

*Laura
pls remember we
can't have the 'speed racers'
change direction/ views
while in frame -
too difficult to
animate*

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 109A Speed Racer

By: Adam Ruben

Elinor's Question: Why is Camilla's racecar so much faster than Elinor's wagon?

Logline: When Elinor wants her wagon to move faster, she changes its shape with some inspiration from aerodynamic animals.

Curriculum Goals:

LS2. Understand that animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs, and that plants have different parts that help them survive and grow. (Elinor and her friends learn that animals' shapes help them move fast.)

ND3. Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world. (Elinor and her friends build a car based on animals' shapes.)

SEP1d. Identify a problem that can be solved by the design of a new or improved object or tool. (Elinor and her friends identify that, to make the wagon as fast as Camilla's car, they need to improve its design.)

SEP3b. Compare and contrast objects and events by describing similarities and differences in detail. (Elinor and her friends consider the similarities [wheels] and differences [shape] between her wagon and Camilla's car.)

SEP3e. Design and build a solution to a simple problem. (Elinor and her friends design and build a faster car.)

SEP4c. Record observations to describe patterns and/or relationships in the natural and designed world(s) in order to answer scientific questions and solve problems. (Elinor and her friends notice the animals' shapes.)

ELINOR - House - 003 *REMOVE THE ANT HILL

FRAME WIDE (ENOUGH TO SEE THE ENTIRE HOUSE. YOU'LL NEED TO ADD TO THE BG)

YOU WILL PROBABLY NEED TO CREATE NEW ANGLES OF THIS LOCATION

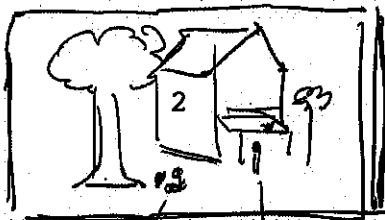
1. EXT. ELINOR'S YARD - DAY

Open on a sunny afternoon in ELINOR's yard, where MR. RABBIT is building a tall birdhouse nearby. Elinor, OLIVE, and ARI are excitedly putting the finishing touches on a real roadster! It's actually a cardboard box taped to the top of a pull wagon, but the kids are chattering and laughing as they decorate and tape the box, thrilled at the prospect of riding in a self-built car.

Elinor is adding a few pieces of tape to secure the cardboard box to the wagon, while Olive paints various objects on the side.

ARI IS INSIDE THE ROADSTER!

WE DON'T SEE HIM UNTIL LINE 3.



KIDS

Ari pops up from inside the box, holding Elinor's helmet.

3

ELINOR
(casually singing to herself as she works)

We're building a car, we're building a car.

OLIVE
(picking up on the singing)

Yes we are! Yes we ARE!

We're gonna go far! In our caaaaar!

Ari, Elinor and Olive <SFX: LAUGH> Ari steps out of the box ~~and hands Elinor her helmet~~

4

ARI (CONT'D)
Wow! Our car looks amazing!

5

ELINOR
It sure does, Ari!

6

ARI
And those are some cool decorations, Olive.

7

OLIVE
Thanks!

ANGLE ON: Mr. Rabbit pauses his work, smiles, and comes over to the kids.

8

MR. RABBIT
That looks great, kids! What are you going to call your new car?
(MORE)

FIND A COMFORTABLE SPOT FOR ELINOR TO PICK UP HER HELMET

(A) WATSON OUT ON ELINOR & OLIVE WORKING ON THE ROADSTER

(B) TITLE

(C) BIRD FLIES THROUGH

(C) WATSON OUT AGAIN AS WE FOLLOW THE BIRD OVER TO MR. RABBIT BUILDING THE BIRDHOUSE

(D) BIRD LANDS ON BACK ROOF

(E) TITLE

(F) BIRD FLIES UP TOWARDS BIG TREE

(G) WATSON OUT AS WE FOLLOW THE BIRD TO THE TREE - FULL BG

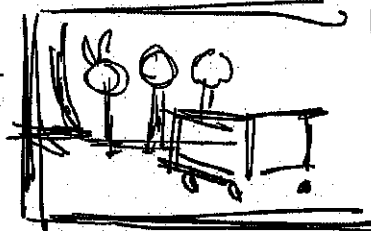
(H) TITLE



PLEASE ADD A WORKTABLE WITH VARIOUS TOOLS

3

4 ARI STEPS OUT OF THE
5 BACK
6 CONTINUE



7

* See Page 15 For Very Rough Designs of the 'RACE CARS'

2. EXT. HILL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

EXT CLUBHOUSE CO!

* You will need to change the clubhouse

The kids

enter from

Screen right

up the hill and ride down

to the left

Elinor, Olive, and Ari push the car up the hill. It's a beautiful day, and we see the wind rustle a few leaves and a flock of birds fly by (maybe swallows, who are really good fliers, or robins, or sparrows which are already designed).

One of the birds swoops down and zooms near the kids, which Elinor notices.

ELINOR

Whoa! That bird is so fast! I can't wait to see how fast we can go.

APPROPRIATE VIEW ONTO THE BG.

THERE SHOULD BE DENSITY OF VIEWS OF THIS LOCATION.

It's not a steep hill at all - much longer than it is tall. It's the sort of hill that gives a smooth ride to excite a kindergartener, but nowhere near dangerous enough to make a parent worry. The path leading down the hillside is wide enough for at least two cars the size of Elinor's wagon.

Elinor, Olive, and Ari give the final few <GRUNTS> of pushing the wagon to the hilltop.

REFERENCE "EXPANDABLE CLUBHOUSE" EP. FOR BGS

CONSIDER A

MID-SHOT OF THE KIDS SHOWING A BIRD SWOOPING THROUGH IT

ARI

THE SHOT.

Phew! That was hard work.

20

ELINOR

Okay, we're ready for our first test.

20

She climbs into the car. - from the back

21

OLIVE

Don't forget to buckle your helmet!

21

helmet is already on - I just give the strap a tug.

Elinor buckles her helmet.

Ready?

ARI

Ready!

ELINOR

Set?

OLIVE

Set!

ELINOR

Olive and Ari position themselves behind the wagon.

26

OLIVE/ARI

Three! Two! One! GO!

26



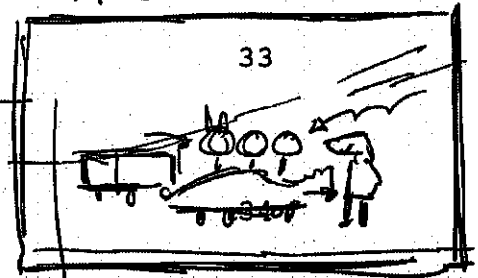
ARI & OLIVE SETTLE BACK AS ELINOR CLIMBS IN

33

CAMILLA

Thanks! It's brand new. I got it for my birthday. I call it the Camilla Convertible!

5. ON CAMILLA



34

ELINOR

Wife

(impressed)

Cool...

Ari and Olive enter, having scampered down the hill after Elinor's car. Camilla opens the door of her car and gets out.

35

ARI

THE KIDS SETTLE BY CAMILLA'S CAR IN COMPLETE AWE

Your car is so fast, Camilla!

36

OLIVE

I LOVE the yellow color. And look: It has a racing stripe.

37

ARI

And a cup holder!

37

Elinor, Ari, and Olive peer in wonder at the cup holder.

CU: The cup holder with the kids' faces peering down over it.

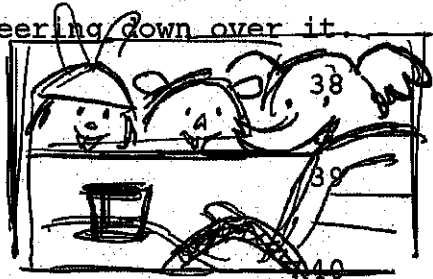
38

ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI

Ooooooh.

CAMILLA

Your car is nice, too, Elinor.



ELINOR

Thanks, Camilla, we made it ourselves - but it's not going as fast as yours. I wonder... how can we make OUR car go faster?



WIDE ENOUGH TO SHOW BOTH CARS

Elinor frowns.

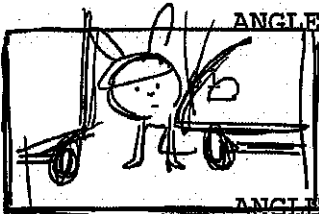
Elinor Kneels Down Betting THE CAR

ANGLE ON: Elinor kneels and examines the wheels of both cars.

ELINOR (CONT'D)

41

Hmm. Both of our cars have the same wheels. — STANDS



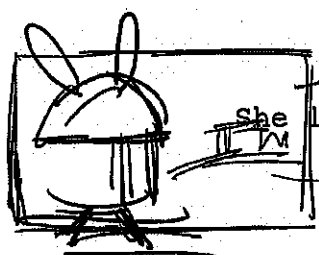
ANGLE ON: Elinor stands up again. She looks back at the hill they just descended.

42

ELINOR (CONT'D)

42

And we both went down the same hill.



She looks back at her friends again.

Top of hill with clubhouse

52

OLIVE

Camilla has a fast car, and it's yellow.

53

ELINOR

With a racing stripe, just like this!

Wire

54

ARI

We thought if we made our car the same color as hers, our car might go faster too.

on Ari

55

MR. RABBIT

Oh. Okay!

Elinor straps on her helmet.

56

ELINOR

And now to test it. Bye, Dad!

The kids pull their car out of the yard and off-screen.

INSERT A SHOT OF DAD P.O.

"HAVE FUN AND BE CAREFUL"

4. EXT. ~~FOREST~~ - CONTINUOUS

EXT - PARK - GO!

~~Please STAND BY, Screen Left~~

The kids are pulling their car on the way to the hill. As they cross a short bridge over a small creek, Ari peeks over the side of the bridge and sees some fish hanging out.

57

ARI

Hi, little fishies!

The fish appear to look at Ari, then turn around and zip away, swimming really fast.

Wire on the Bridge.

Ari notices

fish as they

cross the bridge.

Ari kneels down to get a better look

EXT CONTINUE ON.

ARI (CONT'D)

Whoa, those are some fast fish!

He scampers to rejoin the others.

5. EXT. HILL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

EXT - CUP HOUSE - GO!

The kids push the car up to the top of the hill again, and Elinor sits in the car again, helmet strapped on.

59

ELINOR

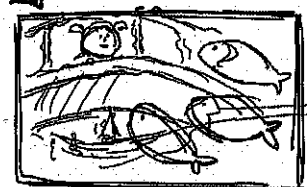
I have a good feeling about this!

Elinor steps into the car

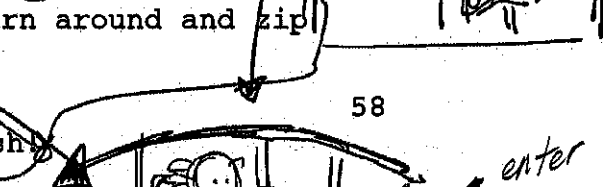
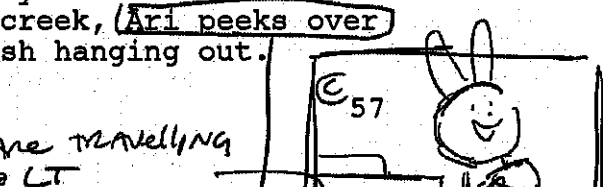
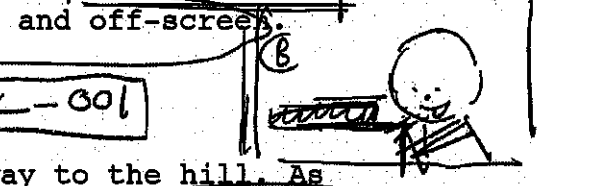
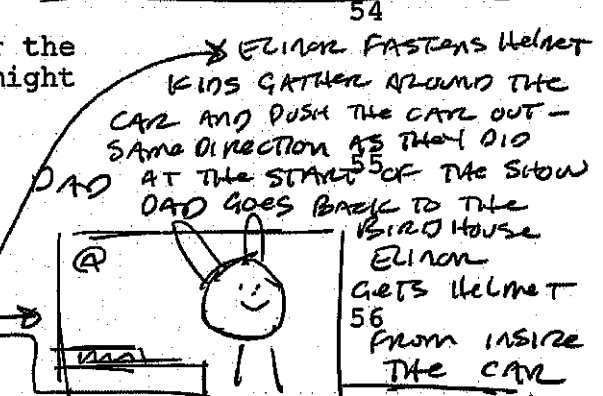
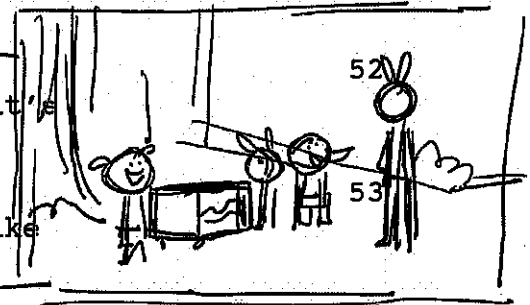
60

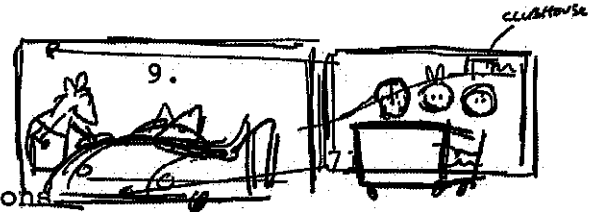
OLIVE

Our car looks so fast!



SHOT FROM UNDER water looking up





71

ELINOR

I think we need more observations.
What else is different about our cars?

72

ARI

It's got to be the cup holder, right?

72

73

OLIVE

No - but I notice something! — OLIVE REACHES FOR PAD AND SETTLES BACK TURNING TO ELINOR & ARI

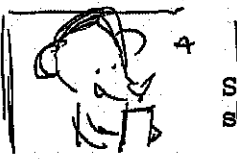
Olive takes a pad of paper and a crayon from her satchel.
ANGLE ON: Overhead view of Olive drawing on paper. For each item they describe, Olive sketches a basic outline.



74

OLIVE (CONT'D)

Our car is boxy, like this.



She draws a rectangle with little wheels on it on the left side of the page.

75

OLIVE (CONT'D)

And Camilla's car is kind of shaped like this.



She draws a straight line down the middle of the page. On the right side she doodles Camilla's car: curved, aerodynamic.

75

over the shoulder on pad

76

ARI

Oh! I see the difference.
Camilla's car has a different shape.

WIDE ON THE KIDS & CAR.

77

ELINOR — CLOSE ON ELINOR

You're right! We need to change the SHAPE of our car. Come on, let's go back to my yard!

(see me)
* Laura - if angle works could have kids & car stay on screen by Watsons off & on

KIDS PUSH THE CAR BACK UP THE HILL
CROSSFADE TO:

WATERSON OUT ON CAMILLA cleaning a different part of her car

6. EXT. ELINOR'S YARD - A BIT LATER

ELINOR - House - 003 - The kids are in the same spot

Elinor, Olive, and Ari stand around the car in Elinor's yard. To the wide. Olive has her drawing materials out.

WATERSON OUT FROM THE KIDS
DAD IS WORKING ON THE B/HOUSE.

78

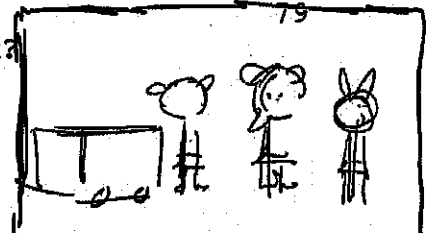
OLIVE

Ok, let's change the shape of our car.

79

ARI

Are we sure this is going to work?



87

MR. RABBIT (CONT'D)

87

So things that are streamlined can move through the air faster, but boxy things get slowed down.

The animation stops and the thought bubble poofs away, leaving the original drawing.

ANGLE ON: The kids look at the notebook.

88

ELINOR

88

Whoa, that is so interesting!

(thinks, then)

Let's do it! Let's make the SHAPE of our car streamlined!

ON ELINOR

MR. R.

SONG MONTAGE: Elinor, Ari, and Olive change the shape of their car. Mr. Rabbit helps with scissors, and as they sing, they trim the cardboard to be pointy in front, like a bird's head. Just for fun, they also paint the car to look like a bird's head.

89

ELINOR, ARI, OLIVE

(singing)

OLIVE: If a car is painted slick,

ARI: But it's boxy like a brick,

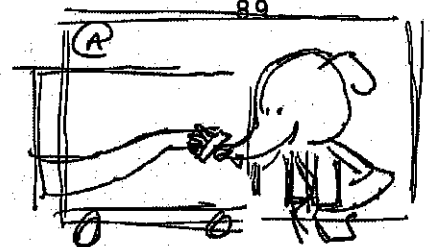
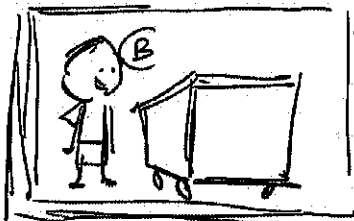
ELINOR: Then it just won't go that quick!

OLIVE: So with scissors and some tape,

ARI: We're gonna change its shape!

ELINOR: 'Cuz we learned, and now we know

ALL: That pointy shapes help you go!



They share a laugh, then admire the car.

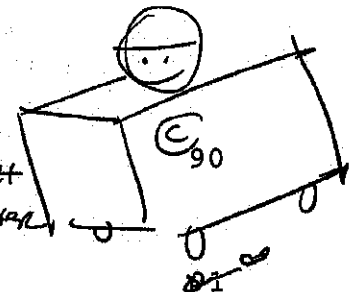
90

POSITION THE KIDS AT THE BACK OF THE CAR. ELINOR SO ELINOR CAN REACH. Woo hoo! Now it's a lot pointier. It's like a bird car! INSIDE CAR FOR HELMET.

91

MR. RABBIT

You could call it: The Chicken Coupe. (pause) That's another silly joke. ON DAD



ELINOR GOING DOWN THE HILL PASSED BY A SNAIL.

The kids <GIGGLE>. Elinor puts on her helmet again. ON THE KIDS. ELINOR REACHES FOR HELMET

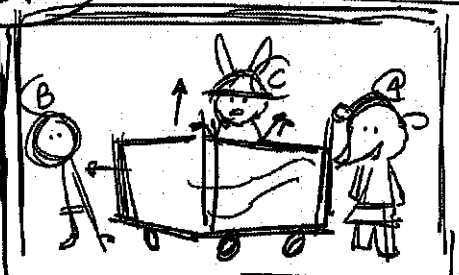
92

ELINOR

Okay, let's go try it! START TO PUT IT ON

92

OR



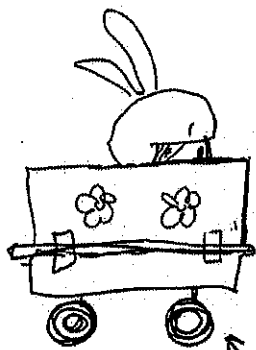
CUT TO DAD (PO) GO GET 'EM, KIDS"

CROSSFADE TO:

Elinor now has helmet

CUT WIDE - KIDS PUSH THE CAR TO THE HILL. SAME DIRECTION AS PREVIOUS. DAD HEADS BACK TO BIRDHOUSE

FADE OUT, THE END.

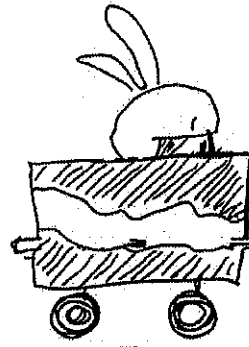


1
KIDS BUILD A
RACER!

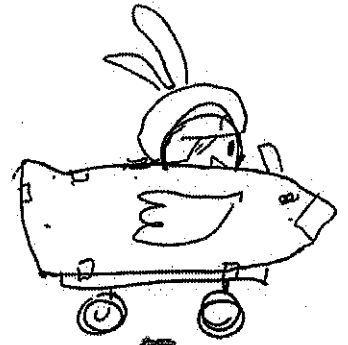


2
CAMILLA HAS A SHINY
NEW RACER THAT
GOES FASTER

VS
CLEAR THAT WHEELS ARE IDENTICAL



3
KIDS TRY PAINTING
THEIR CAR TO LOOK
LIKE CAMILLA'S
(COLOR + STRIPE)
BUT IT DOESN'T HELP.



4
KIDS LEARN
FROM NATURE
AND BUILD A
SOLUTION THAT IS
JUST AS GOOD AS
STORE BOUGHT.