

# **ELINOR WONDERS WHY**

EP 162 Olive's Library

By: Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: How can we organize all of Olives' books?

Logline: The kids take inspiration from ants and make a little lending library.

Curriculum Goals

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.

SEP1b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena.  
(Elinor and her friends ask more complex questions about ants)

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FIRST DRAFT: February. 10, 2020

SECOND DRAFT: March 02, 2020

1. EXT. OLIVE'S YARD - DAY

It's OLIVE'S birthday, and she's celebrating with a party outside at her house with her mom (MS. ELEPHANT) and some of her friends, including ELINOR, ARI, SALLY, and TITO. We open as the kids and mom are finishing <SFX: SINGING HAPPY BIRTHDAY>. We pan over some of the characters as they sing.

1 ALL 1  
...Haaaappy Biiirthday to Youuuuuu!

We stop on Olive, who is wearing a birthday crown and looking excited, sitting in front of a beautifully decorated but clearly home-made cake. Nearby there is a stack of presents (not too many). As the song ends, we hear everyone <SFX: WALLA, CHEER, YAY, CLAPPING> and Olive gets a few hugs.

ELINOR  
Happy Birthday, Olive!

5 OLIVE (SHEEPISH, A BIT SHY) 5  
Aww, thanks everyone.

6 MS. ELEPHANT 6  
Make a wish and blow out your candles, dear.

She smiles, thinks for a second and then uses her trunk to blow out the candles on the cake <SFX: BLOW/TRUMPET>. Everyone cheers <SFX: WALLA, CHEER, YAY, CLAPPING> and her mom blows her <SFX: TRUNK-TRUMPET>, too.

7 ELINOR 7  
What did you wish for, Olive?

8 OLIVE 8  
I wished for the whole world to feel happy... and that I could open my presents right now! Can I open them, Mom?

They all look at MS. ELEPHANT.

9 MS. ELEPHANT 9  
Well, I suppose that would be alright. We can cut the cake afterwards. Go ahead, sweetie.

The kids <SFX: CHEER>. Ari looks to the kid next to him.

10 ARI 10  
Oooh, ohh, I hope she opens my present first. She's going to love it!

Elinor takes the top present from the pile and hands it to Olive.

11 OLIVE 11 \*  
This one is from... Tito.

Tito beams. Ari looks a bit impatient/disappointed. Olive opens Tito's present.

12 OLIVE (CONT'D) 12 \*  
It's a book!

13 TITO 13 \*  
It's all about insects that start  
with the letter M. \*

14 OLIVE 14 \*  
(flipping through it)  
Moths, mites, millipedes. That's  
MMMMMMarvelous. Thank you, Tito!

Tito smiles. Back on Ari, still excited. \*

15 ARI 15 \*  
Ooh, I hope she opens mine next.

Elinor hands Olive the next present. \*

16 OLIVE 16 \*  
This one is from... Elinor.

Elinor smiles. Ari slumps his shoulders. Olive opens Elinor's present. \*

17 OLIVE (CONT'D) 17 \*  
It's another book!

18 ELINOR 18 \*  
It's about birds from all around  
the world.

19 OLIVE 19 \*  
Thank you! Ostriches and penguins  
and robins. And look at this!

The book unfolds into a pop-up book with a bird that flaps  
its wings when you open/close the book. <SFX: 0000000000H>. \*

Ari sneaks over to the present pile and pulls his out of the  
stack and hands it to Olive.

21 ARI (NONCHALANTLY) 21 \*  
I think this one is next. I wonder  
who it's from?

|                                  |                                                               |    |   |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----|---|
| 22                               | OLIVE                                                         | 22 |   |
|                                  | Oh, it's from you, Ari!                                       |    |   |
| 23                               | ARI                                                           | 23 | * |
|                                  | I know! Open it!                                              |    |   |
|                                  | She opens it.                                                 |    |   |
| 24                               | OLIVE                                                         | 24 | * |
|                                  | It's also a book!                                             |    |   |
| 25                               | ARI                                                           | 25 | * |
|                                  | Not just <i>any</i> book. It's a book                         |    | * |
|                                  | ABOUT books!                                                  |    |   |
| 26                               | OLIVE                                                         | 26 |   |
|                                  | Oh, it shows you all the different                            |    | * |
|                                  | kinds of books there are: history                             |    | * |
|                                  | books, nature books, coloring                                 |    | * |
|                                  | books. Amazing. Thank you, Ari!                               |    |   |
|                                  | Ari looks very proud.                                         |    |   |
|                                  | CROSSFADE TO: we see the pile of books has grown to five. Ms. |    | * |
|                                  | Elephant returns with plates for everyone.                    |    | * |
| 27                               | MS. ELEPHANT                                                  | 27 | * |
|                                  | Olive, you got more books. How                                |    | * |
|                                  | wonderful! Why don't you take them                            |    | * |
|                                  | up to your room while I set up for                            |    |   |
|                                  | cake?                                                         |    |   |
|                                  | The kids offer to help. <SFX: WALLA WE'LL HELP/I'LL COME>     |    | * |
|                                  | They each grab a book and head into the house.                |    | * |
| <br><b>2. INT HALLWAY -- DAY</b> |                                                               |    |   |
|                                  | Elinor, Olive, Ari, Tito and Sally are making their way to    |    | * |
|                                  | Olive's room.                                                 |    | * |
| 28                               | ELINOR                                                        | 28 | * |
|                                  | You sure got a lot of books today,                            |    |   |
|                                  | Olive.                                                        |    |   |
| 29                               | OLIVE                                                         | 29 | * |
|                                  | Yeah, I have the best friends.                                |    | * |
|                                  | Everyone knows how much I love                                |    | * |
|                                  | books!                                                        |    | * |
| 30                               | ARI                                                           | 30 | * |
|                                  | Where are you going to put them                               |    | * |
|                                  | all?                                                          |    | * |



40 OLIVE 40 \*

Yeah, that's a great book too,  
Tito.

She runs a bit with Tito, <SFX: GIGGLING>, but then she \*  
knocks down a small pile of books <SFX: WHOOPS>. They reach \*  
down to stack them back up. \*

41 ELINOR 41 \*

Uh, Olive... pretty soon you won't  
have much room left in your... \*  
room. \*

42 ARI 42 \*

A room without room! Hah! Get it?  
(off everyone's look) \*  
But seriously, Olive. What are you  
going to do with all these books? \*

43 OLIVE 43 \*

Keep them, of course! I like to  
keep them because I love books. \*

Ari and Elinor look at each other with slight concern. At \*  
that moment, Olive's mom calls out to them. \*

44 MS. ELEPHANT(O.S.) 44 \*

Yoo hoo, kids, it's time for cake! \*

Ari's stomach grumbles and the kids <SFX: CHEER>. \*

Tito and Sally set down the books they were holding and they \*  
all run out the door. As they leave, the camera lingers on a  
teetering stack of books near the door.

**4. EXT. OLIVE'S YARD - DAY** \*

A cross-fade later, we open on a top view of Olive's cake \*  
(some already served) as Ms. Elephant passes out the slices. \*  
The kids are all sitting around the table.

46 OLIVE 46

Yay, banana birthday cake, my  
favorite!

47 ARI 47 \*

(munching)  
It's SO GOOD. I wish we could have  
birthday cake every day.

48 OLIVE 48 \*

You only get one birthday a year,  
silly. \*

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |    |        |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------|
| 49 | ARI                                                                                                                                                                                                | 49 | *      |
|    | Sure, but every day is SOMEONE's birthday.                                                                                                                                                         |    |        |
|    | They all <SFX: GIGGLE>. Then something catches Elinor's attention.                                                                                                                                 |    | *      |
| 50 | ELINOR                                                                                                                                                                                             | 50 |        |
|    | Ooh, look at that ant.                                                                                                                                                                             |    |        |
|    | She sees a small ant carrying a tiny (but big for the ant) seed off the table.                                                                                                                     |    | *<br>* |
| 51 | ELINOR (CONT'D)                                                                                                                                                                                    | 51 | *      |
|    | I wonder where it's taking that seed?                                                                                                                                                              |    |        |
|    | Curious, she follows it down the table leg and onto the grass. Soon, she sees it join a trail of other ants carrying and pulling little seeds.                                                     |    |        |
| 52 | ELINOR (CONT'D)                                                                                                                                                                                    | 52 | *      |
|    | Wow, it's a whole bunch of ants!                                                                                                                                                                   |    |        |
|    | Other kids notice that Elinor is interested in something.                                                                                                                                          |    |        |
| 53 | OLIVE                                                                                                                                                                                              | 53 |        |
|    | What are you looking at, Elinor?                                                                                                                                                                   |    |        |
| 54 | ELINOR                                                                                                                                                                                             | 54 | *<br>* |
|    | All these ants. They're carrying seeds somewhere.                                                                                                                                                  |    |        |
| 55 | ARI                                                                                                                                                                                                | 55 |        |
|    | Where are they going?                                                                                                                                                                              |    |        |
| 56 | ELINOR                                                                                                                                                                                             | 56 | *<br>* |
|    | Let's find out. We need MORE OBSERVATIONS!                                                                                                                                                         |    |        |
|    | Musical moment as the kids follow the trail of ants, like a trail of ants themselves: across the yard, and over a rock and a log. Soon, they arrive at the ant hill near the edge of Olive's yard. |    | *      |
| 57 | ELINOR (CONT'D)                                                                                                                                                                                    | 57 | *      |
|    | It looks like they're all going in there.                                                                                                                                                          |    |        |
| 58 | OLIVE                                                                                                                                                                                              | 58 | *<br>* |
|    | That's where the ants live. It's called an ant hill.                                                                                                                                               |    |        |



67 SALLY 67 \*

How nice. That way everyone gets \*

something to eat.

68 ELINOR 68 \*

Wow, that is SO INTERESTING.

69 SALLY 69 \*

I wish I knew as much about ants as \*

you do, Olive.

70 TITO 70

Me too. That ant book sounds really

fun to read.

71 OLIVE 71 \*

It's a great book. You know what? \*

I'll go get it from my room and

show it to you. Wait here!

Olive leaves the group as she crosses the yard to go back \*

into the house.

#### 5. INT. OLIVE'S ROOM - DAY

Back in her room, Olive looks for her ant book among the big \*

mess of books. \*

72 OLIVE 72 \*

Hmmm, that's not it. That's not it. \*

Where is it? \*

After a beat, she finds it. \*

73 OLIVE (CONT'D) 73

Aha! Here it is!

She finds the book near the bottom of a large stack. She tugs \*

on it, and the tower of books teeters slightly.

74 OLIVE (CONT'D) 74 \*

(grunting slightly) \*

Come out, little book.

Olive tries to carefully pull on it, but it seems to be \*

stuck. Finally, she gives it a yank and pulls it out.

75 OLIVE (CONT'D) 75

Uh oh!

The stack of books teeters. Olive backs up, and oops, trips \*

on some other books and falls into a stack of books as the

other stack teeters and...

**6. EXT. OLIVE'S BACK YARD -- DAY**

Outside, we hear a distant <SFX: THUMP>, as the kids are waiting near the ant hill. Most of the kids are still admiring the ants, but Elinor takes notice.

\*

76 ELINOR 76  
Hmm, Olive is taking a long time.

77 ARI 77  
Wasn't she just getting that book?

78 SALLY 78  
She should be back by now.

They look at each other, remembering her messy stacks of books.

\*

79 ELINOR 79  
Maybe we should go check on her.

**7. INT. OLIVE'S ROOM - DAY**

A cross-fade later, Elinor and Ari approach the room. The entrance is slightly blocked by toppled stacks of books. As they make their way in, they call out:

\*

\*

80 ARI 80  
Olive? Are you in here?

\*

\*

She's splayed out on top of some more toppled books, still holding the book she pulled out.

\*

\*

82 OLIVE 82  
I'm here! Could I get a little help?

\*

\*

Elinor and Ari help her up.

83 ELINOR 83  
What happened?

\*

84 OLIVE 84  
I was trying to get the ant book from under some other books, but then I fell into this pile of books.

\*

\*

\*

\*

85 ARI 85  
No wonder. It's a book-o-rama in here!

\*

Tito and Sally come in.

\*

86 TITO  
Are you ok, Olive?

86 \*  
\*

87 OLIVE  
Yeah, I think there might be a few  
too many books in here.

87

88 ELINOR  
You do have a lot of books for one  
kid.

88 \*  
\*  
\*

OLIVE  
But what can I do?

\*  
\*

They all scratch their heads for a beat. Olive looks at the  
book she's been holding all this time. It's the ant book. She  
looks at the cover drawing of the ants sharing a seed, and  
has an epiphany.

\*  
\*

90 OLIVE (CONT'D)  
I know. Maybe I should be like the  
ants!

90 \*  
\*

91 ELINOR  
What do you mean?

91

92 OLIVE  
Remember how I told you that ants  
share their food?

92 \*  
\*

94 ARI  
(smacks his lips)  
You want to share food with us?

94 \*  
\*  
\*

95 OLIVE  
No, I should share my books!

95

Olive goes over to Sally and hands her the woodworking book  
near her.

96 OLIVE (CONT'D)  
Sally, did you say you wanted read  
this book?

96

97 SALLY  
Yeah.

97

98 OLIVE  
I'll share it with you. Please,  
take it home.

98

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                        |     |   |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---|
| 99  | SALLY                                                                                                                                                                                  | 99  |   |
|     | Oh, thank you!                                                                                                                                                                         |     |   |
| 100 | OLIVE                                                                                                                                                                                  | 100 | * |
|     | Tito, here is the running book you wanted to read.                                                                                                                                     |     |   |
| 101 | TITO                                                                                                                                                                                   | 101 |   |
|     | Wow, really?                                                                                                                                                                           |     |   |
| 102 | OLIVE                                                                                                                                                                                  | 102 |   |
|     | You can borrow it as long as you like. And when you're done, you can share it with other kids too.                                                                                     |     | * |
| 103 | TITO                                                                                                                                                                                   | 103 |   |
|     | Thanks, I will!                                                                                                                                                                        |     |   |
| 104 | ELINOR                                                                                                                                                                                 | 104 |   |
|     | Are you sure you want to share ALL your books, Olive?                                                                                                                                  |     | * |
| 105 | OLIVE                                                                                                                                                                                  | 105 | * |
|     | Well, I have my extra special books in this bookcase. I want to keep those here. And, I want to keep all the books I got as presents today. But the rest are books I'm happy to share. |     | * |
|     |                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | * |
|     | Ari looks around at all the books.                                                                                                                                                     |     |   |
| 106 | ARI                                                                                                                                                                                    | 106 | * |
|     | How are you going to share ALL these books? There are too many to carry around town.                                                                                                   |     | * |
|     |                                                                                                                                                                                        |     | * |
| 107 | TITO                                                                                                                                                                                   | 107 | * |
|     | You could put them all in your living room.                                                                                                                                            |     | * |
| 108 | ELINOR                                                                                                                                                                                 | 108 |   |
|     | Or maybe outside, so everyone can get to them.                                                                                                                                         |     | * |
| 109 | ARI                                                                                                                                                                                    | 109 | * |
|     | But what if it rains?                                                                                                                                                                  |     | * |
|     | Just then, Sally looks up from her book.                                                                                                                                               |     | * |
| 110 | SALLY                                                                                                                                                                                  | 110 |   |
|     | I have an idea. You know how ants have a special place where they put all the food they share?                                                                                         |     | * |

We see a thought bubble of the ant food chamber from before. \*

111 SALLY (CONT'D) 111  
 Maybe we can make a special place  
 for the books you want to share,  
 just like the ants do? \*

She opens the woodworking book to a page that shows a mini-library project (a small standing cabinet, like the kind you see outside schools or homes). The kids look excitedly at the book.

112 ELINOR 112  
 That's a great idea! We can put it  
 outside, and that way everyone can  
 come borrow a book. \*

113 ARI 113  
 Cool! And they will stay dry.

114 OLIVE 114  
 A mini-library! Let's do it!

We launch into a ditty with the kids dancing and sharing books and building the mini-library together outside (Sally Beaver, with her awesome beaver teeth, cuts the pieces in no time, while Ms. Elephant helps them assemble). \*

115 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 115  
 Here a book, there a book  
 Look, look, share a book! \*  
 It's fun to share \*  
 'Cause it shows you care! \*  
  
 Want to learn  
 about silly hats? \*  
 Well, Olive's got (Ari only) \*  
 A book about that! (Ari only) \*  
  
 Want to know  
 Why cows say moo? \*  
 Well, Olive's got (Elinor only) \*  
 Just the book for you! (Elinor only) \*  
  
 Take a book, give a book  
 Look, look, share a book! \*  
 It's fun to share \*  
 'Cause it shows you care! \*

## 8. EXT. FRONT OF OLIVE'S HOUSE

After the song, we see that the mini-library is finished, and Olive is finishing putting in some books. \*



IRIS OUT

**THE END**

\*