ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 117B Ari's Lucky Shirt
By: Michael Foulke

Elinor’s Question: Why did this snake lose its skin?

Logline: When a baby snake in the care of Ranger Rabbit loses its skin, Elinor and friends try to help before learning that shedding skins is just a part of growing for snakes.

Curriculum Goals:

LS2: Understand that all animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs, and that plants have different parts to help them survive and grow. [The snake's skin works differently than our characters' skin in that it doesn't grow with the animal, but rather sheds and creates a new layer of brand new skin when it becomes too small.]

ND1: 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. [Much like the snake needs a new layer of skin because he has grown bigger, Ari needs a new shirt for the same reason.]

SEP3: Planning and carrying out investigations: compare and contrast objects by describing similarities and differences in detail. [Elinor and friends investigate why the snake lost its skin by comparing and contrasting the old skin to the new one.]

SEP7: Engaging in argument from evidence: Engage in discussions before, during and after investigations. Support thinking and argue ideas with evidence. [Elinor determines that the skin is not a second snake, but it the first snake's old skin by looking at the evidence of the old skin and showing her friends that the old skin and the new one are the same, except for the fact that the old skin is a bit smaller, because the snake has grown.]

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Olive, Ranger Rabbit
SECONDARY: Mz. Mole
LOCATIONS: Ari's Bedroom, Soccer Field, Ranger Station, Forest
PROPS: Green Shirt, Red Shirt, Soccer Balls, Terrarium, Snake Skin, Magnifying Glass

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1. EXT. ARI'S HOUSE -- ESTABLISHING SHOT

It's another fine morning in Animal Town. From outside of Ari's house, we hear:

1 ARI (O.S.) 1
It's gotta be around here somewhere...

2. INT. ARI'S BEDROOM -- MORNING

We are close on ELINOR and OLIVE as they wait, somewhat patiently, in ARI's upside down bedroom as clothes, hats and a few toys, come flying into frame.

2 ARI (O.S.) 2
No... that's not it... where is it?

Elinor and Olive duck out of the way of a few things, but then a shirt lands right on Elinor, draping itself over her like she was a coat-rack. With the shirt still over her:

3 ELINOR 3
Ari, what are you looking for? It's almost time to go play soccer.

4 OLIVE 4
Yeah, we're supposed to practice before the big game.

We go wide on Ari's bedroom as we see an upside down dresser with right side up open drawers. Ari hangs from the ceiling with his head buried inside one of the drawers as he searches through it. As he throws things out, they fall to the ground - one pair of shorts falls on Olive's head.

5 ARI (O.S.) 5
I know, but I can't go until I find my lucky shirt.

Olive removes shorts from her head then she and Elinor look at each other, puzzled... "lucky shirt?".

6 ARI (CONT'D) 6
A-HA! I found it!

Ari suddenly pops up, triumphant, holding a red, long-sleeved shirt. Suddenly, Elinor and Olive are intrigued.

7 OLIVE 7
That IS a nice shirt... What's so lucky about it?

8 ARI 8
(repeating)
What's so lucky about it?

Ari flies down from the ceiling to the area underneath his dresser, where some pictures are hanging on the wall. As he points to each picture, he describes it. The pictures are: Ari, Elinor and Olive at a baseball game, Ari giving a thumbs up with a big bug on his shoulder and finally, Ari, Elinor and Olive smiling as they eat cake. In each picture, Ari is wearing his red shirt.

9 ARI (CONT'D) 9
Do you remember when I got that big hit in the baseball game last year?
(different picture)
Or the time that cool bug landed on my shoulder?
(different picture)
Or that day that Mz. Mole brought in a yummy cake and it wasn't even anyone's birthday?

10 OLIVE 10
Yeah, those were pretty fun days.

11 ARI 11
Well, on every one of those days, I was wearing THIS shirt. That's why I call it my lucky shirt! Every time I wear it, something great happens!

Ari walks off-screen to put on his shirt.

12 OLIVE 12
That was a delicious banana cake..and you all know I love bananas.

And when we see him again, he is now wearing the red shirt. It's so tight that Ari can barely move his arms, which are stuck out to the sides (like Randy in *A Christmas Story)*.

13 ELINOR 13
I don't know, Ari. It looks a little... small.

14 ARI 14
What?! No, it's fine! I just haven't worn it in a while. I'm sure it will stretch out.

DESIGN NOTE: we may want to have his wings coming out the sleeves instead of the normal design where its attached down the side of his shirt. j&d lets discuss.

Ari goes to open the bedroom door, but can't move his arms <SFX: EFFORT/GRUNTS>. (DESIGN NOTE: the idea is that the shirt is so tight it constricts Ari's arms from moving and they stick out - will this play? If not, happy to adjust).

Olive opens the door for him, while Elinor grabs Ari's green shirt and puts it into Olive's satchel.

15 OLIVE 15
Here you go.

16 ELINOR 16
Mmm, I'll bring a bigger shirt too, you know, just in case.

17 ARI 17
Okay, but we won't need it. We have my lucky shirt on our side!

As the kids all walk out, Ari's arms smack against the door-frame, so he has to walk out sideways.

3. EXT. SOCCER FIELD -- DAY

Elinor and Olive walk through the forest near the school and approach the soccer field. A beat later, Ari finally waddles into frame, still not able to move his arms.

18 ARI 18
Who's ready to be a super soccer goalie?

Suddenly, Olive sees something in the distance.

19 OLIVE 19
Mrs. Rabbit?

Oblivious, Ari continues his speech.

20 ARI 20
No... I meant me! Now that I have my lucky shirt, I'm gonna stop every ball. The ones to the left... the ones to the ri- oops!

Ari jumps to the left, and then to the right, where he nearly bumps into Ranger Rabbit, who is walking away from the soccer field carrying a little terrarium.

21 RANGER RABBIT 21
Careful there, Ari. Hi, kids!

22 ELINOR 22
Hi, Mom! What are you doing here?

23 RANGER RABBIT 23
Well, there was an animal on the soccer field that shouldn’t be there, so I came to take it back to the forest where it belongs.

The kids gather around the terrarium, intrigued.

24 OLIVE 24
Oooh! What is it?

Ranger Rabbit kneels down so the kids can take a closer at the terrarium. With each word, their anticipation grows.

25 RANGER RABBIT 25
It’s a cute... little... baby...

Some of the foliage inside the terrarium parts, revealing a BABY GARTER SNAKE inside.

26 RANGER RABBIT (CONT’D) 26
Garter snake!

Elinor and Olive smile at the snake <SFX: WHOAAA WALLA>, while Ari looks surprised.

27 ARI 27
A s-s-s-snake? Yikes!

Ari backs up quickly, falling backwards. He tries to get up, but can’t move his arms to lift himself.

28 ARI (CONT’D) 28
Little help, please?

Elinor helps Ari up as Ranger Rabbit smiles benignly. Olive moves closer to the snake.

29 OLIVE 29
Wow! I’ve never seen a snake this close before.

30 RANGER RABBIT 30
Now remember, kids, if you see a snake, you shouldn’t get near it unless you’re with a grown-up, like me.

31 ELINOR 31
Are snakes dangerous, mom?

32 RANGER RABBIT 32
Some are. This one isn't poisonous, but it *can* still bite, so we have to be careful. And it's a living creature so we should treat it with gentleness and respect.

Elinor and Olive both move in close as the snake moves slowly to the front of the terrarium. **SCIENCE ECU:** the sweet little snake flicks his tongue.

33 OLIVE 33
Look at its tongue flicking. Why does it do that?

34 RANGER RABBIT 34
To smell things. Snakes smell with their tongues.

35 ELINOR 35
(giggle)
Wow, that is SO interesting! Come look, Ari.

Ari stays behind them, still unsure about this.

36 ARI 36
That's okay, I can see it just fine from back here, thanks.

Elinor is fascinated by the snake.

37 ELINOR 37
It's so pretty. Look at the zig zag patterns on its skin.

38 OLIVE 38
Yeah, but... its skin looks kind of flaky. It's not shiny like snake skin usually is.

39 RANGER RABBIT 39
That's a good observation, Olive. How do you know that?

40 OLIVE 40
Oh, I love looking at pictures of snakes in my nature book. They're so cool!

41 ELINOR 41
Is the snake okay?

42 RANGER RABBIT 42
It’s fine, Elinor. What Olive observed is just a normal part of growing up for a little snake like this.

At that moment, Mz. Mole <SFX: BLOWS HER WHISTLE>.

43 MZ. MOLE 43
Okay, kids, it’s time for our practice before the big game this afternoon!

As kids gather around Mz. Mole, Ranger Rabbit stands up.

44 ELINOR 44
Where are you going to take the snake, Mom?

45 RANGER RABBIT 45
Well, snakes should be deep in the forest away from where kids play, and where there is plenty of food and shelter for them. So, I’ll drop it off in the forest near the Ranger Station.

Olive and Elinor get an idea.

46 OLIVE 46
Can we go watch, Mrs. Rabbit?

47 ELINOR 47
Yeah! Can we, Mom?

Ranger Rabbit smiles.

48 RANGER RABBIT 48
Of course!
(thinks for a second, then)
How about you go to your practice, then you can help me put the snake back into the forest when you have a break?

49 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 49
Yes! / That would be awesome!/ (a little cautious) Really?

50 RANGER RABBIT 50
Great. I'll be waiting for you at the Ranger Station.

Elinor gives her Mom a hug.

51 ELINOR 51
Thanks, Mom, you're the best.

52 RANGER RABBIT 52
Just doing my duty as a Park Ranger! Have fun, honey!
(then, to snake)
Ready to take a walk, little one?

53 ELINOR 53
Bye, little snakie!

54 OLIVE 54
See you soon!

Elinor and Olive wave at the snake. Ari tries to wave, but can't move his arm, so he just kind of twists around (with some difficulty) as they all run off to join their friends.

4. EXT. SOCCER FIELD -- DAY

Ari stands in front of the goal, his arms still stuck out to the sides as Elinor and Olive, who no longer has her satchel, stand by, ready to shoot.

55 ARI 55
Alright, goalie Ari is READY! Give me your best shot!

Suddenly, a ball sails right past his right hand and into the net. A beat later, a ball sails into the net past his left hand. In both cases, Ari takes a swing at it, but just can't move well enough to stop the shots.

56 ARI (CONT'D) 56
Okay, maybe not your *best* shot.

On the field, Elinor and Olive look at each other, unsure about this. They just shrug and keep shooting.

We then see a quick montage of Ari scuttling around the net as shot after shot goes in without him being able to stop it. The first shot from Elinor sails over his head.

57 ARI (CONT'D) 57
Oops. Too high.

A shot from Olive rolls in on the ground. Ari bends to get it, but can’t move his arms in time.

58 ARI (CONT’D) 58
Too low.

A shot from Elinor sails right past him before he can react.

59 ARI (CONT’D) 59
Too fast.

A shot from Olive slowly rolls in as Ari runs over to stop it, but goes right past it. He tries to recover and reach back for the ball, but can’t.

60 ARI (CONT’D) 60
Too slow.

Elinor and Olive approach the goal.

61 OLIVE 61
Ari, your shirt is too tight for you to move. Why don’t you change it?

62 ARI 62
And lose my lucky shirt? How are we going to win the big game?

63 ELINOR 63
But you haven’t stopped any shots yet.

Despite all facts to the contrary, Ari remains confident.

64 ARI 64
That’s because you don’t need luck at practice. Once the game starts, my lucky shirt is going to work and guess who’ll be stopping all the shots?

Ari points his thumb up and tries to point to himself, but he can’t move his arms, so he just points up to the sky. Olive looks up and sees a tree above them.

65 OLIVE 65
The tree?

Ari tries harder and finally bends his arm, slightly.

66 ARI 66
No.
(straining)
This bat right here!

As Elinor looks over on the other side of the field, Mary and Lizzie are passing the ball back and forth and score easily on Koa. As they <SFX: CELEBRATE> their goal, Elinor looks concerned.

67 ELINOR 67
I sure hope so because Mary and Lizzie are *really* good at soccer.

On the other side of the field, Mz. Mole <SFX: BLOWS HER WHISTLE> again.

68 MZ. MOLE 68
Okay, kids. Let’s take a break and meet back here later for the game this afternoon.

69 OLIVE 69
Ooh, can we go to the Ranger Station and see the snake now?

70 ELINOR 70
Yeah! Let’s go see my Mom.
(to Koa and the Goat Twins)
We’ll be back for the big game - see ya!

Olive and Elinor runs off eagerly, as Ari lags behind.

5. INT. RANGER STATION -- DAY

Ranger Rabbit is sitting at her desk as the kids walk in, with Ari trailing a beat behind (he enters through the doorway sideways).

71 ELINOR 71
Hi, Mom.

72 RANGER RABBIT 72
Hey there, kids! Are you ready to help me take the snake to the forest?

73 OLIVE 73
We sure are.

74 RANGER RABBIT 74
Great. The snake is right back there in the box. I'll be right over as soon as I'm done with this recycling report.

75 ELINOR 75
Okay, Mom.

Elinor and Olive walk over to the terrarium as a still nervous Ari stays a step behind.

76 OLIVE 76
There's the snake. Right in the corner.

Olive points to one corner of the terrarium, but Elinor sees something different and points to a different corner.

77 ELINOR 77
Wait, I thought *this* was the snake.

The kids look back and forth between the two corners.

78 OLIVE 78
Huh? Are there *two* snakes now?

Suddenly, Ari pops up, even more worried.

79 ARI 79
Two snakes?? That's *too* many snakes.
(realizing his joke and smiling)
Get it? TOO many, because there's two?

Olive and Elinor <SFX: GIGGLE> then Elinor takes a closer look.

80 ELINOR (O.S.) 80
There's one snake...

Her POV moves from the snake at the front to the other corner, where the snake has left its molted snakeskin. It looks like a snake, with head and eye features.

81 ELINOR (O.S.) (CONT'D) 81
And there's another one, but... this one doesn't quite look like a snake...

82 OLIVE 82
Yeah, it looks really different.

83 ELINOR 83
Hmmm, we need more observations!

Elinor grabs a nearby magnifying glass, and then looks closely at the snakeskin. When her POV gets to the end of it, the skin is just hollow.

84 ELINOR (CONT'D) 84
This snake looks like it's made out of paper.

85 OLIVE 85
Yeah. It's really thin and there's nothing inside.

The POV then moves to the original snake.

86 ELINOR 86
This one looks like the real snake. But look! Remember its skin looked old and flaky before? Now it looks shiny.

As Elinor and Olive think about this, Ari takes a deep breath and gestures for the magnifying glass. Elinor hands it over and he leans in close to the side of the terrarium. He is still nervous, but he is facing his fears.

From inside the terrarium, we see the snake slither by in the foreground as Ari looks in, studying the snake and the skin on the ground.

87 ARI 87
Whoa, you're right. I wonder what happened to its old skin?

He looks back and forth quickly between the shiny snake and the old skin.

88 ARI (CONT'D) 88
Wait a minute... maybe this paper-looking thing IS its old skin. It must have fallen off!

This idea floods the kids with curiosity and questions as they gather around the terrarium.

89 OLIVE 89
The skin fell off? How can that be? Wouldn't it hurt the snake?

Elinor once again observes the snake, who seems fine.

90 ELINOR 90
The snake seems okay with this new skin, but why would its old skin fall off?

Olive looks at Ari and his shirt.

91 OLIVE 91
Maybe... because it was too tight?

92 RANGER RABBIT 92
You kids are right about that.

The kids turn around to find Ranger Rabbit observing their investigation in the background.

93 OLIVE 93
We are?

94 RANGER RABBIT 94
Yes, Olive, what you see there *is* the snake's old skin, and it did fall off because it was too small. The snake grew and its old skin didn't fit anymore, so it grew a new bigger skin that would fit its bigger body just right.

The kids look on at Ranger Rabbit, <SFX: WHOA/WOW...> minds blown!

95 ELINOR 95
So its skin just comes off in one big piece?

96 RANGER RABBIT 96
That's right, Elinor. This is called "molting."

Ari suddenly has a scary thought.

97 ARI 97
My Mom says I'm growing really fast. Am I going to molt, too?

98 RANGER RABBIT 98
(chuckles)
No, Ari. You have nothing to worry about. In many animals, like bats, and rabbits and elephants, their skin grows as the animal grows. But in other animals, like snakes, their skin doesn't grow with them.
(MORE)

RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D)
Instead they grow a new skin underneath, and their old skin falls off.

99 OLIVE 99
Ranger Rabbit, does it hurt the snake when they molt?

100 RANGER RABBIT 100
No, they actually feel much better because their old skin was getting tight and uncomfortable.

At that moment, Ari tries to stretch his arms in his tight shirt, but can't. He then thinks about something.

101 ARI 101
But, what if the snake liked the old skin? What if it was its lucky skin and it did all these cool things in it?

102 RANGER RABBIT 102
Ari, growing up is a good thing, and sometimes that means we outgrow the things that used to fit us.

Ari thinks about this for a moment and nods his head.

103 ARI 103
I guess you're right. Maybe it's time to say goodbye to my lucky shirt. It doesn't really fit me any more. Do you still have that other shirt?

Olive pulls out the green shirt out of her satchel and hands it to Ari.

104 ELINOR 104
Now you'll be nice and comfy, Ari, like a snake with new skin!

6. INT. RANGER STATION -- SONG SEQUENCE

As the music starts, the kids sing and dance around the terrarium as Ranger Rabbit and the snake watch.

105 *ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI* 105
All living beings grow and grow
From your head down to your toe
Some take years and some one day
Because we all grow in our own way!
(MORE)

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI (CONT'D)

ELINOR: When you’re a snake
And it’s time to grow
OLIVE: There is one thing
That you need to know.

Ari jumps in, now wearing his green shirt, which fits perfectly. Just to be sure, he moves his arms with ease.

ARI: Your skin will start
To feel real tight
ELINOR: But don’t you worry
You’ll be all right!
ALL: Because your old skin
Will molt and shed
And you’ll feel good
From your tail to your head!

All living beings grow and grow
From your head down to your toe
Some take years and some one day
Because we all grow in our own way!

As the song finishes, the kids dance right out of frame.

7. EXT. FOREST -- DAY

As if it was continuous action, the kids then run into frame at a forest clearing, with Ranger Rabbit one step behind, once again holding the terrarium.

106 ELINOR 106
Welcome home, little snakie.

Ranger Rabbit puts the terrarium gently on the ground and slowly turns it over, so the snake can slither away happily.

107 ARI 107
Look at it go! It can really move
now that its skin fits just right.

108 OLIVE 108
(a little whistful)
Bye, bye little snakey-snake.

As we watch the snake slither away, we:

FADE TO:

8. EXT. SOCCER FIELD -- DAY

It’s now the big game, and we see Elinor and Olive dribbling the soccer ball between them as the run down the field.

109 ELINOR 109
Comin’ at ya, Olive!

As we go wide, we see Elinor and Olive are playing against Mary and Lizzie. Koa and Ari are the two goalies.

Elinor does a fake crossover to send Mary going in one direction, then passes to Olive in the other direction. Unfortunately, Lizzie intercepts the pass and takes off down the field all by herself!

110 OLIVE 110
Oh no!

Ari gets ready to defend the net. He now has full mobility as Lizzie shoots the ball. Ari jumps up, arms fully extended, and catches it to make the save. <SFX: CROWD CHEERS>

Elinor and Olive run over to Ari, who still holds the ball.

111 ELINOR 111
Way to go, Ari!

112 OLIVE 112
It looks like your new shirt is lucky for you too.

113 ARI 113
Oh, I’m lucky all right. Lucky to have you two on my team!!

Elinor, Olive and Ari all high five, as they continue to play. <SFX: CHEERS AND LAUGHTER>

THE END.