

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
POLISH: 13-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 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. 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 amazing 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		*
	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.

21 MS ELEPHANT 21
All right, my little bookworm- it's
time to sleep.

22 OLIVE 22
But I want to know how the story
ends! The princess is almost at the
magical forest. I wonder what
happens next. *

23 MS ELEPHANT 23
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. *

24 MS ELEPHANT (CONT'D) 24
How about I give you five more
minutes to read? Then it's lights
out. *

25 OLIVE 25
Yay! Thanks, mom. *

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

26 MS ELEPHANT 26
I love that I have a daughter who's
so excited about reading. I hope
that your dreams are full of
interesting stories, too.

27 OLIVE 27
Thanks, mom. Night night.

28 MS ELEPHANT 28
Goodnight, sweetie. Remember, just
five more minutes.

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

29	OLIVE	29	
	[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.		
30	OLIVE (CONT'D)	30	
	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.		* *
31	ELINOR	31	
	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.		* *
32	ELINOR (CONT'D)	32	
	Morning, Ari! How are you today?		* *
33	ARI	33	
	Great! I slept so well. I can't wait to play tag, I'm gonna be SOOO fast!		* * * *
39	They begin walking.	39	*
34	ELINOR	34	
	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.		*

35	ELINOR (CONT'D)	35	
	Hi Olive!		
	Olive <SFX: YAWNS>.		
36	OLIVE	36	
	(sleepy) Hi Nelinor. I mean, hi		*
	Relinor. I mean... hi friend.		
37	ELINOR	37	
	Olive, are you ok?		*
38	ELINOR (CONT'D)	38	*
	(sleepy) Yeah. YAWN.		*
39	ARI	39	*
	Did you finish your book?		*
40	OLIVE	40	*
	(sleepy) No. I got closer, though.		*
	My mom let me read for five extra		*
	minutes, but the book was so good		*
	that I lost track of time and		*
	accidentally read for a lot longer.		*
41	ELINOR	41	
	So you didn't sleep?		*
42	OLIVE	42	
	(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		*
	again tonight. Then I can finish		*
	this YAWN story.		*
43	ARI	43	*
	Huh. I thought everyone just sort		*
	of HAS to sleep. If I didn't sleep,		*
	I'd have a lot more time to play!		*
44	ELINOR	44	
	I've never really thought about it		*
	before. Why DO we need to sleep?		*
	What's it good for?		*
45	OLIVE	45	*
	(sleepy) That's a YAWN good		*
	question.		*
46	ELINOR	46	
	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.		*

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

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

58 OLIVE 58 *
(sleepy) I see a liz-YAWN. *

59 ARI 59 *
What's a lizYAWN? *

Olive points. SCIENCE CU: The sleeping lizard. *

60 ELINOR (O.S.) 60 *
Oh, a lizard! Its eyes are closed *
and it's not moving. I'm going to *
get a closer look. *

Elinor leans into frame. *

61 ELINOR (CONT'D) 61 *
[whispering] Yes, it seems to be *
sleeping. *

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

62 ELINOR (CONT'D) 62 *
Guess it's time to wake up! *

63 ARI 63 *
That lizard ran off with a LOT of *
energy. I bet it's really good at *
tag. *

64 OLIVE 64 *
(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. *

65 ELINOR 65 *
I wonder if there are any sleeping *
animals in the water. *

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

66 ELINOR (O.S.) (CONT'D) 66 *
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).

67	ARI (O.S.)	67	
	Hmm. It sure looks like it's		*
	resting, but its eyes are open.		*
	It's a fish mystery. A fishstery!		*
68	ELINOR (O.S.)	68	*
	I don't think fish can close their		*
	eyes. They don't have eyelids.		*
	BACK ON: The kids.		*
69	ARI	69	*
	No way! That means they can't wink		*
	when they have a fun secret.		*
	Ari turns to his friends, winking.		*
70	ARI (CONT'D)	70	*
	(whispering comically) Psst. My		*
	secret is that my friends are cool.		*
	The kids <SFX: GIGGLE>. Elinor looks thoughtful.		*
71	ELINOR	71	*
	Hmm. I always close my eyes when I		*
	sleep. Otherwise, I'd get PRETTY		*
	bored looking at my ceiling all		*
	night.		
	BACK ON: The kids, who <SFX: LAUGH>.		*
72	ARI	72	*
	So, I guess that fish isn't		*
	sleeping. Maybe fish don't sleep.		*
	Olive is drawing in her notebook.		*
73	OLIVE	73	
	(sleepy) Right. The fish can't be		*
	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 fish?		*
75	OLIVE (O.S.)	75	
	Oops!		

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

76 ELINOR (O.S.) 76 *
So, we saw a sleeping owl, a *
sleeping lizard, and a fish that's *
not sleeping. *

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

77 OLIVE 77 *
(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. *

78 ELINOR 78
You mean the school?

79 OLIVE 79 *
(sleepy) Oops. That's what I meant. *

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

80 ELINOR 80 *
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. *

81 ELINOR 81 *
Hey, Olive. *

82 OLIVE 82 *
(sleepy) YAWN. I mean, hi. *

83 ARI 83 *
Did you get to the part of the book *
where the princess saves the *
prince? *

84 OLIVE 84 *
(sleepy) No. I'm having trouble *
reading. The words are really *
blurry on the page. I keep losing *
my place. *

85	ARI	85	
	Hmm. Do you want to come play tag instead?		* *
86	OLIVE	86	
	(sleepy) Sure. YAWN. Maybe running around will help wake me up.		*
87	ELINOR	87	
	Yay! Do you want to be It?		
88	OLIVE	88	
	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.		* * *
89	OLIVE (CONT'D)	89	
	(sleepy) Whew. I'm out of breath already.		* *
90	ELINOR	90	
	Olive, are you okay?		* *
91	ARI	91	
	Yeah, what's up, Olive?		* *
92	OLIVE	92	
	(sleepy) I don't know. Why can't I run as fast as I usually can?		* * *
	The kids all look thoughtful.		*
93	ELINOR	93	
	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.		* * * * *
94	OLIVE	94	
	(sleepy) Yup. That's all true. (loudly) YAWN.		* * *
95	ARI	95	
	Olive, I think your yawns are getting louder. If you yawn any louder, your trunk will fall off!		* * * *
96	ELINOR	96	
	Wait. That yawn gives me an idea. I usually yawn when I'm sleepy. Ari, you slept a lot last night, right?		* * * *

97	ARI	97	*
	I sure did!		*
98	ELINOR	98	*
	I did too! And we both have lots of energy. But Olive, you didn't sleep very much and now you feel tired.		*
99	OLIVE	99	*
	(sleepy) Oh. You're right.		*
100	ELINOR	100	*
	Hey, maybe that's what sleeping is good for. If we don't sleep, we feel tired.		*
101	ARI	101	*
	Yeah, and we can't do the things we usually do.		*
102	OLIVE	102	*
	(sleepy) That makes sense. YAWN.		*
	MZ. MOLE walks up to the kids. She looks concerned.		*
103	MZ MOLE	103	*
	Olive, are you okay? That was the loudest yawn I've ever heard.		*
104	ELINOR	104	*
	Mz. Mole, Olive stayed up really late to read her book. She didn't get a lot of sleep.		*
105	ARI	105	*
	Yeah, and now she's really tired. She can't read her book well or play tag well.		*
106	ELINOR	106	*
	We think maybe that's why we need to sleep! So we don't feel tired. If we don't sleep, it's harder to do the things we need to do.		*
107	MZ MOLE	107	*
	You're right. Sleep is really important, especially when you're a growing kid! When you sleep, your body rests and your energy comes back. When you wake up, you don't feel tired and you can do all the things you like to do.		*

108	OLIVE (sleepy) Mz. Mole, do ALL animals need to sleep?	108	*
			*
			*
109	MZ MOLE Most of them do, but they don't all rest in the same way.	109	*
			*
	THOUGHT BUBBLE: a sleeping green tree frog.		*
110	MZ MOLE (CONT'D) For instance, a green tree frog has sticky toes, and it sleeps by sticking itself the underside of a leaf and closing its eyes.	110	*
			*
			*
			*
			*
111	ARI Wow! That's unbe-LEAF-able.	111	*
			*
	THOUGHT BUBBLE: a sleeping toucan.		*
112	MZ MOLE A toucan turns its head all the way around and tucks its big beak into its back feathers.	112	*
			*
			*
			*
113	ELINOR Bye bye beak! That's SO INTERESTING. Lots of animals rest in different ways.	113	*
			*
			*
			*
	THOUGHT BUBBLE over Elinor: carp fish sleeping in the pond/creek.		*
			*
114	ELINOR (CONT'D) Hmm. Mz. Mole, we saw a fish earlier that looked like it was resting, but its eyes were open. Was it just resting in a different way?	114	*
			*
			*
			*
			*
115	MZ MOLE Yes! Fish don't have eyelids, but they can rest or sleep with their eyes open.	115	*
			*
			*
			*
118	The kids <SFX: WHOA>.	118	*
116	OLIVE (sleepy) Hmm. Sleep is pretty interesting. And I guess it's pretty important, too.	116	*
			*
			*

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

117	ELINOR/ARI/MZ MOLE	117	
	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.			
118	ELINOR (whispering) Oh, looks like Olive finally fell asleep.	118	*
119	ARI (whispering) Maybe she's finishing her story in her dreams.	119	* * * *
ANGLE ON: In her sleep, Olive smiles. BACK ON Elinor, who leans closer to her.			* *
120	ELINOR (whispering) Psst Olive... make sure to give your story a happy ending!	120	* * * *
The kids <SFX: GIGGLE> as we IRIS OUT: On Olive sweet sleeping face (maybe she snores through her trunk) <SFX: SNOOOORE> THE END.			* * *