

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWV 175 Sr Tapir Says Adios

By Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: What can we give to Sr Tapir to say farewell?

Logline: Sr Tapir is on his way out of town, and Elinor learns a lesson from migrating birds about how to say farewell.

Curriculum Goals:

LS8. Begin to understand that there are many different kinds of living things and how they may be the same or different:

d. Identify seasonal adaptations in physical characteristics or behaviors of animals

(Elinor observes and identifies the different behaviors of birds who migrate in the fall).

SEP1. Asking questions (science) and defining problems (engineering)

a. Demonstrate curiosity about the greater world outside of their local environment

b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena

(Elinor is curious, and asks questions, about the bird calls and about the idea of migration, learning the birds from her local environment will travel somewhere else).

SEP7. Engaging in argument from evidence

a. Engage in discussions before, during, and after investigations

b. Support thinking and argue ideas with evidence

(Elinor and her mother observe and discuss the bird behavior and Elinor argues that from the evidence it seems they are all leaving at once i.e. migrating).

FIRST DRAFT: May 05, 2019

ii.

SECOND DRAFT:

POLISH:

1. EXT. PARK - AFTERNOON

It's a late Fall afternoon in Animal Town and we open as SR. TAPIR is finishing singing a fun song. He sings the last chorus of "Let's Explore" (from EWW101 Interstitial - Jacques Cousteau):

1	SR. TAPIR	1
	(singing)	
	When something you see,	
	Tickles your curiosity	
	When you have to know more	
	And questions pull you out the door	
	Let's go! Let's Explore!	

As he sings, we pan over the happy faces of the kids (ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE and OTHERS (in Fall accessories, Olive has a scarf) gathered around him. They are gleefully paying attention, rocking their heads and playing along with simple instruments (e.g. toy xylophone, tambourine, etc). The song ends.

2	SR. TAPIR (CONT'D)	2
	And that's a song about a scientist	
	who explored the ocean!	

The kids <SFX: CLAP/CHEER/AWESOME!>.

3	ELINOR	3
	We love your songs about	
	scientists, Sr. Tapir.	

4	OLIVE	4
	Yeah, they're so much fun.	

5	ARI	5
	I like the ones where you sing	
	about a scientist who explores..!	
	And then they ask questions..! And	
	then... They discover something!	

As Ari talks, he strikes dramatic explorer poses in front of the group, culminating in a flip in the air before the final pose. The kids <SFX: GIGGLES>.

6	SR. TAPIR	6
	Ha HA! Yes, isn't learning about	
	scientists fun? I'm so glad you	
	like them. And I love playing and	
	sharing these songs with all of	
	you.	

He strums/plays his guitar for emphasis.

7 ELINOR 7
Will you sing us another one, Sr.
Tapir?

Sr Tapir bows gracefully.

8 SR. TAPIR 8
Ah, I would love to, Elinor, but
now I have to tell you something
important.

9 OLIVE 9
What is it Sr. Tapir?

10 SR. TAPIR 10
The time has come for me to leave
Animal Town.

The kids are flabbergasted. <SFX: HUH?/LEAVE ANIMAL
TOWN?/WHAT? WALLA>.

11 ELINOR 11
You're leaving, Sr. Tapir?

12 SR. TAPIR 12
Yes, tomorrow I'm sad to say. Now
that winter is coming, it's time
for me to go to another town.

13 ARI 13
To another town?

14 OLIVE 14
But why, Sr. Tapir?

15 SR. TAPIR 15
It's my job, you see. I'm a
traveling musical instrument sales-
animal, and my job is to go from
town to town playing music and
sharing these wonderful instruments
with everyone.

As he talks, we see a **THOUGHT BUBBLE** of Sr. Tapir walking
with his full backpack down a trail, arriving at a signpost,
and then walking towards another town (and maybe playing to a
whole different group of kids?).

16 OLIVE 16
I hope they love your songs as much
as we do.

17 ELINOR 17
Yeah, we really love your songs,
Sr. Tapir.

18 SR. TAPIR 18
Aw, thank you kids. That really
makes my heart sing. And you know
how much my heart likes to sing.

Sr. Tapir strums his guitar and does a fun and expressive
<SFX: LA-LAAA-LAAAAAA!!> which makes the kids <SFX: GIGGLE>.

19 SR. TAPIR (CONT'D) 19
But don't worry, kids, I'll be back
again next year.

20 ARI 20
Next year?

21 SR. TAPIR 21
Yes, I always come back to Animal
Town in the Spring. Before you know
it, the flowers will be in bloom
and you'll see me again. Who knows,
maybe I'll have new songs to sing
to you.

The kids seem happy about that <SFX: YAY/WOO HOO! WALLA> and
they begin to return their instruments to Sr. Tapir, who adds
them to his traveler's backpack, which is loaded with
instruments (fiddle, kazoo, banjo, tuba, drums, etc.) and
other things.

22 SR. TAPIR (CONT'D) 22
Well, I hope to see you again
tomorrow to say good bye before I
leave. But now it's time for you to
go. Do you know why?

The kids look confused.

23 SR. TAPIR (CONT'D) 23
Listen....

Sr. Tapir puts a hand to his hear, miming listening.
Suddenly, Ari's stomach <SFX: GROWLS>.

24 SR. TAPIR (CONT'D) 24
...it's almost dinner time!

Everyone giggles, and they start to disperse.

25 ELINOR 25
Bye, Sr. Tapir! See you tomorrow.

26 SR. TAPIR 26
Adios! Hasta Luego. See you later.

They head off in different directions.

2. EXT FOREST PATH -- LATE AFTERNOON

Elinor, Ari and Olive walk along the forest path to their house. In the trees we hear a few birds here and there.

A breeze blows through.

27 OLIVE 27
Brr, it is getting a little chilly.
It feels a little like Winter
already.

She wraps her scarf around her neck.

28 ELINOR 28
It's too bad Sr. Tapir has to
leave.

29 ARI 29
Yeah, who's gonna sing us songs
about scientists now?

Elinor has an idea.

30 ELINOR 30
Hey! I know. Why don't we do
something special for Sr Tapir
before he leaves?

31 OLIVE 31
Great idea, Elinor! He's always
doing nice things for us. We should
do something nice for HIM. But,
what should we do?

32 ARI 32
We could give him a good bye
present?

33 ELINOR 33
Yeah! Something to help him
remember us.

34 ARI 34
What should we get him?

35 ELINOR 35
We could make him a hat?

A THOUGHT BUBBLE shows the kids giving Sr. Tapir a funny kid-made hat.

36 OLIVE 36
Mmm, I think he already has a hat.

37 ARI 37
Oooh! I know, let's get him a big
jar of pickles! I love pickles,
I'll bet he'll love them too.

We see a THOUGHT BUBBLE of the kids giving Sr. Tapir a giant jar of pickles.

38 OLIVE 38
That's fun. But he has a long way
to walk and his bag already seemed
really full. How is he going to
carry it?

In the thought bubble, Sr Tapir can't find a place to put the giant jar in his bag.

39 ELINOR 39
Hmmm....

The kids ponder a bit as they walk and arrive at Elinor's house. Ranger Rabbit filling the bird feeder on the porch.

40 RANGER RABBIT 40
Hi, kids. You look like you're
trying to figure something out.

41 ELINOR 41
Mom, Sr. Tapir is leaving tomorrow.

42 RANGER RABBIT 42
Yes, I heard. I bet you kids must
be sad.

43 OLIVE 43
Yeah, we're really going to miss
him.

44 ELINOR 44
Mom, we want to give Sr. Tapir
something special before he leaves,
but we don't know what.

45 ARI 45
And it can't be something big, like
pickles. I already thought of that.

46 RANGER RABBIT 46
That's very sweet of you, kids. I'm
sure you'll find just the right
thing to give Sr. Tapir before he
leaves tomorrow.

47 ELINOR 47
I hope so.

48 OLIVE 48
We should go home. Good night,
Elinor, good night Ranger Rabbit!

Olive and Ari turn to go and they all wave goodbye <SFX: BYE!
SEE YOU TOMORROW! WALLA>. Ranger Rabbit and Elinor go inside.

3. EXT ELINOR'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

The sky darkens, night passes and the sun begins to rise.

4. INT ELINOR'S BEDROOM -- DAWN/MORNING

It's barely light out, and we see Elinor sleeping peacefully.
Her window is open. Suddenly, we hear some bird calls.
[<https://www.xeno-canto.org/species/Hylocichla-mustelina>
(look at type "calls" or "nocturnal flight calls") Suggested
by Emily DuVal, our bird expert]

Elinor stirs in her bed. Then we hear more sounds again.
Elinor wakes up and listens.

49 ELINOR 49
Huh? What's that?

She gets out of bed and opens the window all the way. She
listens for a moment, using her special bunny hearing. She
hears it, and a few other sounds like it, a couple of times.

50 ELINOR (CONT'D) 50
Hmmm, I wonder what those sounds
are.

5. PARENT'S BEDROOM - DAWN/MORNING

Elinor tiptoes into her parent's bedroom, where both of them
are sleeping. Elinor leans over and whispers in her mom's
ear.

51 ELINOR (LOUD WHISPER) 51
Mom!

Ranger Rabbit stirs <SFX: HMMRM>.

52 ELINOR (LOUDER WHISPER) (CONT'D) 52
Mooooooooom!

Ranger Rabbit opens her eyes.

53 RANGER RABBIT 53
Elinor, is everything ok? What is
it, dear?

54 ELINOR 54
I heard an interesting sound that
woke me up from outside!

55 RANGER RABBIT 55
Hmmm, interesting. What kind of
sound was it?

56 ELINOR 56

I don't know. That's what I want to know. It sounded like a bird. Or a cricket. Is there such a thing as a cricket bird?

Ranger Rabbit suspects she knows what it is.

57 RANGER RABBIT 57
Mm, I don't think so.

58 ELINOR 58
I want to go outside and find out.
Will you come with me, Mom?

Ranger Rabbit sits up.

59 RANGER RABBIT 59
Well, I guess it's never too early
to be curious, is it?

60 ELINOR 60
Yay! (hears the <SFX: BIRD CALLS>
again) There are the sounds again.
C'mon, we need more observa-!

Mr Rabbit stirs. Ranger Rabbit puts her finger to her lips.

61 ELINOR (WHISPERING) (CONT'D) 61
We need more observations!

6. HOUSE AND FOREST -- EARLY MORNING

It's early morning and the sky is still dawn-hued. The two of them walk outside and together they listen. As they walk a little bit into the trees, we hear the unusual <SFX: BIRD CALL> sounds again.

62 ELINOR 62
There it is! That's the sound I
heard!

63 RANGER RABBIT 63

That IS an interesting sound. What
do you think it is?

64 ELINOR 64
I don't know. I don't think I've
ever heard it before.

We hear a <SFX: SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT BIRD CALL> coming from another tree. We see hint of birds rustling in the branches.

65 ELINOR (CONT'D) 65
There it is again. But where is it
coming from?

66 RANGER RABBIT 66
Alright, let's listen very
carefully.

Elinor and Mom's bunny ears turn in sync and narrow in on the
<SFX: BIRD CALLS>.

67 ELINOR 67
I think it's coming from over
there.

```
68                                RANGER RABBIT                                68
                                I think you're right.
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They walk over and see as a few birds emerge from the branches, making the <SFX: BIRD CALLS> she heard.

69 ELINOR 69
Look, it's those birds in the trees
that are making the sound.

The birds make the sound again.

70 ELINOR (CONT'D) 70
But I never heard a bird make that
sound before. Birds usually sound
like (chirping) chirp chirp.
(Elinor looks thoughtful.)

71 These sound more like calls - 71
cheep cheep. I wonder... why do
these birds sound different?

72 RANGER RABBIT 72
Keep observing, Elinor, I think you
might find out soon.

Soon, some birds start leaving, one after the other but then all at once. They see a flock of birds fly off together and making that particular sound. Then they see another flock. We are in the midst of a natural wonder.

73 ELINOR 73
Wow, look at that all those birds
leaving. It looks like they're all
going the same way.

Suddenly, a little early morning breeze blows through, causing the trees to stir and Ranger Rabbit to close her nightgown tighter.

74 ELINOR (CONT'D) 74
Mom, are the birds leaving for the
Winter, like Sr. Tapir?

75 RANGER RABBIT 75

Yes, they are. Some birds don't
like the cold, so when it's almost
Winter, they fly away somewhere
warmer.

Elinor hears the <SFX: BIRD CALLS>.

76 ELINOR 76
(gasp!) Is that why they are making
that special sound? Because they're
going on a trip?

77 RANGER RABBIT 77

Yes! Some birds make a special
sound when they're flying away
together for the winter.

Elinor and her mom observe the birds fly away, and Elinor looks a bit thoughtful.

78 RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D) 78
What's wrong, Elinor?

79 ELINOR 79
I'm a little sad that the birds are
leaving, just like Sr. Tapir.

Ranger Rabbit kneels down and comforts her.

80	RANGER RABBIT	80
	Don't worry, Elinor. The birds and Sr. Tapir will be back again next year. Sometimes things in Nature leave, but then they come back.	

Elinor cheers up.

81	ELINOR	81
	Yeah. It's nice that the birds make special sounds when they leave. It's like they're singing a goodbye song.	

82	RANGER RABBIT	82
	Music is a nice way to say goodbye.	

83	ELINOR	83
	Mom, that's it! I think I know what we can give Sr. Tapir before he leaves. C'mon!	

7. EXT PARK -- MORNING

It's later that day, and we see Sr. Tapir putting the finishing touches on his bulging backpack as he gets ready to hit the trail.

There's a small pack of town residents gathered to say goodbye. Just as Sr. Tapir hoists the pack on his back, Mr. Raccoon comes up to wish him safe travels.

84	MR RACCOON	84
	Well, have a good trip, Sr Tapir. Here, I baked you some SPECIAL snacks for your trip.	

85	SR. TAPIR	85
	Wow, thank you, Mr. Raccoon! I should sing a song about how yummy your treats are.	

86	MR RACCOON	86
	Oh, well thank you. I do bake the best treats in town. (Of course, I'm also the only baker in town...)	

Sr. Tapir finds a place to squeeze the snacks into his pack.

Next, Mz. Llama steps up and makes a fuss over Sr Tapir.

87 MZ. LLAMA 87
Thanks for all of your beautiful
songs, Sr. Tapir.

88 SR. TAPIR 88
Thank you, Mz. Llama. I'll miss
your fruits and your special
sauces. Muy deliciosas!

89 MZ. LLAMA 89
Aww, gosh...

We see him shake hands with or wave to a few other gathered
town residents, and gets ready to start his journey.

90 SR. TAPIR 90
Well, adios, Amigo-

Just then, Elinor arrives followed by Olive, Ari, the rest of
the kids from before, and Ranger Rabbit.

91 ELINOR 91
Sr. Tapir! Sr Tapir!

92 SR. TAPIR 92
Elinor, kids! I'm so glad you came
to say goodbye. I didn't want to
leave Animal Town before saying
Adios one last time.

93 ELINOR 93
Sr. Tapir, we made something
special for you to take on your
trip.

Sr. Tapir brightens.

94 SR. TAPIR 94
Wow! Something special? What is it?

95 ELINOR 95
Well, we were trying to think of
what to give you.

96 OLIVE 96
Because you're always singing fun
songs to us.

97 ARI 97
But pickles would be TOO heavy.

98 ELINOR 98
And then last night, I heard some
sounds coming from outside my
window.

99 OLIVE 99
Yeah, Elinor told us all about it.
It was birds, and they were leaving
too.

100	ARI	100
	And when they leave for the winter, they make a special bird call.	

101 SR. TAPIR 101
That's so interesting!

102 ELINOR 102

Yes it is! So we had the idea to
make a special song for you, just
like the birds.

103 SR. TAPIR 103
That's wonderful, kids. I can't
wait to hear it.

All the kids gather together and sing a farewell choir song:

104

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI/KIDS

104

(singing)

It's time for some birds
To fly, fly away
It's getting too cold
For them to stay

And just like the birds
We sing, sing a song
To say "good bye"
But not for long

(chorus)

When friends say bye
Just sing them this tune
And they'll come back
You'll see them soon

(MORE)

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI/KIDS (CONT'D)

Oh, Señor Tapir,
Thank you for your songs
Please think of us
As you travel along

Oh, Señor Tapir,
Please hear, hear our words
Please come right back
Just like the birds

(chorus)
When friends say bye
Just sing them this tune
And they'll come back
You'll see them soon

Sr. Tapir wipes a tear from his cheek.

105	SR. TAPIR	105
	That song was absolutely wonderful, kids! I'll remember this special song and take it with me on my travels.	

106	OLIVE	106
	We're so glad you liked it, Sr. Tapir.	

107	ELINOR	107
	It's our way of saying goodbye.	

108	SR. TAPIR	108
	Where I come from, we say "Adios and Hasta Luego" which means "Good bye and see you later."	

109	OLIVE	109
	"Hasta Luego", I like that.	

They have a nice group hug.

110	ARI	110
	I'm going to miss your songs about scientists, Sr. Tapir.	

111	SR. TAPIR	111
	Well, you don't need me to sing to you about scientists, Ari. You are all great scientists yourselves. Just look how much you learn by listening and observing!	

The kids beam.

112	ELINOR	112
	Adios, Sr. Tapir.	

113	OLIVE	113
	And Hasta Luego!	

He walks over the hill as everyone waves.

114	SR. TAPIR	114
	Adios... and hasta luego, amigos!	

END *