

ELINOR'S TOWN - PILOT EPISODE "A"

"THE SEED OF AN IDEA"

Written by

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EXT. ELINOR'S SCHOOL -- DAY, DAY 1

Title Card: "The Seed Of An Idea"

It's a crisp, clear morning in the forest. We see Elinor's school, buried among trees and surrounded by flowers and buzzing insects. We close in on a window and into...

INT. ELINOR'S CLASSROOM -- DAY, CONTINUOUS

The room is bright and colorful. ELINOR walks in wearing her backpack, smiling and hopping. She is excited for her day at school! As she walks, she passes other kids coming in and putting their things in their cubbyholes:

Elinor passes Ashley Bear, who undoes her hook and loop (i.e. "Velcro") boot straps. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor's ears perk up at that as she walks by.

KIDS WALLA

Let's record a little of Elinor humming to herself cheerfully as she walks in. Maybe she can be humming the ditty melody.

1 ELINOR
Hmmm.

Next, Medhi Fox opens his backpack. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor's eyebrows jump.

2 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Hmm?

Javier Moose undoes the velcro fasteners on his jacket. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor takes notice.

3 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Hmm...

Elinor arrives at her cubby. Her friends HAZEL and ARI come to greet her.

HAZEL & ELINOR
BUMP
SFX
BUMP.
EFFORT

4 HAZEL
Hi, Elinor! You look extra curious today!

5 ELINOR
Oh, hi, Hazel! Hi, Ari!

6 ARI
Are you CURIOUS to see something cool? Check THIS out!

Ari holds out his hand. On his wrist is an oversized kid's watch.

7 ARI (CONT'D)
I have a new watch! Proud

Line 4 is a little subtle. I like how the scratch track actor did it, with the emphasis on "YOU"

Line 6: Ari should swoop in with a little salesman pitch, so maybe stretch the r and emphasize the curious: "Arrre you CURIOUS to see..."

8 ELINOR
8 Line 9: This one is a little subtle
9 HAZEL
9 (Smiling) He's been showing it to everyone this morning.
10 ARI
10 My parents got it for me. They said *Proud*
10 it's to help me stay on track.
10 Watch this!

Ari presses a button on the watch.

11 WATCH ALARM
11 Time to go to school! *MS MOLE TREATED*
11 Eat your vegetables! *Siri LIKE VOICE*
11 Put your pants on!

Elinor and Hazel look at each other.

12 ARI
12 Heh, sometimes I forget. 12

WALLA The kids giggle. *HAZEL & ELINOR*

13 ARI (CONT'D)
13 Want to see my favorite part? 13
13 Look at the watch strap!

Ari opens and closes the hook and loop strap on his watch a few times. *Skrrrrrtch*. Elinor's eyes open wide.

14 ELINOR
14 Oooohhh... 14

At that moment, MS. MOLE, their teacher, calls them to order.

15 MS. MOLE
15 Ok, class, time to find our places! *CALLED OUT* 15

WALLA All the kids move to the rug at the center of the room. Ms. Mole stands next to her desk.

16 CLASS *-WHO? - WALLA*
16 Good morning, Ms. Mole! *ELINOR, HAZEL* 16

17 MS. MOLE
17 Good morning! Now, where is my book? 17

Line 14: We could also try a "Whooooa....."

She feels around on her desk and picks up a carrot.

18 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) *PLAYFUL & COY*
Ah ha! Is this it? 18

19 ~~CLASS (ALL TOGETHER)~~ *ARI*
No! / That's not it! / (Ari:) 19
That's a carrot!

Ms. Mole gives a sly smile and sniffs the carrot.

BITE WALLA
"CARROT" SFX

20 MS. MOLE
Oops! You're right! 20

WALLA
She hunts around on the desk with her hands, picks up an eraser.

21 MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
Ok. This MUST be it. 21

22 ~~CLASS~~ *HAZEL*
No! / That's an eraser! / (Hazel: 22
That's not a book!)

Ms. Mole smiles again, sniffs it. She puts it down and picks up a book.

23 MS. MOLE
Is THIS it?! 23

24 *WALLA* CLASS
Yes! (Laughing) 24

25 MS. MOLE
Nooooow we are ready for the 25
lesson!

Ms. Mole opens the book. There's a picture of a spiky seed on it.

26 MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
Today we are going to learn 26
about... (dramatically) Nature's
Ideas!

All of the kids are paying rapt attention, except for Elinor, who is looking at the watch on Ari's wrist. She moves to take a closer look.

27 MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
Nature has solved a lot of 27
different kinds of problems and is
full of useful ideas. For example--

Ms. Mole is interrupted by a sudden *Skrrrrrtch*. She turns from the picture book to look, and the noise stops. She scans the group of kids. Elinor is smiling innocently. After a beat, Ms. Mole turns back to her book. Elinor reaches for the watch again.

28

INQUISITIVE WHAT WAS THAT?

MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
Ahem. Nature is full of useful ideas, like --

28

She is interrupted again by a *Skrrrrrtch-Skrrrrrtch*. She turns from the book to look, and the sound stops again. The kids look at each other. Everyone is puzzled!

29

MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
(Slowly returning to book)
Nature is full of ideas, like --

29

She is interrupted again by a *Skrrrrrtch-Skrrrrrtch*. This time she turns around very quickly. We see Elinor caught in the act of pulling on Ari's watch strap.

30

MS. MOLE (CONT'D)
Elinor...

30

31

* ALT

ELINOR
SORRY Ms. Mole!! This strap is sooo cool!

31

Elinor stands up and holds up Ari's watch with Ari still attached to it.

LD WALLA GETTING PULLED UP BY ELINOR

32

ELINOR (CONT'D)
You can open it and close it and open it and close it...

32

She opens and closes the strap several times.

Line 32-26: Elinor should speak slowly and clearly in this section. This is exposition for the kids at home, so it should be VERY clear.

33

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Most of it is soft and fuzzy, except for this scratchy patch...

33

She opens it and points to the patch of "hook" fabric on one end (the rest of the strap is made of loop fabric).

34

ELINOR (CONT'D)
...which sticks to the fuzzy part of the strap. The two parts stick together like tape, but they aren't sticky!

34

- SUPER INTERESTED - HIGH ENERGY

> CLASS WALLA...
"OOH... WHOA..."

Elinor puts her finger on the patch and shows it doesn't stick.

35 CLASS
Oooohhh... 35

36 ELINOR
That is SO interesting!
And look! There's a patch like that
on all sorts of things! 36

Elinor drags Ari over to the cubby area. *ARI WALLA AS HE'S DRAGGED*

37 ELINOR (CONT'D)
It keeps Ashley's boots closed... 37

She pulls the watch strap (and Ari) down to Ashley's boots and points out the hook patch on the boot straps.

38 ELINOR (CONT'D)
It keeps Mehdi's backpack closed... 38

WALLA She drags Ari over to Mehdi's backpack and opens and closes the backpack twice, pointing out the hook patch on the flap.

39 ELINOR (CONT'D)
And it's on Javier's coat! 39

Elinor holds the watch up to the coat's hook patch. Hazel joins them.

40 HAZEL
You're right, it's on everything! *WALLA* 40

Hazel undoes the watch band and a relieved Ari hits the floor.

41 ELINOR
But I never thought about it
before. I wonder how it works? 41

Ms. Mole opens her mouth to say something, but at that moment, Ari's watch alarm beeps.

42 WATCH ALARM
Time for recess! Time for recess! *"SIRI" VOICE* 42

43 MS. MOLE
Ah, yes. Thank you, Ari's watch!
It's time for recess! 43

All the kids cheer and stampede out the door, except for Elinor, Hazel and Ari. They turn off the alarm and walk over to the rug to look at the strap closely. Elinor fixates on the patch of hook fabric on one end.

Line 37-39: These lines are also slow: like Elinor is putting together the pieces of a puzzle mystery.

Line 40: the comma here should really be more of an ellipsis... She says "you're right" as she observes and comes to the realization, then a big "It's on everything!"

44 ELINOR 44
 Hmm.... How does this work? How
 does this scratchy patch stick to
 the fuzzy side without BEING
 sticky?

45 HAZEL *→ HAPPY* 45
 Oh, sounds like a mystery. I'll see
 if we have any books about it!

Hazel runs over to the class bookshelf. Ari looks longingly
 out the window.

46 ARI *WISTFUL* 46
 What about going to recess?

Elinor sticks the hook patch to Ari's sweater. The watch
 hangs by itself.

47 ELINOR 47
 And look, the patch also sticks to
 other things!

48 ARI 48
 Hey!

Elinor tries the patch on a nearby chair, showing it doesn't
 stick.

49 ELINOR *(CONCERNED)* 49
 ...But it DOESN'T stick to
 everything.

50 ARI 50
 Huh. That IS interesting.

Hazel returns with a large stack of books and plops them
 down.

51 HAZEL *WACKS BACK IN* 51
 Well, I found some fun books, but
 none about mysterious scratchy
 patches that stick to things.

52 ARI 52
 (Poking at the patch)...or DON'T
 stick to things! That's the
 mystery!

53 ELINOR
 Hmm, I have an idea... Let's try
 sticking the patch to a LOT of
 things, and see what it DOES and
 DOESN'T stick to. Maybe that will
 tell us how it works. 53

54 HAZEL
 I'll make a list! 54

Hazel grabs a piece of paper. Ari hands her a crayon. Using
 her trunk to hold the crayon, Hazel draws a big T on the
 paper. She labels one side of the T with a check mark and the
 other with an "X."

→ HUMMING

55 HAZEL (CONT'D)
 Ready! 55

56 ELINOR
 Let's see... Ari's sweater: yes. 56
 Hazel doodles a sweater on the check mark column. Line 56-57: Let's
 get a few more
 items from the
 actors, just in
 case:

57 ELINOR (CONT'D)
 Chair: no. 57
 Hazel doodles a chair on the "X" column. Fish tank: No.
 Door: No.

58 ARI
 How about the rug? 58
 He grabs the strap and sticks the patch to the rug. Ms. Mole's desk:
 No.

59 ELINOR
 Rug: yes, it sticks! 59
 Hazel doodles a little carpet on the check mark side. They
 try more locations. Hazel records the observation each time. Line 59: there
 should be a little
 suspense here:
 "Rug.... YES, it
 sticks!"

60 ELINOR (CONT'D)
 Chalkboard: no! 60

61 ELINOR (CONT'D)
 Hazel's trunk: no! 61
 Hazel raises her eyebrows, but makes a doodle. Line 61: I like
 how in the
 scratch track, the
 actor put a little
 giggle at the end.

62 HAZEL
 So the patch sticks to Ari's
 sweater and the rug, and... nothing
 else. 62

63 ELINOR
 (Scratching her head) Hmmm... 63
 Line 61: Let's get
 a few different
 little audio
 reactions from
 Hazel here, like:
 "Hey!" or "Ack!"
 or "Hmmm..."

They pause and think.

64

ARI *- LONGINQUELY*
(Eyeing the playground) We could
try some things outside?

64

65

ELINOR
Yeah, good idea!

65

66

ARI
We're going outside! *- HAPPY.*

66

The kids go out the door. Elinor looks excited about their project and gives a hop or two. Hazel is twirling her trunk and looking over her notes.

EXT. THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND. -- DAY, CONTINUOUS *- KID PLAYGROUND WALLA SFX.*
There are kids playing on the swings and slides as Elinor, Hazel and Ari come outside.

67

ELINOR *- A LITTLE CALLED OUT*
Ooh, let's try that tree!

67

Elinor takes the watch and bounces over to a tree. She tries to stick the hook patch to the tree.

68

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Tree: no.

68

Hazel records it.

69

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Hmm, we need MORE OBSERVATIONS!

69

A ditty begins to play and the kids sing a song:

70

ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI *- NOTES ON THIS FROM JORGE & DANIEL.*
(Singing)
We want to solve the mystery,
Of how this sticks so stickily.
We're going to try it here,
And there,
And everywhere!
Into the woods and under the trees,
We follow our curiosity!

70

HIT THESE THREE WORDS HARD WITH ENTHUSIASM.

As they sing, they begin in the playground and wander among the bushes and trees nearby. They are dancing (and hopping and flying) a bit and trying the strap's hook patch on various things: bushes (no), acorns (no), rocks (no), etc.

A CALLED OUT NO'S FROM ALL THREE CHARACTERS.

PICK UPS OK FOR E.T.

EXT. CLEARING -- DAY

They emerge from some bushes and come to a small clearing, gathering around Hazel's list. Ari has some twigs and seed burrs stuck to his clothes and fur.

71 HAZEL
Ok, the scratchy patch sticks to
sweaters and rugs, but not anything
else!

72 ELINOR
Hmm, I don't see how it works. Do
you guys?

The kids shake their heads.

73 ARI
It's such a sticky mystery!

They think for a moment: Elinor's ears cross or wiggle; Hazel scratches her head with the crayon. Ari notices the seed burrs stuck to him and tries to shake them off.

74 ARI (CONT'D) — *PLAY WITH THIS.*
Ack!

He goes through a few shakes and contortions, but the seed burrs don't come off. He gets a little alarmed.

75 ARI (CONT'D)
Ah! These seeds won't come off!

Elinor goes over and grabs one of the seed burrs and pulls it off. It makes a small *skrrrrtch* sound. Ari sighs in relief.

76 ARI (CONT'D)
Thanks!

Elinor sticks it back on Ari and pulls it again. *Skrrrrtch*. Her eyes go wide.

77 ARI (CONT'D)
Hey!

78 ELINOR
Look, this seed sticks to Ari's
sweater just like the scratchy
patch! It even makes the same
sound!

I wonder...

Line 71: This line should be slow and deliberate since this is a key moment. Plus, she'll be pointing to the items on the paper so we should have a slight pause between items.

Line 76: Let's get a little "Phew!" before the thanks.

88

ELINOR
 (Examining the fuzzy side
 of the strap)
 But the hooks need something fuzzy
 with little loops to grab on to.

88

Hazel checks her list.

89

HAZEL
 Yeah! That's why the patch only
 sticks to these fuzzy things
 (points to the items on the check
 mark side), and not to these other
 things that aren't fuzzy. These
 things don't have little loops for
 the hooks to grab!

89

The kids smile at each other, sharing a feeling of excitement
 at having solved the puzzle.

90

ARI
 We solved the mystery!

90

91

ELINOR
 Let's tell Ms. Mole!

91

Elinor dashes off back to the playground, followed by Hazel
 and then Ari, who flaps to catch up.

Line 90: the
 cheering/
 laughing all
 together in the
 scratch track is
 nice.

EXT. PLAYGROUND -- DAY

Elinor swooshes down the slide and jumps on the swing,
 landing first. Ari flies over and Hazel comes up last,
 puffing slightly. They find Ms. Mole sitting by the
 playground.

92

ELINOR
 Ms. Mole, we figured it out!

92

93

HAZEL
 It's the little hooks on the
 patch...

93

94

ARI
 That make the strap stick together!

94

95

ELINOR
 But the hooks only stick to things
 that are fuzzy and have little
 loops in them.

95

Elinor makes a loop with two fingers and a hook with one
 finger from the other paw and demonstrates.

 EFFORT WALLA

96

ELINOR (CONT'D)

The hooks on the patch grab loops
on the fuzzy part and stick
together! And then... *skrrrrrtch!*

96

Ms. Mole nods sagely and her nose twitches.

WALLA
UM HMM
-CHUCKLE

97

MS. MOLE

My, I smell some clever little
scientists. I knew you would figure
it out!

97

Elinor holds up one of the seeds.

98

ELINOR

We figured it out from looking at
this spiky seed, like the one you
were... uh, *trying* (she looks
sheepish) to teach us about before.

98

Elinor sticks the seed to Ari.

99

MS. MOLE

That is interesting! The strap and
the seed work the same way. Why do
you think that is?

99

LEADING ELINOR & FRIENDS

Ari gasps in realization.

100

ARI

INNOCENT

Did the seed COPY the idea from the
watch strap?

100

Ms. Mole smiles.

101

HAZEL

-KEEP IT NICE & KIND.

I think that would be silly...
(Unsure) Wouldn't it?

101

102

ELINOR

I bet the idea for the strap came
FROM the seeds!

102

103

MS. MOLE

That's right!

103

Ms. Mole pulls out the same book she was trying to show the
kids earlier.

104

MS. MOLE (CONT'D)

I was just about to tell you the
whole story...

104

Ms. Mole opens the book to the page we saw earlier, which shows the seed with lots of hooks. She turns the page to an illustration of Georges de Mistral (the inventor of hook and loop) as a dog character walking in the forest; the picture becomes animated as she explains.

105

MS. MOLE (CONT'D) *V/O*

Georges de Mistral was an inventor who lived a long time ago. He loved to go for walks in the woods, but always came back with some seeds stuck to his fur and clothes.

105

The dog notices the seed burrs sticking to him.

106

ELINOR

It's the same seeds we found!

106

107

MS. MOLE

That's right! The seed has little hooks so it can grab on to things and grow in different places.

107

As Ms. Mole talks, we see Ari notice a butterfly and follow it into the bushes.

108

MS. MOLE (CONT'D)

(Back to the book) George wondered if he could use the same idea and make the hooks and loops himself. That way, he could get OTHER things to stick together.

108

The dog is in a workshop making the first hook-and-loop prototype. Later, he tests it on a new coat. Skkkkrtch!

109

ELINOR

Wow. Nature really DOES have some good ideas, Ms. Mole. I'm glad we went to explore in it!

109

(Singing)

Into the woods and under the trees,
We can follow our curiosity!

*— REFRAIN FROM
EARLIER*

110

110

Ms. Mole smiles and winks.

111

MS. MOLE

Well, I think it's great that you didn't give up and figured it out yourselves!

111

At that moment, Ari comes from the bushes, completely covered in seed burrs from head to toe. Hazel is startled.

14.

112

Ah!

HAZEL

112

113

ARI
Yeah, you could say we really STUCK
with it!

113

They all laugh.

WAL LA

END.

Line 113: The exaggerated stretching of "STUCK" that the actor did in the scratch track is nice. It'll be good for the little kids at home to help them catch the pun.