

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 103A The Science of Staying Warm

By: Miklos Perlus

Elinor's Question: Why do some animals get cold in winter while others stay warm.

Logline: Elinor wants to play outside in the snow with Olive and Ari, but Olive's heavy winter clothes keep getting in the way of their fun so she'd rather not wear it at all.

Curriculum Goals:

SEP6. Constructing Explanations. Look for and describe patterns and relationships in natural phenomena. (Elinor and her friends look for a pattern in which animals need winter clothes and which ones don't.)

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 comes to understand that some animals have fur, and that fur keeps them warm.)

ND1. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Patterns') Understand that modes of life in the natural world and engineered solutions in the designed world have common patterns, and engineers often look to natural patterns for inspiration. (Elinor understands that winter clothes fulfill the same function as fur, keeping animals war in winter.)

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari.

Secondary Characters: Olive's Mom, Javier Moose

Incidental Characters: Sally, Rollie, Goat Twins, Bodie (NEW)

Settings: Animal Town, Olive's House, Snowy hill and field,

Props: Saucer Sled, snow bear, winter clothes, snow balls, snowboard,

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FIRST DRAFT: Dec-18-2018

SECOND DRAFT: Jan-14-2019

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RECORD DRAFT: Feb-7-2019

1. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - DAY

A pristine single snowflake flies over ANIMAL TOWN on a gentle breeze. As it floats through town, we see various town RESIDENTS opening their doors to marvel at a blanket of fresh white snow.

MR. PIG shivers at the cold air and heads back indoors.

MR. MOOSE takes a deep breath of cold air with a warm smile as he proceeds to shovel his walkway (without a jacket!).

The snowflake continues to fly through town, towards...

2. EXT. OLIVE'S HOUSE - HILL AND FIELD - CONTINUOUS

As the snowflake drifts, it passes a FIELD OF SNOW at the bottom of a MID-SIZED HILL where a group of children are playing <SFX: CHILDREN PLAYING>.

SALLY BEAVER (in earmuffs and mittens) is building an elaborate Snow-Beaver with carrot sticks for teeth.

THE GOAT TWINS (wearing only scarves) are pulling each other on a toboggan.

JAVIER MOOSE (in just a scarf) is having a playful snowball fight with ROLLIE ARMADILLO (in full winter gear).

BODIE HIPPO (in snowsuit, helmet and goggles) is snowboarding down the hill.

The snowflake drifts toward OLIVE'S HOUSE, nestled near the hillside...

At OLIVE'S WINDOW, we see ELINOR through the glass, gazing longingly at all the fun outside.

The snowflake lands on the window, right where Elinor's nose is, then a light snow starts to fall.

3. INT. OLIVE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

1 ELINOR
<gasp!> What a pretty snowflake!

Elinor (in SCARF AND MITTENS) hops with excitement!

2 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Hurry, Olive! It's time to play in
the SNOW!

ARI is waiting nearby (wearing MITTENS, BOOTS AND HELMET)
holding a shiny NEW SAUCER SLED.

3 ARI
Yeah, and I can't wait to try my
new super speedy saucer sled -
Whoa. That's hard to say. Super
speedy saucer sled.

4 ARI/ELINOR
 (laughing)
Super speedy saucer sled. Super
speedy saucer sled!

5 OLIVE (O.S.)
Okay, I'm ready. There's no time
like snow time!

OLIVE <TRUMPETS> with her trunk.

6 ARI/ELINOR
Alright!/Yay!

Ari, Elinor and Olive rush to the front door.

7 OLIVE'S MOM (O.S.)
Olive, Sweetie. Aren't you
forgetting something?

Just then, OLIVE'S MOM enters carrying a "trunkful" of WINTER CLOTHES (She carries them with her trunk.)

8 OLIVE
Aw Mom, it takes forever to put all
those winter clothes on.

9 OLIVE'S MOM
True, it takes more time, but
Sweetie, you know it's cold
outside.

10 ELINOR
It's okay, Olive. We'll wait for
you. Right, Ari?

Ari is gazing outside, longingly. He snaps back to attention.

11 ARI
Huh? Oh, uh... yeah. Sure we will!

12 OLIVE'S MOM
Come now, Olive. I bet if we work
together we can get you ready in
two shakes of a tail. Ready, set...

13

~~SEX~~
OLIVE AND OLIVE'S MOM
<TRUMPET with their trunks>

13

Ari <chuckles> enjoying the sound.

14

ARI
(chuckling)
I love it when they do that.

14

SERIES OF JUMP CUTS:

(MUSIC NOTE: the music starts out fast and energetic but gets slower and more tedious as Olive gets dressed.)

-- Olive's Mom helps Olive put on her snow pants.

-- Then her jacket.

-- Ari and Elinor wait. Elinor's leg keeps twitching.

-- Olive's Mom helps her put on her hat.

-- Then her scarf.

-- Then her mittens.

-- Ari and Elinor are sitting on the floor, still waiting.
Ari twiddles his thumbs.

-- Olive steps into one boot. Then the other.

-- Ari and Elinor are draped over the furniture. Ari is upside down.

-- Finally, Olive slides on her trunk-warmer (like a leg-warmer but for her trunk).

BACK TO SCENE:

Ari and Elinor have nodded off. Ari is SNORING.

15

OLIVE
<Ahem.>

15

Ari and Elinor wake up to see Olive in her WINTER GEAR. It's bulky and stiff like an inflatable Sumo suit.

16

OLIVE (CONT'D)
Sorry I took so long. It's my
winter clothes. There's kind of a
lot of them. 30

16

17

ELINOR
That's okay, Olive.

17

18

ARI

18

You're all ready now! Come on! I
have a need for saucer sled speed!

Ari and Elinor scamper to the door. They open the door and
rush outside.

4. EXT. OLIVE'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Elinor and Ari race outside.

19

ELINOR/ARI

19

Yay!/Woo!

But Olive remains INSIDE, in the doorway.

20

ELINOR

20

Olive? What's wrong?

21

OLIVE

21

49 I.../I have to go to the bathroom.
46

Elinor and Ari turn to one another - Oh no! Exasperated, Ari
collapses to his knees <beat> then falls forward into the
snow.

5. EXT. OLIVE'S HOUSE - HILL AND FIELD - LATER

Elinor, Olive, and Ari rush towards the hill. Ari (in HELMET)
scampers up the hill with his sled while Olive, moving slowly
and awkwardly, trails behind. Elinor tosses a handful of
powdery snow into the air.

22

ELINOR

22

(laughs)

Oh, this snow is perfect!

(shares a look with Olive)

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

23

ELINOR/OLIVE

23

SNOW BIRDS!

Olive and Elinor plop down in the snow and start making SNOW
BIRDS.

24

ELINOR/OLIVE (CONT'D)

24

<giggling>

Both enjoy the snow as they wave their arms and legs.

25 ELINOR 25
Ready to look at our Snow Birds,
Olive? One, two, three!

Elinor pops up to look at her snow bird.

26 ELINOR (CONT'D) 26
Oooh. So pretty! How's yours,
Olive?

Olive tries to sit up -- but her bulky snowsuit is too heavy.
She's like a turtle on its back.

27 OLIVE 27
<efforts> Uh... Help?

28 ELINOR 28
<giggle> Olive! <effort>

Elinor GRUNTS as she pulls Olive up by her trunk.

Olive is forced to use her hands to push herself up. In doing
so, she distorts the shape of her Snow Bird. *28A*

29 OLIVE 29
take 2c (giggles)
My Snow Bird looks more like a snow-
jellyfish! *take 1* <sigh> I wish my winter
clothes weren't so big and puffy.

30 ARI (O.S.) 30
Look out below!

Elinor and Olive turn to the hill to see Ari zigzagging down
THE HILL on his SAUCER SLED.

31 ARI (CONT'D) 31
Who-oaa! How do you steer this
thing?!

Ari flies by Elinor and Olive and OFF SCREEN - THUD.

32 ELINOR 32
Ari!

REVEAL Ari half buried in a pile of soft snow. He struggles
to get out (maybe NOT head first).

33 ARI 33
<efforts> I think I'm stuck.

Elinor pulls on Ari's leg, Olive grabs the other one. They
pull him out of the snow.

34 ELINOR/OLIVE 34
<efforts>

35 ELINOR 35
Are you okay?

Ari jumps up and FLAPS his wings to shake off the snow.

36 ARI 36
YEAH. That didn't go exactly as planned. I'm gonna try it again. Wanna come? I'll race you to the top of the hill.

Ari grabs his sled and races back up the hill.

37 ELINOR 37
Come on, Olive. Let's go sledding!

Elinor practically floats across the snow, her big rabbit feet acting like snowshoes. But one or two steps up the hill and Olive sinks into the deep snow.

38 OLIVE 38
Wait up, Elinor! I'm <effort> coming! <effort> Whooooaaa...

Olive takes a few slow steps then teeters, falls on her back and slides down the hill, forming a Olive-size track in the snow.

39 ELINOR 39
Uh oh.

She calls back to her friend downhill.

40 ELINOR: 40
Are you ok, Olive?

ON: Olive sits up.

41 OLIVE: 41
Yeah...

Olive takes in her predicament, then tries to get up.

42 OLIVE 42
<effort> I wish I didn't have to wear all these winter clothes - they're so puffy it's hard to move.

Elinor approaches Olive, curious and concerned.

51 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Olive?

51

Olive is frozen still, hugging her body with her arms.
Shivering.

SIA

MATCH CUT TO:

7. INT. OLIVE'S HOUSE - DAY

Olive, still shivering, under a cozy blanket

52 OLIVE
Ahh. Th-that's b-b-better.

52

Elinor gazes out the window.

53 ELINOR
You got really cold out there,
Olive.

53

54 OLIVE
It's not fair. How come I have to
wear big, puffy winter clothes when
I go outside?

54

55 ELINOR
Other kids wear them too. Look at
Bodie. He's wearing a full
snowsuit.

55

We see BODIE HIPPO snowboarding down the hill.

Bodie stops right in front of ROLLIE ARMADILLO, spraying him
with snow. They both laugh, enjoying the snow.

56 ELINOR (CONT'D)
And so is Rollie.

56

Olive, still in her blanket, joins Elinor by the window.

57 OLIVE
Hmm, but Javier isn't wearing a
thick jacket. And neither are Mary
or Lizzie.

57

58 ELINOR
Hmm... Some of our friends are
wearing lots of winter clothes, and
some aren't. That is SO
INTERESTING.

58

59 OLIVE 59
I wonder why that is?

60 ELINOR 60
I don't know... Let's go back
outside and find out.

61 OLIVE 61
Uh, I think I'll stay inside...

She cozies up under her blanket as Elinor goes to the door
and pauses before charging outside.

62 ELINOR 62
We need MORE OBSERVATIONS!

8. INT./EXT. OLIVE'S HOUSE - HILL AND FIELD - DAY

MUSIC begins as Elinor bounces through the snowy field,
SINGING...

63 ELINOR 63
*There's no time like snow time/
When winter time is here./
Sliding, gliding, snowball fun/
What a time of year.*

She approaches her friends Bodie Hippo, Javier Moose, and The
Goat Twins MID-SNOWBALL PLAY.

64 ELINOR (CONT'D) 64
*But when the snow has fallen/
And the lake has froze/
Different animals seem to wear/
Different kinds of clothes.*

Elinor observes Bodie and Rollie closely...

65 ELINOR (CONT'D) 65
*Some wear cozy snowsuits/
With scarves and mitts and hats.*

Elinor observes the Goat Twins and Sally Beaver...

66 ELINOR (CONT'D) 66
*Others wear their normal clothes/
Like goats and beavers --*

67 ARI 67
-- And bats! Ahhh!

Ari comes spinning through frame on his saucer sled, out of control. He crashes into a fluffy white pile of snow - again. Elinor helps him out.

68

ELINOR/ARI

68

*There's no time like snow time,
when winter time is here.
Saucer sledding, so much fun! What
a time of year! <laughter>*

Ari flaps his wings, sending a SHOWER of snow cascading through the frame as we...

TRANSITION TO:

9. INT./EXT. OLIVE'S HOUSE - DAY

Elinor enters.

69

OLIVE

69

Well? Did you find anything out?

70

ELINOR

70

Yes and no. Some of us wear lots of winter clothes and some of us wear hardly any winter clothes at all.

71

OLIVE

71

Let's make a chart so we can see what's the same and what's different.

Olive grabs her PENCIL AND NOTEBOOK. She creates a T CHART. On one side there's an icon of a SNOWSUIT. On the other side is an icon of a T-SHIRT AND SHORTS.

72

OLIVE (CONT'D)

72

3a

(to herself)

Wearing lots of winter clothes...

NOT wearing lots of winter clothes.

(to Elinor)

Okay. Tell me about what everybody is wearing.

3d

Elinor peers out THE WINDOW. As she describes her friends, Olive sketches them.

73

ELINOR

73

Let's see... Bodie and Rollie are wearing full snowsuits.

Olive finishes off a sketch of Bodie and Rollie in the SNOWSUIT COLUMN.

74

~~OLIVE~~

74

Got it.

Elinor spots Javier Moose playing with Mary and Lizzie.

75

ELINOR

75

But Javier, Mary and Lizzie are only wearing scarves over their normal clothes.

Olive finishes a sketch of Javier and the goat twins in the T-SHIRT COLUMN. The two of them look at the chart, wondering what it means.

76

ELINOR (CONT'D)

76

Hmmm...

At that moment, ARI enters through the front door and shakes off some snow.

77

ARI

77

Phew! This saucer sled is awesome! But kinda hard to control. Hey, what are you guys doing?

78

ELINOR

78

We're trying to figure out why Hazel got so cold.

79

~~OLIVE~~

79

Yeah, some of us need lots of winter clothes, and some of us don't!

Ari takes a peek at Olive's notepad.

80

ARI

80

Ahh... well, you can put me in the not-so-many winter clothes category: I like to let my fur fly free!

81

ELINOR

81

But we still don't know why -- wait. Fur! Ari, you have fur.

82

ARI

82

You bet I do!

Ari proudly offers his arm and Elinor gets up close and personal for a **SCIENCE MOMENT** ECU of Ari's fur.

83

ELINOR

83

And I have fur too!

SCIENCE MOMENT ECU of Elinor's fur.

84 ELINOR (CONT'D) 84
And I don't need winter clothes to
stay warm in the snow.

85 OLIVE 85
But I do! And I don't have fur.
Look!

SCIENCE MOMENT ECU of Olive's arm. There are tiny hairs, but
no fur.

86 ELINOR 86
That's it!
(checks the chart)
Our friends that don't have fur
need winter clothes to stay warm.
Like Bodie and Rollie --

87 OLIVE 87
-- And me! But our friends that do
have fur don't need a lot of winter
clothes.

88 ELINOR 88
Having fur helps keep you warm.
It's like having your own built-in
snowsuit!

Elinor and Ari look at their fur.

89 OLIVE 89
That's it! We figured it out!

90 ELINOR 90
YES!

Olive and Elinor hug in celebration. Then...

91 OLIVE 91
I wish I had fur like you guys, so
I didn't have to wear all those
wintery clothes.

92 ARI 92
Well, I wish I had a trunk like
you, so I could do that thing that
you and your Mom do.

93 OLIVE 93
You mean this? <TRUMPETS>

94 ARI
 <laughs> Yeah. I love that.

94

95 OLIVE I guess we're all just different,
and since I don't have fur...

Olive smiles, then grabs her winter gear.

96 OLIVE (CONT'D)
What are we waiting for? Let's get
outside before the snow melts!

97 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE SFX. 97
Yay!/Wahoo!/<TRUMPETS>

10. EXT. OLIVE'S HOUSE - FIELD AND HILL - DAY

Back outside, Ari, Elinor and Olive are standing at the top of the hill with Ari's saucer sled. Olive is wearing her full winter gear again.

98 ELINOR
Nice and warm, Olive?

99 OLIVE 99

Yeah!

100 ARI 100
Are you guys sure? I still don't
know how to steer this thing.

101 OLIVE 101
You don't have to. Follow me!

Olive lies down in the snow, like she did when she fell, and slides down the hill on her back. Her winter clothes keep her warm as she carves a perfect bobsled path down the hill.

102 OLIVE (CONT'D) 102

 Yahooo!

At the bottom, Olive struggles a little to get to her feet.

103 OLIVE (CONT'D) 103

See! My snow clothes keep me warm
AND they make a path in the snow!
<effort> Come on you guys! There's
no time like snow time!

Ari and Elinor exchange a look. Then...

104

ARI/ELINOR

Super speedy saucer sled. Super
speedy saucer sled. Super speedy
saucer sled!

104

Ari and Elinor saucer sled down in Olive's path.

105

ELINOR/ARI

Yay!/Wahoo! I love SNOW!

105

SEGMENT 2

1. INT SCHOOL ROOM -- DAY

We open to Ms. Mole walking into the classroom after recess, wearing a big white fluffy white coat.

106

MS. MOLE

Brrrr! It's so cold today! Let's warm up with a nice cup of hot cocoa and a story!

106

We see a group of kids gather on the carpet around Ms. Mole. Elinor is near the front.

Ms. Mole takes out a book from her coat.

107

ELINOR / OLIVE / ARI

Yay! / I love story time! / Oh yeah!

107

108

ELINOR

What's today's story, Ms. Mole?

108

109

MS. MOLE

Today's story is all about staying warm! But our story starts in a very cold place...

109

Ms. Mole opens the book, which reveals an icy, polar environment.

2. EXT POLAR -- DAY

An icy scene, with piles of snow and some water visible.

110

MS. MOLE

Way up in the north, it's verrrrrry cold, only a few animals can stay warm.

110

We see a polar bear enter.

111 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 111
The polar bear has a very thick coat of fur to stay warm!

The polar bear preens a bit, looks proud of itself.

112 OLIVE 112
Hey! One of my friends is a polar bear! When she visits, she doesn't even wear a jacket outside! *cut*

113 MS. MOLE 113
That's right!

We see the polar bear playing in the snow.

114 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 114
Polar bears have thick coats of fur on their skin that let them stay warm on the ice.

We see the polar bear jump into the water.

115 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 115
Or even when they swim in the freezing waters!

116 ELINOR 116
Ms Mole, why are polar bears always white?

The polar bear floats on its back, relaxing, like it's a sunny day at the pool. It's playing with its polar bear cubs.

117 MS. MOLE 117
Good question! Polar bears have white fur so they can hide in the snow! It's CAMOUFLAGE!

The polar bear doesn't react.

118 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 118
I SAID: so they can hide in the snow!

The polar bear scrambles back onto the ice, hides in the snow.

119 ELINOR 119
You can hardly see him!

120 OLIVE/ARI 120
Oooh!/Wow!

121 MS. MOLE 121
But that's not even the most
amazing thing about polar bears!

The polar bear looks interested, pokes his own fur.

122 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 122
Do you know what color a polar
bear's skin is underneath all that
fur?

123 ARI / ELINOR / OLIVE 123
Is it white too? / I'm pink under
my fur. / My skin is grey!

124 MS. MOLE 124
If you look closely, a polar bear's
skin is actually black underneath
the fur!

The polar bear looks surprised. He uses a paw to push some
hair out of the way, we see his skin is black. He looks
surprised and impressed with himself.

125 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 125
The thick white fur keeps them cozy
in the snow, and the black skin
underneath helps them soak up the
warm light from the sun.

3. INT SCHOOLROOM -- DAY

Ms. Mole closes the book. She is now wearing a polar bear
hoodie over her head in addition to her furry coat.

126 MS. MOLE 126
It's a good thing polar bears have
such special fur and skin! You
won't find a mole like me swimming
in freezing water!

She tries to take a sip of tea, but the mask is blocking her.

END.