

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, green tree frog, toucan, blanket.

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

FIRST DRAFT: 17-Apr-20
SECOND DRAFT: 01-May-20
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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 should we play today?		*
2	ARI	2	
	We could play catch.		*
3	ELINOR	3	
	Nah. We did that yesterday.		
4	ARI	4	
	Right. 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
A 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 good. *

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

Olive looks thoughtful.

20 OLIVE 20
Hmm. That sounds like fun. But... I *
really want to finish this book. 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. *

A funny thought bubble shows her trying to read and play tag *
at the same time. As the bubble pops, the kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. *
Olive looks down at her book. *

21 OLIVE (CONT'D) 21 *
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

Later that 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 Mom, the princess is almost at the magical forest. I want to know what happens next.	

24	MS ELEPHANT	24
	Sweetheart, your book will still be there in the morning. Now it's time to sleep. Nighttime is when elephants sleep.	

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

25	MS ELEPHANT (CONT'D)	25
	How about I give you five more minutes to read? Then it's lights out.	

26	OLIVE	26
	Yay! Thanks, mom.	

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

27	MS ELEPHANT	27
	I love that I have a daughter who's so excited about reading. I hope that your dreams are full of fun stories, too.	

28	OLIVE	28
	Thanks, mom. Night night.	

29	MS ELEPHANT	29
	Goodnight, sweetie. Remember, just five more minutes.	

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

30 OLIVE 30
[to herself] Right. Just five more minutes.

We see Olive reading, and get a sense of time passing, e.g. 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.

31 OLIVE (CONT'D) 31
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. *

32 ELINOR 32
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. *

33 ELINOR (CONT'D) 33
Morning, Ari! How are you today? *

34 ARI 34
Great! I slept SO much last night. *
And now I can't wait to play tag. *
I'm gonna be SOOO fast! *

39 He runs a quick lap around. 39 *

35 ELINOR 35
(giggling) Me too! Let's go get Olive. *

They start walking to Olive's house. *

36	ELINOR (CONT'D)	36	*
	I wonder if Olive finished her		*
	book. She reads really fast, but		*
	that was a BIG book.		*
Elinor and Ari approach Olive's house. Olive has her satchel			*
and she's standing on the sidewalk, looking exhausted and			
spacey.			
37	ELINOR (CONT'D)	37	
	Hi Olive!		
Olive <SFX: YAWNS>.			
38	OLIVE	38	
	(sleepy) Hi Nelinor. I mean, hi		*
	Relinor. I mean... hi friends.		*
39	ELINOR	39	
	Olive, are you ok?		*
40	OLIVE	40	*
	(sleepy) Yeah. YAWN.		*
41	ARI	41	*
	Did you finish your book?		*
42	OLIVE	42	*
	(sleepy) No. I got closer, though.		*
	My mom let me read for five extra		*
	minutes, but the book was so good		*
	that I accidentally read for a lot		*
	longer.		*
43	ELINOR	43	*
	So you didn't sleep?		*
44	OLIVE	44	*
	(sleepy) I slept a little (YAWN).		*
	But I got to read more of my book.		*
	I'm gonna ask my mom if I can stay		*
	up again tonight. Then I can finish		*
	the story.		*
45	ARI	45	*
	Huh. I thought everyone HAS to		*
	sleep. If I didn't have to sleep,		*
	I'd have a lot more time to play!		*
46	ELINOR	46	*
	Hmm, I've never really thought		*
	about it before. Why DO we need to		*
	sleep? What's it good for?		*

47	OLIVE	47	*
	(sleepy) That's a (YAWN) good question.		*
			*
48	ELINOR	48	*
	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.		*
			*
49	ARI	49	*
	Yeah!		*
50	OLIVE	50	*
	(sleepy) YeaaaYAWN. I mean, yeah. I'll draw them on my note pad.		*
			*
The kids start walking. They reach a tree that has a great horned owl perched on a branch close to the trunk.			
51	ELINOR	51	*
	Look! There's an owl!		*
52	ARI	52	*
	Ooh. OWL take a closer look.		*
The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. SCIENCE CU: the owl. It's puffed up, eyes closed, asleep.			
53	ARI (O.S.) (CONT'D)	53	*
	(whispering loudly)		*
	Its eyes are closed and it's not moving. I think it's sleeping.		*
BACK ON: The kids.			
54	ELINOR	54	*
	My mom told me that owls sleep during the day, when we're awake.		*
55	ARI	55	*
	Huh. When do they move around?		*
56	ELINOR	56	*
	They fly around at night, when we're asleep.		*
57	ARI	57	*
	Ohhh... So they're <i>soaring</i> while I'm <i>snoring</i> .		*
Ari does a loud <SFX: SNORE>. The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. Olive takes out her notebook and draws a sleeping owl. CU: Olive's drawing.			
			*
			*
			*

58	OLIVE (O.S.) (sleepy) There. A sleeping owl.	58	*
	BACK ON: The kids.		
59	ELINOR Okay. Let's get MORE OBSERVATIONS.	59	*
	They keep walking and come across a lizard sleeping on a rock.		*
60	OLIVE (sleepy) I see a liz-YAWN.	60	*
61	ARI What's a lizYAWN?	61	*
	Olive points. SCIENCE CU: The sleeping lizard.		*
62	ELINOR (O.S.) Oh, it's a lizard! It's not moving. I'm going to get a closer look.	62	*
	Elinor leans into frame.		*
63	ELINOR (CONT'D) [whispering] Yes, it's eyes are closed. I think it's sleeping.	63	*
	Elinor leans back out. The lizard's eyes pop open. It scurries away with a ton of energy. BACK ON: The kids <SFX: WOW/COOL WALLA>.		*
64	ELINOR (CONT'D) I guess it was time to wake up!	64	*
65	ARI That lizard ran really fast. I bet it's good at tag.	65	*
66	OLIVE (sleepy) Right. We saw a sleeping lizard.	66	*
64	CU: Olive's notebook. She draws a sleeping lizard. BACK ON: 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.	64	*
67	ELINOR I wonder if there are any sleeping animals in the water.	67	*

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

68	ELINOR (O.S.) (CONT'D)	68	*
	I see a fish! It's not moving... I wonder if it's sleeping.		*
			*

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

69	ARI (O.S.)	69	*
	Hmm. It looks like it's sleeping, but its eyes are open.		*

70	ELINOR (O.S.)	70	*
	I don't think fish can close their eyes. They don't have eyelids.		*
			*

BACK ON: The kids. *

71	ARI	71	*
	Wait, if fish don't have eyelids, how do they wink when they have a fun secret?		*
			*
			*

Ari turns to his friends, winking. *

72	ARI (CONT'D)	72	*
	(whispering comically) Psst. My secret is that my friends are cool.		*
			*

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. Elinor looks thoughtful. *

73	ELINOR	73	*
	Hmm. If fish can't close their eyes, does that mean they can't sleep?		*
			*
			*

She closes her eyes a few times. *

74	ELINOR (CONT'D)	74	*
	I always close my eyes when I sleep.		*
			*

75	ARI	75	*
	It's a mystery. A sleeping fish mystery...		*
			*

Olive is drawing in her notebook. *

76	OLIVE	76	*
	(sleepy) Right. Fish with eyes open.		*

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

77 ELINOR (O.S.) 77
Wait, Olive, did you draw a shark
instead of a fish? *

78 OLIVE (O.S.) 78
Oops!

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. Olive erases it and draws a carp with its eyes open. *

79 ELINOR (O.S.) 79 *
So, we saw a sleeping owl, a *
sleeping lizard, and a fish with *
its eyes open. *

BACK ON: The kids, who start walking again, approaching the school. Olive is triumphant. *

80 OLIVE 80
(sleepy) If fish don't sleep, then *
maybe I don't have to, either. That *
means I can stay up and read every *
night! Okay, let's go to the pool. *

81 ELINOR 81
You mean the school?

82 OLIVE 82
(sleepy) Oops. That's what I meant. *

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE> and walk on. Elinor hangs back a little and looks thoughtful. *

83 ELINOR 83
Hmm. *

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. *

84 ELINOR 84
Hey, Olive. *

85 OLIVE 85
(sleepy) YAWN. I mean, hi. *

86	ARI	86	*
	Did you get to the part of the book where the princess saves the prince?		*
			*
			*
87	OLIVE	87	*
	(sleepy) No. I can't seem to read very well. When I look down, the words look fuzzy and blurry and I keep losing my place.		*
			*
			*
88	ARI	88	*
	Hmm. Do you want to come play tag instead?		*
			*
89	OLIVE	89	*
	(sleepy) Okay. YAWN. Maybe running around will help.		*
			*
90	ELINOR	90	
	Yay! Do you want to be It?		
91	OLIVE	91	*
	You bet I do.		*
	Olive puts her book down and runs after her friends. They <SFX: GIGGLE>. But as Olive chases them, she begins to slow down.		*
			*
			*
92	OLIVE (CONT'D)	92	*
	(sleepy) Whew. I feel tired already.		*
			*
93	ELINOR	93	*
	Olive, are you okay?		*
94	ARI	94	*
	Yeah, what's up, Olive?		*
95	OLIVE	95	*
	(sleepy) I don't know. I can't run as fast as I usually can.		*
			*
	The kids all look thoughtful.		*
96	ELINOR	96	*
	Hmm. Let's think. You can't run as fast as usual, and it's hard to read a book.		*
			*
			*
97	OLIVE	97	*
	(sleepy) Yup. That's all true.		*
	(loudly) YAWN.		*

98	ARI	98	*
	Olive, I think your yawns are		*
	getting louder. If you yawn any		*
	louder, your trunk will fall off!		*
99	ELINOR	99	*
	Wait. That yawn gives me an idea. I		*
	usually yawn when I'm sleepy. Ari,		*
	you slept a lot last night, right?		*
100	ARI	100	*
	I sure did!		*
101	ELINOR	101	*
	And I did too! And we both can run		*
	really fast. But Olive, you didn't		*
	sleep very much and now you feel		*
	tired.		*
102	OLIVE	102	*
	(sleepy) Oh. You're right.		*
103	ELINOR	103	*
	Maybe THAT'S what sleeping is good		*
	for. If we don't sleep, we feel		*
	tired.		*
104	ARI	104	*
	Yeah, and we can't do the things we		*
	usually do.		*
105	OLIVE	105	*
	(sleepy) That makes sense. YAWN.		*
	MZ. MOLE walks up to the kids.		*
			*
106	MZ MOLE	106	*
	Hello, kids! Olive, that was the		*
	loudest yawn I've ever heard. Are		*
	you okay?		*
107	ELINOR	107	*
	Mz. Mole, Olive stayed up really		*
	late reading her book, and she		*
	didn't get a lot of sleep.		*
108	ARI	108	*
	Yeah, and now she's really tired		*
	and can't read her book or play tag		*
	well.		*

109	ELINOR	109	*
	We think that's why we need to		*
	sleep! So we don't feel tired.		*
110	MZ MOLE	110	*
	You're right! Sleep is very		*
	important, especially when you're a		*
	growing kid! When you sleep, your		*
	body rests and gets more energy. So		*
	when you wake up, you can do all		*
	the things you like to do.		*
111	OLIVE	111	*
	(sleepy) Mz. Mole, do ALL animals		*
	need to sleep?		*
112	MZ MOLE	112	*
	Most of them do, but some rest in		*
	different ways.		*
	THOUGHT BUBBLE: a sleeping green tree frog.		*
113	MZ MOLE (CONT'D)	113	*
	For example, a green tree frog has		*
	sticky toes, and it sleeps by		*
	sticking itself the underside of a		*
	leaf and closing its eyes.		*
114	ARI	114	*
	Wow! That's unbe-LEAF-able.		*
	THOUGHT BUBBLE: a sleeping toucan.		*
115	MZ MOLE	115	*
	A toucan turns its head all the way		*
	around and tucks its big beak into		*
	its back feathers.		*
116	ELINOR	116	*
	Bye bye beak! That's SO		*
	INTERESTING. Different animals rest		*
	in different ways.		*
	Elinor has a thought. We see a THOUGHT BUBBLE over her: carp		*
	fish sleeping in the pond/creek.		*
117	ELINOR (CONT'D)	117	*
	Hmm. Mz. Mole, we saw a fish		*
	earlier that wasn't moving, but its		*
	eyes were open. Was it just resting		*
	in a different way?		*

118 MZ MOLE 118 *

Yes! Fish don't have eyelids, but *

they can rest or sleep with their *

eyes open. *

118 The kids <SFX: WHOA>. Ari opens his eyes wide. 118 *

119 OLIVE 119 *

(sleepy) Hmm. If I sleep, then I *

can play and read more. I guess *

sleeping is pretty important. *

120 ELINOR 120 *

Yeah, and it's so interesting. *

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

121 ELINOR/ARI/MZ MOLE 121

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.

122 ELINOR 122 *

(whispering)

Oh, looks like Olive finally fell

asleep.

123	ARI	123	*
	(whispering)		*
	Maybe she's finishing her story in		*
	her dreams.		*
	ANGLE ON: In her sleep, Olive smiles. BACK ON Elinor, who		*
	smiles.		*
124	ELINOR	124	*
	(whispering)		*
	Well, Olive's story definitely has		*
	a happy ending!		*
	The kids <SFX: GIGGLE> as we IRIS OUT: On Olive sweet		*
	sleeping face (maybe she snores through her trunk) <SFX:		*
	SNOOOORE>.		*
	THE END.		*