ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWW163 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
POLISH DRAFT: March 13, 2020

1. EXT. NEAR ELINOR'S HOUSE - DAY

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
Hi Olive. Hi Ari. Are you scared? *

2 OLIVE 2
Why should we be scared, Elinor? *

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 jumping. *
For fun. So... what were we talking *
about?

They continue walking.

7 OLIVE 7
Halloween. I love it.

8 ARI 8
Me too.

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
The best part of Halloween isn't the costumes ***or*** the decorations. It's alllll the yummy candy! *

15 ELINOR 15
Okay, the candy is good, but it wouldn't be Halloween without all those fun decorations - like jack-o-lanterns and ghosts. *

16 OLIVE 16
But what about wearing a costume and going around the neighborhood 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 ELINOR 18 *
I wonder ... How can we all have *
such different ways of thinking
about Halloween?

19 ARI 19
I don't know.

20 OLIVE 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
It doesn't matter to me. 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!

24 ARI 24
It's a witch!! *

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.

26 ARI 26
I knew it was her. I was just trying to make sure Olive wasn't scared. You okay Olive?

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 favorite thing. *

29 MZ. MOLE 29
Well, it's one of the things that make Halloween fun - that and * costumes and candy, of course. They * all make Halloween special. *

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

30 ELINOR 30 *
Ha. We ***can*** all think differently * 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 out of yarn for the * classroom? *

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
You know, when you make something that looks like the real thing, that's called 'making a model.' *

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

34 ELINOR 34
I'm going to make the scariest looking spiderweb model. *

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

35 OLIVE 35
I'm using this yellow yarn, so it looks like my spiderweb is 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 OLIVE (CONT'D) 36 *
What color is your spiderweb 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. We each made * spiderwebs, but they're all * different. 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 all made interesting models. * But... I'm trying to remember what a REAL spiderweb looks like.

The kids react with realization.

46 OLIVE 46
I haven't seen a real spiderweb for a while.

47 ARI 47
It's been like forever for me.

Elinor agrees, then gets an idea. *

48 ELINOR 48 *
Me too. (gasp) I know, let's go * outside and look for a real * spiderweb.
(MORE)

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Then we'll know how to make our decorations look like the real thing. *

49 OLIVE 49
Good idea Elinor. *

ELINOR *
We need more observations. *

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.

50 ELINOR 50
Have you found one yet?

51 ARI 51
Nothing here.

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

52 OLIVE 52
Nothing here either.

Ari does a back flip.

53 ARI 53
Aaah!

He immediately leaps to his feet.

54 ARI (CONT'D) 54
I wasn't scared.

Olive <SFX: GIGGLE> as Elinor joins the two of them. Ari tries to act as if nothing happened. *

55 ELINOR 55 *
There have to be spiderwebs around here somewhere. *

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.

56 ELINOR (CONT'D) 56 *
I haven't seen any spiderwebs. Or spiders. Maybe we're looking in the wrong place.

ON: Olive, whose face lights up.

57 OLIVE 57
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.

58 ELINOR 58
(gasp) A spider.

Ari comes over to get a closer look.

59 ARI 59
Okay, we've found a spider, but where's its web?

60 OLIVE 60
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.

61 ELINOR 61
Oh no. It fell.

62 ARI 62 *
I hope it didn't hurt itself.

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

63 ELINOR 63 *
Huh. It didn't fall on the ground. Look.

Ari and Olive drop down to see.

64 ELINOR (CONT'D) 64
It's hanging from a really thin kind of string. *

65 ARI 65
Where'd that come from?

The spider starts weaving its web.

66 OLIVE 66
I think it's called a spider thread. And ooh, look. It's making it with its body. That's what it uses to make spiderwebs. *

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

67 ELINOR 67
You're right Olive. Look how it climbs up the thread and then starts a new one. That's so cool. *

68 ARI 68
Yeah... But it's going to take a long time to make a whole web. *

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

69 OLIVE 69
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.

70 ELINOR 70
You go ahead. I'm going to stay and watch this spider make its web. It's SO interesting! *

71 OLIVE 71
OK. 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

72 OLIVE (CONT'D) 72
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.

73 OLIVE (CONT'D) 73
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.

74 ARI 74
And as Ari, the World's Greatest
Spider Finder searches the forest, *
he sees ...

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

75 ARI (CONT'D) 75
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.

76 ELINOR 76
Wow. Look at how fast you can make
a web. I bet it's going to look
just like mine.

She looks at the web. <SFX: WALLA: HMMM>. *

ANGLE ON: Olive, who looks a bit disappointed.

77 OLIVE 77
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.

78 OLIVE (CONT'D) 78
So that's your spiderweb? It looks *
just like the one Ari made. *

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

79 OLIVE (CONT'D) 79
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!

80 ARI 80
Ari the World's Greatest Spider
Finder ... 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.

81 ARI (CONT'D) 81
Aha! I found you. Right in the
middle of ... Hmmm. That doesn't
look like the spiderweb I made. It *
looks like the one ***Elinor*** made. *

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

82 ARI (CONT'D) 82
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.

83 ELINOR 83
Well, you are a very good web
builder, spider. But it doesn't *
look like the web I made at all. It *
looks like the web ***Olive*** made. *

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

84 ELINOR (CONT'D) 84
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. THEY SPEAK *
SIMULTANEOUSLY. *

85 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 85 *
You were right, Olive (Elinor, *
Ari). *

86 ARI 86 *
Wait. What? *

87 ELINOR 87
How can we all be right? I watched *
my spider make a web that looked
just like the one you made, Olive. *

88 OLIVE 88
But the web I found looked like
Ari's model.

89 ARI 89
And the web I found looked just
like the one Elinor made. *

Elinor gets a thought. She turns to Ari. *

90 ELINOR 90 *
Wait. What did your spider look
like?

91 ARI 91
It was way different from the first
one we saw.

92 OLIVE 92
Mine was different too.

93 ELINOR 93
That's SO interesting.

Olive smiles knowingly.

94 OLIVE 94
I think I know what you're *
thinking, Elinor. *

95 ARI 95
What? What are you two thinking
that I'm not thinking?

96 ELINOR 96 *
Maybe different kinds of spiders *
make... *

She waits for Ari to figure it out. And he does! *

97 ARI 97
Aha! Make different kinds of webs! *

98 OLIVE 98
So there ***are*** different kinds of *
spiderwebs.

99 ELINOR 99
Just like there are different ways *
to think about Halloween.

100 OLIVE 100
Awesome! Let's go tell Mz. Mole. *

They race back to the classroom.

5. INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Elinor, Olive and Ari race into the classroom. <SFX: EXCITED WALLA>

They <SFX: SCREECH> to a stop when they see what looks like a ghost floating through the room!

101 ARI 101
(Gasp!) It's a g-ghost!!

Ari dives under a desk. From behind the "ghost", Mz. Mole peeks out, and we see that it's a sheet that she's about to hang in the corner.

102 MZ. MOLE 102
Ari? Are you okay?

Ari, realizing his mistake, slides out from under the desk.

103 ARI 103
Sure. I was just ... um ...
checking out for ghosts under the
desk. It's all clear.

Elinor and Olive <SFX: GIGGLE> as Ari joins them, as they * make their way over to where their models are. *

104 MZ. MOLE 104
Did you find a spiderweb?

105 ELINOR 105
We didn't find ***a*** spiderweb, Mz.
Mole.

106 MZ. MOLE 106
Oh?

107 ELINOR 107
We found ***three*** spiderwebs.

108 MZ. MOLE 108
Oh!

109 OLIVE 109
And they were all different.

110 ARI 110
Because the ***spiders*** were all
different.

111 MZ. MOLE 111
Well aren't you clever. You figured out that different kinds of spiders make different kinds of webs.

Mz. Mole gestures to the three models the kids made. They beam with pride. *
*

112 ELINOR 112
So we were ALL right. 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

113 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 113
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!

Reacting to a scary Halloween decoration.

ELINOR: Just like a spider making a web
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!

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.

114 MZ. MOLE 114
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.

115 MZ. MOLE (CONT’D) 115
They’re all different. Just like you!

<SFX: HAPPY WALLA>