an animal or plant help it survive in its environment. (Elinor and her friends notice that the roots keep a tree from falling over.)

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Structure and Function'): Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world. (Elinor and her friends copy the idea of "roots" by burying the bottom of their signposts in the ground).

SEP 8 Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

- Describe how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) support a scientific or engineering idea
- Obtain information using various texts, and other media that will be useful in answering a scientific question and/or supporting a scientific claim. (Elinor and her friends rely on Olive's Nature Book to give them information about the tree's roots).

Designing Solutions (engineering)

- Construct evidence-based explanations for natural phenomena (science)
- Use tools and/or materials to design and/or build a device that provides a solution to a specific problem (engineering) (Elinor and her friends realize that the reason the tree stands up straight is because its roots are buried in the ground, and they decide to copy this idea to solve the problem of their signs falling over).

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FIRST DRAFT: December 20, 2019

1. INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Mz. Mole is in front of her excited students.

1	MZ. MOLE	1
	All right, class, settle down, settle down...	
	(as the class settles)	
	Today is a very special day - a day we've been planning for weeks, YES! It's our NATURE CELEBRATION!!	

<SFX: YAY WALLA!!> The class is raring to go.

2	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	2
	Everyone needs to help get ready. Lizzie and Mary you're in charge of showing off the Nature Artwork.	
	(angle on Lizzie and Mary in front of the artwork)	
	Koa and Tito you'll be gathering the Nature Snacks from the class garden.	
	(angle on Koa and Tito, with gardening supplies)	
	Elinor, Olive and Ari you're in charge of setting up the Nature Walk in the woods behind the school. Everyone else helps tidy the classroom for our NATURE CELEBRATION.	

Our trio is stoked!

3	OLIVE	3
	Oh, I can't wait!	
4	ARI	4
	Our Nature Walk is gonna ROCK.	
5	ELINOR	5
	Let's go and set it up.	

The kids run OS.

2. EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

The kids are running to the entrance of their Nature Walk (a semi-circular path through the forest that takes you back to the playground - the exit is not far away).

6 ELINOR 6
 Okay, we've picked out a really
 great path through the forest.

7 ARI 7
 With lots of good spots to notice
 NATURE!

8 OLIVE 8
 And Mz. Mole gave us these signs to
 put up. They'll tell our friends
 which way to go.

Olive points to some small arrow signs set up close by (they
 stand up on bases of X shaped crosses).

9 ELINOR 9
 So they won't get lost in the
 forest.

10 ARI 10
 Great idea! Okay, lets do this.

Ari picks up a couple of the signs and antics to run off.

11 ELINOR 11
 Uh Ari, aren't you forgetting
 something?

Ari stops, uncertain. <SFX: UHHHH WALLA>

12 ELINOR (CONT'D) 12
 (good natured)
 The first arrow! To mark the
 entrance.

13 ARI 13
 (a revelation)
 Oh, riiiiiiight.

Ari runs back and sets up the first arrow, but it wobbles a
 bit (the cross/feet of the signs are a bit small).

14 OLIVE 14
 Perfect. Now let's set up the rest
 of the Nature Walk!

The kids run off but we stay on the arrow. A beat, then it
 falls over.

3. EXT. NATURE WALK (BEEHIVE) -- DAY

The kids run on-screen.

24	OLIVE	24
	That-a-way!	
Off they go.		
 5. EXT. NATURE WALK (WILLOW TREE) - DAY		
The kids run onscreen and stop. <SFX: WHOOOA> WIDEN TO REVEAL: The Willow Tree, and it is truly spectacular.		
25	ARI	25
	This willow tree is AMAZING Olive. Look at the nice big branches.	
26	ELINOR	26
	It's the perfect ending to our nature walk. So easy to spot, no one can miss it.	
27	OLIVE	27
	Yep. That's why I love trees, they're always right there where you need them.	
28	ELINOR	28
	So all we have to do is set up the last..whooha!	
Elinor trips and almost falls.		
29	OLIVE	29
	What happened, Elinor?	
30	ELINOR	30
	I tripped over something, oh I see...	
ANGLE ON: the ground.		
31	ELINOR (CONT'D)	31
	Not only does the willow tree have big branches, it has big roots too.	
32	OLIVE	32
	We'd better set up the final arrow away from the roots, so no one else trips.	
33	ELINOR	33
	Right. And this arrow will guide our friends back to the playground.	

34 OLIVE 34
So we should point it...THIS way.

Olive and Elinor set up the final sign.

35 ELINOR 35
Great. Let's get back to the
beginning and invite all our
friends to go on our AWESOME Nature
Walk.

The kids run OS.

6. EXT. NATURE WALK (ENTRANCE) -- DAY

The kids arrive back at the entrance and notice the sign on
the ground.

36 ARI 36
Uh-oh. The sign fell over.

Olive picks it up.

37 OLIVE 37
There. Now we're really ready.

38 ELINOR 38
All we need are some friends.

A beat. The kids look around. Koa and Tito are gardening
and the other kids (Sally, Lizzie, Mary) are playing around,
no one is paying attention to them.

39 ARI 39
Leave this to me...

Ari steps up and assumes a pose.

40 ARI (CONT'D) 40
(announcing like a
carnival barker)
Step right up folks and see the
wonders of NATURE. The bees...

Elinor and Olive start getting into it.

41 ELINOR 41
The birds!

42 OLIVE 42
The amazing TREES!

At this moment Sally Beaver walks by and stops dead.

43 SALLY 43
Trees? Did you say trees? Ooooh,
if there's trees, maybe there will
be STICKS. I really love sticks.

44 OLIVE 44
There will definitely be sticks.

45 ARI 45
So step right up, Sally. And enjoy
our nature walk!

46 ELINOR 46
Just follow the arrow signs!

Sally walks up to the first sign.

47 SALLY 47
This way?

48 ARI 48
You got it.

Sally walks off. Meanwhile Elinor looks over to Koa and Tito
who are gathering snacks over in the veggie patch.

49 ELINOR 49
(calling)
Tito! Koa! Ready for your Nature
Walk?

Koa and Tito look at each other and smile. Then run to the
kids (leaving behind their gardening shovel).

7. EXT. NATURE WALK (BEEHIVE) -- DAY

Sally Beaver gets to the Beehive.

50 SALLY 50
(singing to herself)
Sticks, sticks, sticks, sticks...
(she stops when she sees)
Oh! Bees! Awesome! Look at that
hive, it's just dripping with
honey.

She nabs a drip of honey on her paw and puts it in her mouth,
then she admires the bees for a beat.

51 SALLY (CONT'D) 51
Mmmm, I wonder where I should go
next.

She notices the sign.

52 SALLY (CONT'D) 52
Oh, right, follow the arrow.

She starts going in that direction when she sees something on the ground.

53 SALLY (CONT'D) 53
 <GASP!> A stick!

She bends down to pick it up but as she does she gently knocks into the arrow sign. She doesn't notice it wobbling as she walks off happily with her stick. Then it falls over.

A beat, then Koa and Tito arrive.

54 KOA 54
Whoa! A beehive!

They each grab a drip of honey with their fingers. <SFX:
Mmmmm WALLA>

55 KOA (CONT'D) 55
Now which way?

56 TITO 56
They said to follow the arrows.

57 KOA 57
Oh, there's one.

They pick it up. It points the wrong direction. They look at each other, shrug, then follow the sign into the forest.

8. EXT. NATURE WALK (BIRD'S NEST) - DAY

We see the sign, waiting, with the Momma bird perched on it. As we hear Sally approach the bird takes off and the sign falls over just before she appears.

58 SALLY (O.C.) 58
(singing to herself)
Sticks, sticks, sticks, sticks.
(arriving)
Hey! A Bird's nest.
(the baby bird pokes out)
And a BABY! How sweet!
(observes for a moment,
satisfied)
This is a great nature walk. I
wonder which way I should go next.
Where is that arrow?

She looks around then notices the arrow on the ground.

59	SALLY (CONT'D)	59
	Oh, there it is, it must have fallen over.	

She picks it up and it's pointing the wrong way.

60	SALLY (CONT'D)	60
	Must be this way. Hope there's some sticks.	
	(singing to herself)	
	Sticks, sticks, sticks, sticks.	

She walks off into the forest.

9. EXT. NATURE WALK (ENTRANCE)- DAY

Ari is ushering the Goat Twins in.

61	ARI	61
	Right this way, enjoy your Nature Walk!	

62	ELINOR	62
	Wow, our Nature Walk is sure popular. Lots of people are going in - Sally and Koa and Tito and Lizzie and Mary.	

63	OLIVE	63
	Yeah, I can't wait to hear what they think of it - some of them must be finished by now.	

ANGLE ON: The end of the walk, at the other side of the playground. A beat.

64	ELINOR	64
	Huh. No one is coming out.	

65	ARI	65
	I guess they're taking their time.	

10. EXT. FOREST - DAY

WIDE SHOT REVEALS: Sally, Koa, Tito, Mary and Lizzie are wandering around in the forest. ANGLE ON: Sally bumps into Koa and Tito.

66 SALLY 66
Koa! Tito! Do you know which way
we're supposed to go next?

67 KOA 67
Uh, nope. They told us to follow
the arrow signs, but I don't see
any.

68 SALLY 68
Me neither.

Suddenly the Goat Twins arrive.

69 MARY AND LIZZIE 69
Us neither.

70 TITO 70
Uh-oh, are we lost?

11. EXT. NATURE WALK (ENTRANCE) -- DAY

The kids are waiting for their friends.

71 OLIVE 71
I wonder where everybody is?

72 ELINOR 72
Hmm, we need more observations!

As they go to leave, Ari accidentally knocks the first sign
over again.

73 ARI 73
Man, these signs sure are tippy.

Elinor watches, interested, as he corrects it. <SFX: Hmmm>.

12. EXT. BEEHIVE -- DAY

The kids arrive.

74 OLIVE 74
Nobody here.

75 ELINOR 75
Uh-oh, look at our sign.

76 OLIVE 76
It's pointing this way when it
should be that way.

She demo's by adjusting the sign.

77	ARI	77
	How did that happen?	

At this moment the sign falls over. Olive picks it up and now it's pointing the wrong way again.

78	ELINOR	78
	I think I have an idea what's going on. Follow me.	

Elinor hops into the forest in the direction the sign is pointing, Ari and Olive shrug and follow.

13. EXT. FOREST - DAY

They come upon Tito, Koa, Sally, Mary and Lizzie.

79	TITO	79
	We're found, YAY!	

80	ARI	80
	How did you all get out here?	

81	SALLY	81
	We followed the signs.	

82	TITO	82
	Or we tried to, but when we got to the bee hive the sign was tipped over, so we picked it up.	

A THOUGHT BUBBLE: appears showing what Tito is describing.

83	KOA	83
	And then we followed it.	

84	MARY AND LIZZIE	84
	We followed it too.	

Mary and Lizzie appear in the thought bubble.

85	SALLY	85
	And when I got to the bird's nest the sign was tipped over.	

ANOTHER THOUGHT BUBBLE: Shows what Sally is describing.

86	ELINOR	86
	So you picked it up and followed it, right.	

87	SALLY	87
	Right.	
88	ELINOR	88
	I think I know what's been happening. The signs keep falling over and then when they get picked up they point the wrong way.	
89	SALLY	89
	You could be right, Elinor. But now that we know how we got here, how do we get back?	
90	ARI	90
	There aren't any signs out here to follow.	
The kids all think for a beat then Olive notices something in the near distance.		
91	OLIVE	91
	I know which way to go! Come on!	
14. EXT. WILLOW TREE - DAY		
The kids emerge from the forest at...		
92	ELINOR	92
	The Willow Tree!	
93	OLIVE	93
	I knew it would be here, it never moves.	
94	ARI	94
	And our last sign.	
ANGLE ON: The final arrow sign.		
95	ELINOR	95
	This one is still standing up and pointing the right way.	
96	ARI	96
	But how are we going to keep it that way. Hmmm.	
As the kids ponder, Ari absently leans on the sign as he thinks. It tips over and he does one of his flips.		
97	ARI (CONT'D)	97
	I meant to do that.	

He leans on the tree, casually - trying to look cool.

98 ELINOR 98
Wait a minute Ari, I think you're
onto something. Look at the tree.
It doesn't fall over when you lean
on it, like the sign did.

99 ARI 99
Huh, you're right.

Ari pushes on it.

100 ARI (CONT'D) 100
It won't budge.

The other kids join him - they push and push, but the tree doesn't fall, it keeps standing straight and tall.

101 SALLY 101
How does it stand so straight and
strong?

102 TITO 102
It's like it's stuck to the ground.

103 ELINOR 103
 (the penny drops)
 Stuck to the ground...that's it!
 The tree IS stuck to the ground -
 by it's roots.

Elinor points to the big root she fell over in Scene. 5. The kids all gather and observe. Ari gives the root a little kick.

104 ARI 104

These roots really are stuck, they
must be buried deep in the ground.

105	OLIVE	105
	Yep, a big tree like this has big roots that go waaay down. I saw a picture in my Nature Book.	

She takes out her Nature Book from her satchel and the kids gather around. ANGLE ON: A cross section picture of a big tree with the roots revealed. SFX: COOL, AWESOME WALLA>

106 ELINOR 106

You know what? This picture gives
me an idea. What if we bury the
bottoms of the signs.

107	OLIVE	107
	Just like the roots!	
108	ARI	108
	That should work, but how can we dig?	
109	KOA	109
	I know!	

Koa runs off only to immediately return with the shovel he was using in the veggie garden.

110	ELINOR	110
	Perfect, thank you Koa.	

15. SIGN BURYING MONTAGE:

The kids sing as they bury signs, first at the entrance.

111	ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI	111
	ELINOR: Trees have roots, That hold them steady, Through wind and rain, They're always ready.	

Then the beehive.

OLIVE: Our signs need to stay up,
So our friends can get around,
So we'll bury the bottom,
Like a root in the ground.

Then the bird's nest.

ARI: When our signs are strong and
straight,
We'll all know where to go,
Our Nature Walk will be great
And everyone will know.

Then the Willow Tree.

ALL: With roots, roots, roots,
Trees and signs stay up strong.
With roots, roots, roots
You can't go wrong.

Then they march back to the beginning.

16. EXT. NATURE WALK - DAY

Mz. Mole and the class are gathered around our trio.

112	ARI	112
	Step right up and enjoy our Nature	
	Walk, with our new, improved SIGNS	
	that won't fall over.	

Ari gestures, Mz. Mole and the class follow the first sign. Ari, Olive and Elinor follow along.

BEEHIVE - with solid sign. Ari gestures, the class admires.

113 ARI (CONT'D) 113
Here's the beehive,

<SFX: 000H WALLA> then they follow the sign to...

BIRD'S NEST - solid sign, Elinor gestures, the class admires.

114 ELINOR 114
Here's the bird's nest, with a baby
bird.

At this moment the Momma bird appears and feeds the baby a nice vegetarian snack. <SFX: AWWW WALLA>

WILLOW TREE - Olive gestures.

115 OLIVE 115

And HERE is the last part of our
Nature Walk - The WILLOW TREE!

<SFX: WO000WW>. The kids take a moment to admire the beauty, then <SFX: CHEERING!!> They all rush to it and start climbing it at once (under Mz. Mole's supervision). Ari, Olive and Elinor watch proudly.

116 ELINOR 116
Good thing this tree has really
strong roots!

They share a smile, then run off to join their friends.

IRIS OUT

THE END.