

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

171: REST IS BEST

Written by
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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 sleep, anole, cuckoo bee.

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

FIRST DRAFT: 17-Apr-20
SECOND DRAFT: 01-May-20

1. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY

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.

1	ELINOR	1	
	Hmm. What game should we play today?		
2	ARI	2	*
	We could play catch with a ball.		
3	ELINOR	3	
	Nah. We did that yesterday.		
4	ARI	4	
	Right. Oh, I know! We could have a snowball fight.		
5	ELINOR	5	*
	Ari, it's spring. There's no snow.		
6	ARI	6	*
	Maybe we'll get lucky and there'll be a spring snowstorm!		*
	Ari looks up at the sky, as if waiting impatiently.		*
7	ARI (CONT'D)	7	*
	I'm WAITING.		*
	Elinor <SFX: GIGGLES>. Then a pair of butterflies fly past them, one chasing the other.		*
8	ARI (CONT'D)	8	*
	Look at those butterflies go. They look like they're chasing each other.		*
9	ELINOR	9	
	Hmm. Are you thinking what I'm thinking?		
10	ELINOR/ARI	10	
	Let's play tag!		
11	ARI	11	
	You know who loves tag? Olive. Maybe she wants to play too. Where is she?		

12 ELINOR 12
She said she was going to read
under that big tree.

13	ARI	13
	Let's go!	

Ari and Elinor find Olive sitting under a big tree. She's reading a huge book, and she looks very absorbed in it.

14 ELINOR 14
Hi, Olive.

Olive doesn't look up, but she replies with enthusiasm. She's just very excited about her book.

15	OLIVE	15	
	Hi, Elinor. Hi Ari.		*

16	ARI	16
	What are you reading?	

Now Olive looks up, beaming.

17	OLIVE	17
	I'm reading this really fun book.	*
	It's about a princess who goes into	*
	a magical forest to rescue a	*
	prince. What's inside that forest?	*
	Dun dun dunnn... it's a mystery!	

18	ARI	18	
	Whoa. That does sound really good.		*

19 ELINOR 19
We're going to play tag. Want to
play with us? *

Olive looks thoughtful.

20	OLIVE	20	
	Hmm. That does sound like fun.		*
	But... I really want to finish this		*
	book. I wish I could read and play		*
	tag at the same time. But it would		
	be too easy to tag me if I kept		*
	looking down at my book.		*
	(Olive looks down at her		*
	book. The kids <SFX:		*
	GIGGLE>)		*
	Okay, I'll play tag. I'm IT!		*

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. *

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! The princess is almost at the
magical forest. I wonder what
happens next. *

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

25 OLIVE 25
But why?

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

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 *
MONTAGE - dissolve she is in 3 different poses - each one *
with her body showing fatigue, eyelids getting lower INTERCUT *
WITH: 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. TOWN - MORNING *

The next morning, Elinor is walking to pick up Olive and Ari *
on the way to school. She's wearing her backpack. 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>. Elinor walks a little, then meets up *
with Ari outside his house. *

38 ELINOR (CONT'D) 38 *
Morning, Ari! How are you today? *

39	ARI	39	*
	I'm great! I slept so well. I'm so		*
	excited to play tag again today.		*
	I'm going to run really fast.		*
39	They begin walking.	39	*
40	ELINOR	40	
	Me too! Let's go get Olive. Hmm. I		*
	wonder if she finished her book.		*
	She's a fast reader, but that was a		
	GIGANTIC book.		
	Elinor and Ari approach Olive's house. Olive has her satchel		*
	and she's standing on the sidewalk, looking exhausted and		
	spacey.		
41	ELINOR (CONT'D)	41	
	Hi Olive!		
	Olive <SFX: YAWNS>.		
42	OLIVE	42	
	(sleepy) Hi Nelinor. I mean, hi		*
	Relinor. I mean... hi friend.		
43	ELINOR	43	
	Olive, are you ok?		*
44	ELINOR (CONT'D)	44	*
	(sleepy) Yeah. YAWN.		*
45	ARI	45	*
	Did you finish your book?		*
46	OLIVE	46	*
	(sleepy) No, but I got a lot		*
	closer. My mom let me read for five		*
	extra minutes, but the book was so		*
	good that I lost track of time.		*
47	ELINOR	47	
	So you didn't sleep?		*
48	OLIVE	48	
	(sleepy) I only slept a little. But		*
	I got to read more of my book. I'm		*
	gonna ask my mom if I can stay up		*
	all night. Then I can finish this		*
	(YAWN) story.		*

49	ARI	49	*
	Huh. I thought everyone just sort		*
	of HAS to sleep. If I didn't sleep,		*
	I'd have a lot more time to play.		*
50	ELINOR	50	*
	I've never really thought about it		*
	before. Why DO we need to sleep?		*
	What's it good for?		*
51	ARI	51	*
	Good question. It's a sleepy		*
	mystery.		*
52	ELINOR	52	*
	I know! Let's see if we can find		*
	any animals sleeping on the way to		*
	school. Maybe that will help us		*
	figure out why we sleep.		*
53	ARI	53	*
	Yeah!		*
54	OLIVE	54	*
	(sleepy) YeaaaYAWN. I mean, yeah.		*
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!		
56	ARI	56	
	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. I think it's sleeping.		*
BACK ON: The kids.			
58	ELINOR	58	
	My mom taught me that owls sleep		*
	during the day, when we're awake.		*
	I've seen them flying around at		*
	night!		*
59	OLIVE	59	*
	(sleepy) I'll get out my note pad		*
	and keep track of what we've seen.		*

Olive takes out her notebook and draws a sleeping owl. CU: Olive's drawing. *

60 OLIVE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 60 *
(sleepy) There. A sleeping owl. *

BACK ON: The kids.

61 ELINOR 61 *
Okay. Let's get some MORE *
OBSERVATIONS. *

They keep walking and come across a lizard sleeping on a rock. *

62 OLIVE 62 *
(sleepy) I see a liz-YAWN. *

63 ARI 63 *
What's a lizYAWN? *

Olive points. *

64 OLIVE 64 *
(sleepy) A liz-YAWN. A... you know, *
one of THOSE things. *

SCIENCE CU: The sleeping lizard. *

65 ELINOR (O.S.) 65 *
Oh, a lizard! Its eyes are closed *
and it's not moving. It seems to be *
sleeping. I'm going to get a closer *
look. *

Elinor leans into frame. The lizard's eyes pop open. It scurries away with a ton of energy. BACK ON: The kids. *

66 ELINOR (CONT'D) 66 *
Oops, sorry, lizard! *

67 ARI 67 *
That lizard ran off with a LOT of *
energy. I bet it's great at tag. *

68 OLIVE 68 *
(sleepy) Right. We saw a sleeping *
lizard. *

64 CU: Olive's notebook. She draws a sleeping lizard. BACK ON 64 *
The kids. 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. *

69 ELINOR 69 *
I wonder if there's anybody in the *
water. *

CUT TO: A carp floating in a patch of reeds down at the bottom.

70 ELINOR (O.S.) (CONT'D) 70 *
I see a fish. It's not moving. Is *
it sleeping? *

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

71 ARI (O.S.) 71 *
Hmm. It's not moving. It sure looks *
like it's resting, but its eyes are *
open. It's a mystery. A... fish- *
stery. *

BACK ON: The kids, who <SFX: GIGGLE>. *

72 ELINOR 72 *
I don't think fish have eyelids. *
How can they sleep if they don't *
have eyelids? I always close my *
eyes when I sleep. Otherwise, I'd *
get PRETTY bored looking at my *
ceiling all night. *

Olive is drawing in her notebook. *

73 OLIVE 73 *
(sleepy) Right. The carp fish is *
not sleeping because its eyes are *
open. *

CU: Olive's notebook. Under the drawing of the owl, she's drawn a toothy-looking shark. *

74 ELINOR (O.S.) 74 *
Wait, Olive, did you draw a shark *
instead of a carp? *

75 OLIVE (O.S.) 75 *
Oops! *

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. Olive erases it and draws a carp.

BACK ON: The kids, who start walking again. *

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

76	OLIVE (CONT'D)	76	
	(sleepy) If fish don't sleep, then		*
	maybe I don't have to, either.		*
	That's good to know. Okay, let's go		*
	to the pool.		*
77	ELINOR	77	
	You mean the school?		
78	OLIVE	78	
	Oops. That's what I meant.		
	The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. Then Elinor looks thoughtful.		*
79	ELINOR	79	*
	Hmm. I think there's more to this		*
	sleep story.		*
 4. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - DAY			
	It's recess, and we once again pan across the kids playing in		
	the schoolyard. Olive is sitting under the same tree, reading		*
	her book. She's squinting at the book, looking like she's		*
	having trouble reading it. Ari and Elinor walk up to her.		*
80	ELINOR	80	*
	Hey, Olive.		*
81	OLIVE	81	
	(sleepy) YAWN. I mean, hi.		*
82	ARI	82	*
	Did you get to the part of the book		*
	where the princess saves the		*
	prince?		*
83	OLIVE	83	
	(sleepy) No. I'm having trouble		*
	reading. The words are really		*
	blurry on the page. I keep losing		*
	my place.		*
84	ARI	84	
	Hmm. Do you want to come play tag		*
	instead?		*
85	OLIVE	85	
	(sleepy) Sure. YAWN. Maybe running		*
	around will help wake me up.		
86	ELINOR	86	
	Yay! Do you want to be It?		

87	OLIVE You bet I do.	87	*
	Olive puts her book down and runs after her friends. They <SFX: GIGGLE>. But as Olive chases them, she begins to slow down.		* * *
88	OLIVE (CONT'D) (sleepy) Whew. I'm out of breath already.	88	* *
89	ELINOR Olive, are you okay?	89	* *
90	ARI Yeah, what's up, Olive?	90	* *
91	OLIVE (sleepy) I don't know. Why can't I run as fast as I usually can?	91	* * *
92	ELINOR Hmm. Let's think. You can't run as fast as usual, and it's hard to read a book, and you keep getting confused.	92	* * * * *
93	OLIVE (sleepy) Yup. That's all true. YAWN.	93	* * *
94	ARI Olive, I think your yawns are getting louder. If you yawn any louder, your trunk will fall off!	94	* * * *
95	ELINOR Wait. That yawn gives me an idea. I usually yawn when I'm sleepy. Ari, you slept a lot last night, right?	95	* * * *
96	ARI I sure did!	96	* *
97	ELINOR I did too! And we both have lots of energy. But Olive, you didn't sleep very much and now you feel tired.	97	* * * *
98	OLIVE (sleepy) Oh. You're right. Hey, maybe that's what sleeping is good for. If we don't sleep, we feel tired.	98	* * * * *

99	ELINOR	99	*
	Yeah, and we can't do the things we usually do.		*
			*
100	OLIVE	100	*
	That makes sense. YAWN.		*
	MZ. MOLE walks up to the kids. She looks concerned.		*
			*
101	MZ MOLE	101	
	Olive, are you okay? That was the loudest yawn I've ever heard.		*
			*
102	ELINOR	102	
	Mz. Mole, Olive stayed up really late to read her book. She didn't get a lot of sleep.		*
			*
103	ARI	103	*
	Yeah, and now she's really tired. She can't read her book well or play tag well.		*
			*
			*
104	ELINOR	104	*
	We think maybe that's why we need to sleep! It gives us energy. If we don't sleep, it's harder to do the things we need to do.		*
			*
			*
105	MZ MOLE	105	
	You're right. Sleep is really important, especially when you're a growing kid! When you sleep, your body gets a break and your energy comes back. When you wake up, you can do all the things you like to do.		*
			*
			*
			*
			*
			*
106	OLIVE	106	*
	But Mz. Mole, do ALL animals need to sleep?		*
			*
107	MZ MOLE	107	
	Most of them do, but they don't all rest in the same way.		*
			*
	THOUGHT BUBBLE: a sleeping lizard.		*
108	MZ MOLE (CONT'D)	108	*
	For instance, a lizard might lie on a rock or a branch to rest.		*
			*

109	ELINOR	109	*
	We saw a sleeping lizard this morning!		*
			*
110	MZ MOLE	110	*
	Did you see any other sleeping animals?		*
			*
	THOUGHT BUBBLE over Elinor's head: an owl sleeping on a branch.		*
			*
111	ELINOR	111	*
	Yes. We saw an owl sleeping on a branch in a tree. It sleeps in the night and flies during the day!		*
			*
			*
112	MZ MOLE	112	*
	A lot of animals sleep at certain times. They stick to a pattern.		*
			*
113	ELINOR	113	*
	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.		*
			*
			*
114	ARI	114	*
	Yeah, you'll have to play tag with a bunch of owls! Actually, that sounds like a real hoot.		*
			*
	The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. THOUGHT BUBBLE over Elinor: carp fish sleeping in the pond/creek.		*
			*
115	ELINOR	115	*
	Mz. Mole, we saw a fish earlier that looked like it was resting, but its eyes were open. Was it just sleeping in a different way?		*
			*
			*
116	MZ MOLE	116	*
	Yes! Fish don't have eyelids, but they can sleep with their eyes open.		*
			*
			*
118	The kids <SFX: WHOA>.	118	*
117	OLIVE	117	*
	(sleepy) Hmm. Sleep is pretty interesting. And I guess it's pretty important, too.		*
			*
			*

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

118

ELINOR/ARI/MZ MOLE

118

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 get more energy.
Your body heals up,
To feel as good as 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.

119

ELINOR

119

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

*

120

ARI

120

(whispering)
I guess she decided that sleep
sounded so interesting she couldn't
WAIT to try it out herself.

*

*

*

*

*

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE> as we IRIS OUT: On Olive sweet
sleeping face (maybe she snores through her trunk) <SFX:
SNOOOORE>

*

*

*

THE END.

*