

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

171: REST IS BEST

Written by
Rosemary Mosco

Elinor's Question: *Why do I need to rest?*

Logline: *When Olive decides she'd rather stay up late than sleep, her friends help to convince her that most animals need rest.*

Curriculum Goals: LS2c. Compare how the external body parts of animals and plants are the same and/or different. [The kids learn that some animals don't have eyelids, and that different animals rest in different ways.]

LS4a. Observe the life cycle of familiar plants and animals. [The kids notice that some animals sleep at night and are active during the day, and others sleep during the day and are active at night.]

SEP3b. Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail. [The kids observe and compare different resting animals.]

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

Secondary Characters: Ms. Elephant

Props: Butterflies, Olive's huge storybook, backpacks/satchels, Chicky the chickadee, Olive's notebook, great-horned owl, carp, butterfly, stool, small book about rest, anole, cuckoo bee.

Locations: Schoolyard, Olive's house (bedroom), sidewalk, river/pond.

FIRST DRAFT: 17-Apr-20

It's a beautiful sunny day. The kids are at school, playing outside during recess. The camera pans across kids playing various games and stops at ELINOR and ARI, who are having a thoughtful discussion.

Let's go!

ARI

Ari and Olive <SFX: LAUGH> or <SFX: SCREAM PLAYFULLY> as Olive sets down her book and runs after them.

2. INT. OLIVE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Olive is in her PJs, sitting up in bed, avidly reading her book by the light of a bedside lamp. There's a window showing the moon and some stars.

21	OLIVE	21
	Ooh, this part's so exciting. The princess is almost at the magical forest. I wonder what happens next.	

MS. ELEPHANT pokes her head into the bedroom.

22	MS ELEPHANT	22
	All right, my little bookworm- it's time to sleep.	

23	OLIVE	23
	But I want to know how the story ends!	

24	MS ELEPHANT	24
	Sweetheart, your book will still be there in the morning. But now it's time to rest.	

25	OLIVE	25
	But why?	

26	MS ELEPHANT	26
	Because it's nighttime, and night is when you rest.	

27	OLIVE	27
	[pleading] Can't I just read for five more minutes?	

Ms. Elephant looks thoughtfully at her watch, or at a clock.

28	MS ELEPHANT	28
	Hmm. It's not that late. Okay, you can read for just five more minutes.	

29	OLIVE	29
	Yay!	

30	MS ELEPHANT	30
	But after five minutes, it's time to turn off your light and sleep!	

31 OLIVE 31
Yes, mom.

Ms. Elephant walks up, leans down, and gives Olive a kiss on the forehead.

32 MS ELEPHANT 32
I love that I have a daughter who's so excited about reading. I hope that your dreams are full of interesting stories, too.

33 OLIVE 33
Thanks, mom. Night night.

34 MS ELEPHANT 34
Goodnight, sweetie. Remember, just five more minutes.

Ms. Elephant leaves the room. Olive buries her head in her book again.

35 OLIVE 35
[to herself] Right. Just five more minutes.

We see Olive reading, and get a sense of time passing, eg. a
ANGLE ON: the moon setting outside a window, maybe with the sky lightening a little. BACK ON: Olive looking bleary-eyed.

36 OLIVE (CONT'D) 36
Oops. I think that was a little more than five minutes.

She yawns, flops over, and passes out on her book.

3. EXT. SIDEWALK NEAR OLIVE'S HOUSE - MORNING

The next morning, Elinor is walking down the sidewalk on her way to pick up Olive and Ari on the way to school. She's wearing her backpack (or whatever else she wears on her way to school). She walks past a tree where her chickadee friend has perched.

37 ELINOR 37
Good morning, Chicky! I'm off to school. Hope you have a great chicka-day.

Chicky <SFX: CHIRPS>.

38 ELINOR (CONT'D) 38
I wonder if Olive finished her
book. She's a fast reader, but that
was a GIGANTIC book.

Elinor approaches Olive's house. Olive has her satchel and she's standing on the sidewalk, looking exhausted and spacey.

39 ELINOR (CONT'D) 39

Hi Olive!

Olive <SFX: YAWNS>.

40	OLIVE	40
	Hi Nelinor. I mean, hi Relinor. I	
	mean... hi friend.	

41 ELINOR 41
Olive, you seem really tired.

They start walking toward Ari's house.

42 OLIVE 42

I didn't sleep much last night. I
stayed up late reading my book.

43 ELINOR 43
Oh. Did you finish it?

44 OLIVE 44
No, but I got a lot closer. I'm
going to stay up late every night
until I get to the end!

Elinor looks concerned.

45 ELINOR 45
But when will you rest?

46 OLIVE 46
Why do I need to rest, anyway? It's
just extra time I could spend
reading books.

They reach Ari's house. Ari is standing outside waiting for them, wearing his backpack.

47 OLIVE (CONT'D) 47
Oh, hi, Elinor. I mean, Ari. Hi
Ari. YAWNNN.

48 ARI 48
Olive, you seem kind of
sleepy...and confused.

49 ELINOR 49
She stayed up late reading her
book. And now she wants to stay up
late every night.

ARI

Hmm. I thought everybody needed to rest.

They stop, suddenly consumed by the question.

51 ELINOR 51
I did, too. You know, I've never
really thought about it before.
DOES everybody need to rest?

[illegible]

53 ELINOR 53
That's SO INTERESTING! Let's look
for animals while we walk to school
and see if any of them are resting.

54 OLIVE 54
Yawnnnnnn-ok. I'll make a list of
what we see.

The kids start walking. They reach a tree that has a great horned owl perched on a branch close to the trunk.

55 ELINOR 55
 There's an owl!

ARI
Ooh. OWL take a closer look.

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. SCIENCE CU: the owl. It's puffed up, eyes closed, asleep.

57 ARI (O.S.) (CONT'D) 57
Its eyes are closed and it's not
moving. It sure LOOKS like it's
resting. It ALSO looks really cool,
because owls are cool.

BACK ON: The kids.

58 ELINOR 58
My mom taught me that owls sleep
during the day and fly around at
night. So, owls definitely rest.

Olive takes out her notebook and writes in it. CU: Olive's notebook. She has drawn a simple chart, with a column for animals on the left and a column for REST (or maybe ZZZs?) on the right. Olive draws an owl and puts a check mark under REST.

59 OLIVE (O.S.) 59
Got it. Owls rest. But that's just
one animal.

BACK ON: The kids.

60 ELINOR 60
Yeah, we need MORE OBSERVATIONS.

64 They keep walking and reach a pond (or river - whatever makes sense for the geography of the place). They walk up to the edge and look down into the water. CUT TO: A carp floating in a patch of reeds down at the bottom.

61 ARI (O.S.) 61
I see a fish. It's not moving. Is
it resting?

SCIENCE CU: The carp's head. It's motionless, but its eyes are open (since fish don't have eyelids).

62 ARI (O.S.) (CONT'D) 62
Hmm. It sure looks like it's
resting, but its eyes are open.
That's pretty fishy.

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>.

63 ELINOR 63
I always close my eyes when I rest.
Otherwise, I'd get PRETTY bored
looking at my pillow all night.

Olive is writing in her notebook.

64 OLIVE 64
Right. The fish is not resting
because it's eyes are open.

CU: Olive's notebook. Under the drawing of the owl, she's drawn a toothy-looking shark, and she's put an X under REST.

65 ELINOR (O.S.) 65
Wait, Olive, did you draw a shark
instead of a fish?

66 OLIVE (O.S.) 66
Oops!

76 OLIVE (O.S.) 76
Got it. The butterfly isn't resting
either.

BACK ON: The kids, who keep walking, approaching the school.
Olive is triumphant.

77 OLIVE (CONT'D) 77
See, most of the animals we saw
weren't resting. I don't need to
rest ever again. And now we're at
the spool!

78 ELINOR 78
You mean the school?

79 OLIVE 79
Oops. That's what I meant.

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>.

4. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

It's recess, and we once again pan across the kids playing in
the schoolyard. Olive walks up to the big tree with her book.
She sits down and opens it.

80 OLIVE 80
Finally, I can finish my book.

She starts to read. CU: the book, with "text" symbols and
pictures. But as Olive stares, we see the words start to blur
and swim a little.

81 OLIVE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 81
Wait, why is it so hard to read the
words? I can't seem to YAWN pay
attention.

BACK ON: Olive, staring ahead and blinking in confusion. Ari
and Elinor walk up to her.

82 ARI 82
Hey, Olive.

83 OLIVE 83
Hi Erli and Arlinor. I mean, Ari
and Elinor.

84 ELINOR 84
Hmm. Olive, you still seem pretty
sleepy and confused.

85 OLIVE 85
I'm fine. What's up?

86 ARI 86
We were thinking of playing tag
again. Do you want to play?

87 OLIVE 87
Sure. Maybe running around will
help wake me up.

88 ELINOR 88
Yay! Do you want to be It?

89 OLIVE 89
You bet I do!

Olive puts her book down and runs after her friends. She tags
Elinor and runs a little ways away, but then she's distracted
by another big yawn.

90 OLIVE (CONT'D) 90
You're It! YAWNNN

Her big yawn confuses her. She turns back to Elinor.

91 OLIVE (CONT'D) 91
Wait, who's It again?

92 ELINOR 92
I am. You just tagged me!

93 OLIVE 93
Sorry, Elinor. I just can't seem to
do the things I can usually do. And
my yawns are getting louder.
YAWWWWWNNN

With that last huge yawn, Olive falls backwards onto the
grass. She <SFX: GIGGLES>. MZ. MOLE walks up to the kids. She
looks concerned.

94 MZ MOLE 94
That was the biggest, longest yawn
I've ever heard. Did a sleepy whale
just swim by?

95 ELINOR 95
Mz. Mole, Olive stayed up really
late to read her book.

Olive stands up and brushes herself off.

96 OLIVE 96
I've decided that I don't need to
rest any more. Lots of animals
don't need to rest.

97 MZ MOLE 97
That's really interesting. You
know, I have a great book about
rest. Do you want to see it?

The kids <SFX: YEAH>.

98 MZ MOLE (CONT'D) 98
I'll be right back. You won't even
have time to rest.

In a sight gag, Mz. Mole poofs off screen, then zooms back
almost immediately with a book and a small stool.

99 MZ MOLE (CONT'D) 99
Here it is!

Mz. Mole sits on the stool. Olive, Ari, and Elinor sit down
in front of her.

100 MZ MOLE (CONT'D) 100
Animals rest in different ways.

CUT TO the book. We see a night scene with a green anole
lizard lying on a leaf, its eyes closed.

101 MZ MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 101
A green anole lizard closes its
eyes to rest.

The page turns and we see a chickadee perched on a branch,
puffed up into a fuzzy ball, eyes closed.

102 MZ MOLE (CONT'D) 102
A chickadee puffs up on a branch.

The page turns and we see a cuckoo bee sleeping on the end of
a twig.

103 MZ MOLE (CONT'D) 103
Some bees even sleep by grabbing
onto the end of a twig with their
jaws.

BACK ON: The kids.

104 OLIVE 104
But Mz. Mole, that bee's eyes are
open.

105 MZ MOLE 105
True. But have you ever seen a bee
close its eyes?

The kids <SFX: NO>.

106 MZ MOLE (CONT'D) 106
That's because bees DON'T HAVE
EYELIDS!

The kids <SFX: GASP>.

107 ELINOR 107
We saw a fish that had its eyes
open. A butterfly, too. Maybe they
were sleeping that way because they
don't have eyelids?

108 MZ MOLE 108
Great observation, Elinor. All
animals rest, but they do it in
different ways.

109 ELINOR 109
Owls sleep in the night and fly
during the day.

110 MZ MOLE 110
Yes! A lot of animals sleep at
certain times. They stick to a
pattern.

111 ELINOR 111
Olive, if you stay up all night
like an owl, then you'll have to
sleep during the day, and you won't
be able to play with us.

112 ARI 112
Yeah, you'll have to play tag with
a bunch of owls! Actually, that
sounds like a real hoot.

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>.

113 OLIVE 113
Hmm. So all animals rest. But WHY
do we do it?

BACK ON: The book. We see a scene with the anole, bee, and
chickadee sleeping. As she talks, the sun comes up and we see
the critters wake up, stretch, and look happy and alert.

114 MZ MOLE 114
Sleep is wonderful. It heals up and
recharges our bodies and minds. We
sleep so we can stay alive and
healthy. When we don't sleep, it's
hard to do the things we need to
do!

115 OLIVE 115
Oh! That's why I had trouble
reading and playing tag. YAWN. I
think I get it, but could you tell
me again?

Ari, Elinor, and Mz. Mole sing a sweet lullaby-style song
about their discovery while we see a montage sleeping
animals.

116 ELINOR/ARI/MZ MOLE 116
ALL: Why should you rest
When you're all tired out?
When the night winds blow
And the owls fly about?

ELINOR: Your body needs rest
So you can play.
You sleep all night
To have fun all day.

ALL: Why should you rest
When you're all tired out?
When the night winds blow
And the owls fly about?

ARI: When you sleep,
You recharge your energy.
Your body heals up,
So it's as strong as it can be.

ALL: That's why you rest
When you're all tired out,
When the night winds blow
And the owls fly about.

As the song ends, Mz. Mole, Elinor, and Ari realize that
Olive has fallen asleep.

117 ELINOR 117
(whispering)
Oh, looks like Olive finally fell
asleep.

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118

MZ MOLE

118

(whispering)
Shh. Let's let her rest until
recess is over.

END.