

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW163 More Than One Way

by Kate Barris

Elinor's Question: Are all spider webs the same?

Logline: Elinor, Olive and Ari want to make spiderwebs to decorate the classroom for Halloween, and they all think they know what a spider web looks like. But which one right?

Curriculum Goals:

LS8. Observe and describe similarities and differences across different types of plants and animals. (Elinor And her friends observe the different patterns of spiders' webs).

SEP2. Developing and using models

a. Represent observable, concrete objects, events, and findings in many different ways. (Elinor and her friends make models of different spider's webs).

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mz. Mole

Incidental Characters: Other kids in the classroom

Backgrounds: Schoolyard, trees, shrubs

Props: Witch's hat, yarn glue, three different spiders, spider webs, ghostly sheet, a mask for Koa, other Halloween decorations.

FIRST DRAFT January 27, 2020

SECOND DRAFT February 18, 2020

It's a BEAUTIFUL, SLIGHTLY OVERCAST FALL DAY.

OPEN ON: An ORANGE leaf, wiggling on a branch as a breeze blows by. Then, the leaf detaches and we follow it as it FLUTTERS downward, drifting this way and that.

Below, we see Elinor, hopping down her front step as Ari and Olive arrive. The kids are <SFX: GIGGLING>

1 ELINOR 1
Are you scared?

2 OLIVE 2
Why should we be scared?

Elinor wiggles her fingers and tries to look "spooky".

3 ELINOR 3
'Cause it's almost Halloween.
(using scary voice) That's when
spooky things appear out of
nowhere. *

4 ARI 4

That doesn't scare me. Nothing
scares me.

*

Just then THE LEAF lands right on Ari's head! <SFX: STARTLED SHOUT> Ari leaps into the air and ends up hanging from a tree. The leaf falls off Ari, and Elinor and Olive <SFX: GIGGLES> as it drifts down into Elinor's hand. She shows it to Ari, who is still clutching the branch.

5 ELINOR 5
It was just a leaf, Ari.

Ari lets go and drops to the ground, trying to regain composure.

6 ARI 6

I knew that. I was just kidding. *

So... what were we talking about? *

They continue walking.

7 OLIVE 7
Halloween. I love it. *

8 Me too. ARI 8

Elinor stops and turns to the other two.

9	ELINOR	9	
	And you know what the best part of Halloween is, right?		
	Ari and Olive <SFX: AGREEMENT WALLA>.		
10	ELINOR (CONT'D)	10	
	(confidently) The cool decorations.		
	Ari and Olive look at each other, confused. <SFX: WALLA: HUH?>		* *
11	OLIVE	11	* *
	Decorations aren't the best part.		
	Ari nods his head in agreement with Olive. <SFX: AGREEMENT WALLA>.		* *
12	OLIVE (CONT'D)	12	*
	It's the costumes.		
	Ari nods his head. Then stops and looks at Olive, surprised.		
13	ARI	13	
	Right... Wait. What?		
	Ari looks at Olive, then Elinor like they've got two heads.		
14	ARI (CONT'D)	14	
	It's not the costumes or the decorations. The best part of Halloween is alllll the yummy candy!		* * *
15	ELINOR	15	
	Okay, the candy is good, but it wouldn't be Halloween be without all those cool, scary decorations - like jack-o-lanterns and ghosts.		* * *
16	OLIVE	16	
	But what about making a costume and going around the neighbourhood dressed like something fun?		*
17	ARI	17	
	I'm sorry. Costumes are fun and scary decorations are nice, but Halloween is all about the candy. Am I right?		*
18	OLIVE	18	
	How can we all have such different ways of thinking about Halloween?		* *

19	ARI	19	
	I don't know.		*
20	ELINOR	20	
	Well I do know we'll be late for		*
	school if we don't hurry. Come on.		*
	I can't wait to see what Mz. Mole's		
	doing for Halloween.		

<SFX: EXCITED WALLA> as they race off.

2. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - MOMENTS LATER

The kids race into the schoolyard.

21	ELINOR	21	
	I hope there are lots of scary		*
	decorations.		*
22	ARI	22	
	Well, I'm not scared of anything.		*

Suddenly Olive has a surprised look on her face as she looks toward the school.

23 OLIVE 23
What's that?

They look at the window and see a silhouette of a witch!

[illegible]

He leaps behind Olive and peeks out from behind as they all stare at the window.

Then, MZ. MOLE opens the curtain and they see that she's wearing a WITCH'S HAT. She smiles and waves at the kids.

25 ELINOR 25
(giggle) It's just Mz. Mole. She
loves Halloween too.

Ari comes out from behind Olive, trying to look cool.

[illegible]

Elinor and Olive <SFX: WALLA "Yeah Right" "Uh huh">. *

3. INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Elinor, Olive and Ari run into the classroom. Other kids are already there, working on their own projects, and there are already a few DECORATIONS up. Ari sees KOA with his back to him. He taps Koa on the shoulder and he turns, wearing a FUNNY-SCARY MASK. Ari jumps back, startled, <SFX: STARTLED WALLA> and Koa peeks out from behind the mask, with a big smile. Mz. Mole, who is still wearing her witch's hat greets them. <SFX: GREETINGS>

27 MZ. MOLE 27
Good Morning Ghouls and Goblins.
Welcome to Halloween Headquarters.
We're making decorations for the
classroom. Want to help?

<SFX: AGREEMENT WALLA>.

28 ELINOR 28
Halloween decorations are my
favourite thing.

29 MZ. MOLE 29
Well, it's one of the things that
make Halloween fun - along with
costumes and candy, of course.

Elinor, Olive and Ari look at each other in surprise.

30 OLIVE 30
Ha. We **can** all have different ways
of thinking about Halloween.

Mz. Mole peers into the cubbies. Then she spots something.

31 MZ. MOLE 31
Let's see what we've got. Ah! Would
you like to make spiderweb
decorations?

Elinor, Olive and Ari respond with enthusiastic <SFX: WALLA>
as Mz. Mole pulls out some supplies - BALLS OF YARN AND GLUE.

32 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 32
Here are some supplies. Do you all
know what a spiderweb looks like?

The kids dive into the supplies, pulling out yarn. <SFX:
EXCITED WALLA: SURE. YUP. I DO.>

33 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 33 *
 Okay, let's see what you come up
 with.

Elinor and Olive start working on their webs. We see Elinor
 laying down outward-pointing pieces of BLACK YARN and then *
 gluing longer pieces of yarn around in kind of a circle.

34 ELINOR 34
 I'm using black yarn for my spider
 web. That'll make it scarier
 looking.

We see Olive laying down four pieces of GOLD YARN joined at *
 one end and then laying pieces of yarn across them to make a
 triangular shape.

35 OLIVE 35
 I'm using gold, so it looks like
 it's in the sun.

Ari has his back turned to them. We see his arms flying as he
 works on his web, but we can't see what he's doing.

36 ELINOR 36
 What colour is your spider web
 going to be, Ari?

Ari still has his back to them, but he's not working on his
 web anymore.

37 ARI 37
 Not "going to be." I'm done.

Elinor and Olive look surprised. Ari turns around to show a *
 big messy tangle of yarn, which looks like a TANGLE WEB.

38 ARI (CONT'D) 38
 Ta da! A spiderweb.

Elinor and Olive look at each other, puzzled.

39 ELINOR 39
 Mmm, I don't think a spiderweb
 looks like that.

40 ARI 40
 It doesn't? What's it look like
 then?

Elinor turns to her project and holds up her version, which
 is not quite finished but we can see the shape - it's a
 TRADITIONAL ORB WEB.

41	ELINOR	41	
	Like this. Kind of. I think.		
	Ari looks puzzled and Olive looks surprised.		
42	OLIVE	42	
	Mmmm. I think a spiderweb looks like this.		
	She holds up her version, which has strands of yarn attached in a triangle shape, like a TRIANGLE WEB.		
	The three of them look confused. Mz. Mole comes over.		*
43	MZ. MOLE	43	
	How are my spiderweb builders doing?		
44	ELINOR	44	
	Not so well, Mz. Mole. Can you tell us which one looks like a real spiderweb?		
	As the kids show her their webs, Mz. Mole pauses to think.		
45	MZ. MOLE	45	
	You've each made a good model of a spiderweb.		* *
46	ELINOR	46	
	That's a copy you make of the real thing, right?		* * *
47	MZ. MOLE	47	
	Exactly. But ... I'm trying to remember what a REAL spiderweb looks like.		* *
	The kids react with realization.		
48	OLIVE	48	
	I haven't seen a real spiderweb for a while.		*
49	ARI	49	
	It's been like forever for me.		*
	Elinor leads the way outside.		
50	ELINOR	50	
	I know. Let's go outside and look for real spiderwebs.		* *

51 OLIVE 51
 Good idea Elinor. Then we'll know
 how to make one that looks like the
 real thing. *

They look to Mz. Mole who nods in approval. <SFX: EXCITED
 WALLA> as they head out. Mz. Mole watches and <SFX:
 CHUCKLES>. *

4. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Outside the kids are hunting around looking for a web. Elinor
 looks around a tree. Olive peers into some shrubs. Ari is
 investigating the other side of the shrubs.

52 ELINOR 52
 Have you found one yet? *

53 ARI 53
 Nothing here.

Suddenly, Olive pops up just on the other side of the shrub,
 startling Ari.

54 OLIVE 54
 Nothing here either.

Ari does a back flip.

55 ARI 55
 Aaah!

He immediately leaps to his feet.

56 ARI (CONT'D) 56
 I wasn't scared.

Olive <SFX: GIGGLE> as Elinor joins the two of them.

57 ELINOR 57
 Where do you look to find a
 spiderweb?

Olive gets an idea.

58 OLIVE 58
 Since spiders make webs, maybe if
 we find a spider, it'll lead us to
 its web.

59 ARI 59
 Great idea, Olive.

60 ELINOR 60
First we find the spider, then we
find the web. Let's go.

SERIES OF SHOTS: Elinor, Olive and Ari look for spiders in
various spots around the schoolyard.

End with shot of Elinor standing underneath a branch. Ari and
Olive come and join her.

61 ELINOR (CONT'D) 61
No spiders. Maybe we're looking in
the wrong place.

ON: Olive, whose face lights up.

62 OLIVE 62
You're right Elinor. You should
look up.

Elinor's eyes go up and there's a spider walking upside down
on the branch above her. She breaks out in a big smile.

63 ELINOR 63
(gasp) A spider.

Ari comes over to get a closer look. *

64 ARI 64
Okay, we've found a spider, but
where's its web?

65 OLIVE 65
Let's watch where it goes.

They watch for a second, and then <SFX: WHOOSH!> The spider
drops through the frame. We see their surprised faces.

66 ELINOR 66 *
Oh no. It fell. *

67 ARI 67
I hope it didn't hurt itself. I
know what it feels like when I
forget to flap my wings and fall on
the ground.

But then Elinor crouches down and looks amazed as she sees
the spider suspended by a thin silky strand.

68 ELINOR 68
But it didn't fall on the ground.
Look.

Ari and Olive drop down to see.

69 ELINOR (CONT'D) 69
It's hanging from a really thin
kind of thread.

70 ARI 70
Where'd that come from?

The spider starts weaving its web.

71 OLIVE 71
Oh. I remember. My mom told me that
spiders make their own threads. *

Elinor points to the spider which is quickly creating a web. *
They follow its movements, with great curiosity.

72 ELINOR 72
Look how it climbs up the thread
and then starts another strand. *
That's so cool.

73 ARI 73
Yeah. But it looks like it's going
to take a long time to make a web. *
We could be here for hours! *

Olive looks at the spider climbing up a strand and nods. *

74 OLIVE 74
You're right Ari. Maybe we should
look for one that's already made. *

Ari nods, and they start to head off, but Elinor stays put. *

75 ELINOR 75
You go ahead. I'm going to stay and
watch this spider spin its web. *
It's SO interesting! *

76 OLIVE 76
We'll let you know if we find one. *

Olive and Ari split up, looking in different place for a
spiderweb. *

ANGLE ON: Olive is searching through some bushes *

77 OLIVE (CONT'D) 77
Okay spiders. Come out, come out
wherever you are. *

Suddenly she sees a SPIDER skittering along a leaf. It's a
DIFFERENT LOOKING SPIDER from the one they saw earlier. *

78 OLIVE (CONT'D) 78 *
There's one. Hello little spider. *
Oh. You look different from the *
spider we saw before. Now if you *
could just lead me to your web. *

She keeps following it, as... *

ANGLE ON: Ari is searching through a thicket. He provides his
own commentary. *

79 ARI 79 *
And as Ari, the World's Greatest *
Spider Tracker creeps through the *
jungle, he sees ... *

Suddenly he spots a spider, which is A DIFFERENT KIND OF
SPIDER. *

80 ARI (CONT'D) 80 *
Cool. A spider! And where there's a *
spider, there must be a spiderweb. *

He follows the spider, as ... *

ANGLE ON: Elinor is watching her spider spin its web. It's
much more formed than it was earlier. Its lines stretch out,
starting to look like a TRIANGLE WEB. *

81 ELINOR 81 *
Wow. Look at how fast you can make *
a web. I bet it's going to look *
just like mine. *

Elinor gets a THOUGHT BUBBLE over her head, showing her and
her ORB WEB Model. She looks at the web. <SFX: WALLA: HMMM>. *

ANGLE ON: Olive, who looks a bit disappointed. *

82 OLIVE 82 *
Hmmm ... That's not what I *
expected. *

We see that she's looking at the spider, who is sitting in
the middle of a TANGLE WEB in the bushes. *

83 OLIVE (CONT'D) 83 *
So that's your spiderweb? That *
looks just like Ari's model. *

A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears above her head, showing Ari holding his tangle web model.

84 OLIVE (CONT'D) 84
I guess he was right.

ANGLE ON: Ari is backing up in the thicket, looking around ... when he suddenly feels something behind him - a spider web!

85 ARI 85
Ari the World's Greatest Spider
Tracker ... lost his spider. But
he'll find it again. Aaah!

He spins around, where he finds his spider, sitting in the middle of a big beautiful ORB WEB.

86 ARI (CONT'D) 86
Aha! I found you. Right in the
middle of ... Hmmm. That doesn't
look like my spiderweb. It looks
like the one Elinor made.

A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears above his head, showing Elinor holding up her Orb Web model.

87 ARI (CONT'D) 87
I guess she was right.

ANGLE ON: Elinor is looking perplexed as the spider finishes its web, which turns out to be a TRIANGLE WEB.

88 ELINOR 88
Well, you are a very good web
builder. But it doesn't look like
my web at all. It looks just like
Olive's web.

A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears above her head showing Olive and her TRIANGLE WEB MODEL.

89 ELINOR (CONT'D) 89
I better go tell her.

She gets up and goes to the middle of the schoolyard, where she meets up with Ari and Olive. Elinor points at Olive, Ari points at Elinor, Olive points at Ari.

90 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 90
You were right.

91	ELINOR	91	*
	Wait a second. How can we all be		*
	right? I watched my spider make a		*
	web that looked just like yours,		*
	Olive.		*
92	OLIVE	92	*
	But the web I found looked like		*
	Ari's model.		*
93	ARI	93	*
	And the web I found looked just		*
	like Elinor's.		*
	Olive gets a thought. She turns to Ari.		*
94	OLIVE	94	*
	Wait. What did your spider look		*
	like?		*
95	ARI	95	*
	It was way different from the first		*
	one we saw.		*
96	OLIVE	96	*
	Mine was different too.		*
97	ELINOR	97	*
	That's SO interesting.		*
	Olive smiles knowingly.		*
98	OLIVE	98	*
	That's just what I'm thinking.		*
99	ARI	99	*
	What? What are you two thinking		*
	that I'm not thinking?		*
100	OLIVE	100	*
	Maybe a different kind of spider		*
	makes...		*
	Suddenly Ari gets it too!		*
101	ARI	101	*
	Aha! Makes a different kind of		*
	web!		*
102	OLIVE	102	*
	So there can be different kinds of		*
	spiderwebs.		*

*
*

104

5. INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

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*

108

109

110

111

112

113	OLIVE	113	
	And they were all different.		
114	ARI	114	
	Because the spiders were all different.		*
115	MZ. MOLE	115	
	Well aren't you clever. You figured out that different kinds of spiders make different kinds of webs.		* *
116	ELINOR	116	
	So we can each make our own spiderweb just like our models. Cool! Let's get decorating.		* * *
As Elinor, Olive and Ari finish their webs (making them bigger) and hang them in different parts of the classroom: The other kids join in hanging their own decoration as the kids sing.			* * *

SONG: MORE THAN ONE WAY

117	ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI	117	
	<i>ELINOR: You do it that way And I do it this way. OLIVE: We each have our own way. ARI: And that's okay! ALL: 'Cause there's more than one way To do almost everything. And each of those ways is great, right? Yes, each of those ways is great! BOO!</i>		* * *
Reacting to a scary Halloween decoration.			*
	<i>ELINOR: Just like a spider making a web We each have our on way OLIVE: We each do our own thing. ARI: And that's okay! ALL: 'Cause there's more than one way To do almost everything. And each of those ways is great, right? Yes, each of those ways is great!</i>		* * * * * *

By the end of their song, they've finished hanging their three different webs around the class, and the other decorations are in place.

*
*

Mz. Mole looks around admiring them.

118	MZ. MOLE	118
	Your spider web decorations are wonderful! And you know what I like best about them?	

Elinor, Olive and Ari don't know but they're eager to hear her answer.

119	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	119
	They're all different. Just like you!	

<SFX: HAPPY WALLA>