

Dee's copy

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 123B Olive's Tree

By: Michael Foulke

Elinor's Question: Why did Olive's tree fall down?

Logline: When Olive's favorite tree falls over, she and her friends learn that the tree has just moved on to the next stage of its life cycle.

Curriculum Goals:

LS4. Understand that all animals and plants have a life cycle, can reproduce, and change and grow over time. (Elinor and her friends trace the life cycle of an oak tree).

ND4: Appreciate the way that elements in the natural world change, interact and are re-used. (Elinor and her friends observe the ways the apple tree was used in the past (for shade, for climbing - and the way it is used now that it's fallen - as a home for forest creatures).

SEP 1: Asking questions (science) c. Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation. (Elinor and her friends investigate why the tree fell.)

SEP 6: Constructing explanations (science) a. Use back-ground knowledge experiences, and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena (science) (Elinor and her friends conclude that the tree fell because it was old and diseased).

SEP 7: 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 friends theorize as they examine the evidence around and including the fallen tree).

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Olive, Ranger Rabbit

SECONDARY: None

LOCATIONS: Forest, Forest clearing

PROPS: Acorns, Picnic Basket, Picnic Blanket

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A SERIES OF QUICK SHOTS: ELINOR, ARI and OLIVE skip through the forest. Ari begins to fidget and points at a random tree.

2 OLIVE 12 2

3 Is that it? ~~ARI~~ 12 3

Ari points at yet another tree.

6 Sorry. OLIVE 12 6

8 *Soon*  OLIVE
(gentle laugh)
Soon. 12 8

9 ARI 9

What about now?

10 Uh-uh. OLIVE 12 10

11. ~~ART~~ How about now? 12 11

12 ELINOR
 (giggle)
 Not yet, Ari. Olive will tell us when
 we're there.

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13 (sighs, good-humoured)
Why does it take so long? 12 13 Bab.

14 OLIVE
We're almost there, Ari. You'll see,
it's the best spot in the whole
forest. 12 14

15 Ari
Whoa, cool! I just have one more
question. 12 15 426

16 OLIVE
Sure! What is it? 12 16

17 Ari
Are we there yet? 12 17

18 OLIVE
Actually, yes! 12 18

19 Ari
(surprised)
Really?! That's never worked before. 12 19

20 OLIVE
It's just over here. Follow me! 12 20

The kids follow Olive OS.

2. EXT. FOREST CLEARING ON A HILL -- CONTINUOUS

As the kids leave the forest, they enter a clearing, where they find one lone oak tree high up on a picturesque hill, all by itself (not too far from Animal Town, which we can see in the near-distance). The sun is shining right on the tree, giving it a majestic look that the kids marvel at. <SFX: WHOA WALLA> DIRECTOR'S NOTE: Animal Town is a large area, creating this layout is a large asset. When they are walking to get here, we'll see familiar areas and can trust they're still close to Animal Town as we do in many episodes.

21 OLIVE
Welcome to my tree! 12 21

22 ELINOR
Oh, Olive, it's sooo beautiful! 12 22

We then pan over to find Ari giving the tree a big bear hug. His hands don't come close to making it all the way around.

23 ARI 23
 (in awe)
 This is the most amazing tree I've
 ever seen.

24 OLIVE 24
 Yeah, it's pretty special. My mom and
 I come here all the time. And she
 used to come here when SHE was
 little, just like me.

THOUGHT BUBBLE shows Olive coming to the tree with her mom,
 which crossfades to Olive's mom when she was little playing
 around the tree.

25 ELINOR: 25
 Wow... this tree must be really old.

26 OLIVE 26
 Yep, and it's the best place in the
 world for playing, climbing, napping,
 picnicking...

Suddenly, Ari pops out from behind the tree.

27 ARI 27
 Did I hear picnicking?

The kids <SFX: GIGGLE> as Ari smacks his lips and rubs his
 tummy.

28 ELINOR 28
 What should we do first, Olive?

29 OLIVE 29
 Anything we want!

MONTAGE OF the kids having fun at Olive's tree:

They chase each other around, playing tag. Olive and Elinor
 go one way, Ari goes the other - <SFX: boo!>

They (safely) climb the tree, using its many branches to
 brace themselves. Olive helps Elinor up, but Ari just
 flutters to a higher branch.

Finally, Elinor is watching the sun beginning to set as Olive
 writes in her notebook.

Suddenly, Ari's upside down head pops down from the top of
 frame. As he talks, we pull out to reveal he is hanging
 upside down from a branch.

30 Ari Whatcha doing now, Olive? 30

31 Olive Drawing a picture of my special tree. I draw a new one every time I come up here. I've been here so many times I've almost filled up this whole book! 31

32 Ari Cool. I wanna see! 32

Ari does a loop-de-loop as he hops down to a lower branch, which shakes, causing an acorn to fall and <SFX: BOP> Ari on the head.

33 Ari (CONT'D) Wow! I'm okay, but something hit me. 33

34 Elinor It fell off the tree. 34

35 Ari Is the tree mad at me? 35

36 Olive Noooo. It's just dropping a seed on the ground. 36

37 Ari Trees have seeds? 37

Ari picks up the acorn, he looks at it and shows it to Elinor.

38 Olive Uh-huh. My Mom told me acorns like this one are oak tree seeds - and this is an oak tree. 38

39 Elinor Wow. Olive, you sure know a lot about trees. 39

40 Olive Yeah. My Mom and I really love trees. 40

Now carrying the acorn, Ari goes to sit down next to Olive, but she stops him.

41 Olive (CONT'D) Wait, Ari! Don't sit there, you'll shmush that tree! 41

Olive points to a little sprout coming out of the ground as Ari and Elinor lean down to examine it.

42

ARI

Are you sure that's a tree? It looks like a little weed to me.

43

OLIVE

(proud of her knowledge)

Nope, that's what a tree looks like when it first comes out of the seed. Here, take a look.

Olive pulls out Elinor's magnifying glass. MAGNIFIED POV: as she and her friends get on the ground to look at the sprout.

44

ELINOR

So this little plant is a baby tree?

45

OLIVE

Yep. My mom said trees start out as seeds, then they become little sprouts like this one and finally, big grown-up trees - like this!

Olive gestures to her big tree!

46

ARI

Wow, it's so neat to think that this giant tree came from a tiny acorn.

Ari hops up on the tree again, putting his hands on a branch to pull himself up and we hear the <SFX: CREAK> of wood breaking as the branch snaps and falls to the ground with an SFX: THUD!

Luckily, Ari flaps his wings and safely glides to the ground.

47

ELINOR

Oh, no! Are you okay, Ari?

48

ARI

Yeah. I'm fine.

Olive checks on Ari, then looks up at where the branch used to be.

49

OLIVE

I wonder what happened to the branch.

50

ARI

I don't know. It just broke.

51 OLIVEN 1 2 51
Aww, poor tree.

Olive puts a comforting hand on the tree, but Elinor, in turn, puts a comforting hand on her.

52 ELINOR (O.S.) 1 2 52
It'll be okay, Olive. Your tree has lots of branches.

Olive grimaces as she inspects the branch, whose wood is oddly dark on the inside.

53 OLIVE 53
Yeah, I guess you're right. And this branch looks kinda different anyway.
(a pause as she inspects the tree more closely)
I've been a little worried about the tree lately. The bark is getting crumbly and falling off in spots.

She points to a patch of brittle bark.

54 ELINOR 54
I'm sure it's ok. We can come check the tree again some other day.

At that moment, the wind blows, Elinor crosses her arms with a <BRRRR>.

55 ARI 55
Brrr... it's getting windy. We should probably head home.

56 ELINOR 56
Yeah. I think it's almost time for dinner.

57 ARI 57
Did you say dinner? Let's go!

Elinor and Ari <SFX: GIGGLE> as they head off. Olive stays a little behind and puts a comforting hand on the tree.

58 OLIVE 58
Okay. See you later, tree!

As the kids walk away in the distance, the WIND suddenly kicks up, pushing the branches around with an SFX: HOWL. We see a piece of the bark fall off.

DISSOLVE TO:

3. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN -- NIGHT TO MORNING

We see the sun set over Animal Town as the wind continues to blow overnight. Then the sun rises again - another calm, sunny day!

We push in on the PARK, where Elinor, Olive and Ari walk around, helping Ranger pick up the fallen branches that lay all over. Each of the kids picks up something off the ground: ~~Olive grabs a branch, still full of leaves as Ari jumps over~~ a whole group of branches. At the same time, Elinor thinks as she examines the jagged, broken end of a branch.

59 **ELINOR**
Did the wind really blow down all of this, Mom?

60 **RANGER RABBIT**
It sure did. There were some very strong winds last night.

61 **ARI**
(Strong enough to knock branches off of trees?

Ranger Rabbit nods <SFX: MM-HMM>.

62 **ELINOR**
Mom, can the wind blow over a whole tree?

63 **RANGER RABBIT**
Well, trees have roots that go into the ground, and that helps keep them from getting blown over. But...

If the wind is strong enough, it could blow over a whole tree.

At this, Olive looks to Elinor, concerned.

64 **OLIVE**
(gasp)
My tree!

65 **ELINOR**
(to Mom)
Mom, we have to go and check Olive's tree.

66 **RANGER RABBIT**
Okay, you go ahead and I'll catch up.

Handwritten notes and corrections on the right side of the page:

- 59: 12 3ab.
- 60: 12 3 60
- 61: 12 3 61
- 62: 12 3ab 62
- 63: 12 3 63
- 64: 12 3 64
- 65: 12 3 65
- 66: 12 3 66

Other handwritten notes include: "RR.", "gla.", "x2.", "4ab.", "12 trees. 3", and "12 3ab.".

The kids all excitedly run off as Ranger Rabbit follows closely behind.

4. EXT. FOREST CLEARING -- DAY

Elinor, Olive and Ari all head up the clearing.

67 ELINOR I'm sure your tree is ok, Olive. 67

68 ARI Yeah, I can't wait to climb-- 68

Suddenly, Olive interrupts Ari, as she exclaims:

69 OLIVE <GASP!> My tree! 69

70 ARI Exactly! I can't wait to climb your tree. 70

71 OLIVE No, my tree! Look! 71

The kids all look up to see that Olive's tree has fallen down! They all quickly run to inspect the scene to find the tree on its side with its roots exposed, as if it had been pushed over.

72 ELINOR Oh, no! Poor tree. 72

73 OLIVE What happened? It looks like it just... fell. 73

74 ELINOR It was the wind! The wind must have pushed the tree over last night! 74

75 ARI Okay, then let's push it back up. I got this. I'll just... 75

<SFX: GRUNTING> Ari gives pushing it back into place a shot, but quickly realizes that's not happening.

76 ARI (CONT'D) Nope. Not happening. 76

Meanwhile, Olive is very worried about her tree.

Handwritten notes:
Zab
cont. build last
75
76
Ari

77

OLIVE

(worried)

But we have to do something! My tree can't stay on the ground.

Suddenly, Ranger Rabbit comes through the clearing.

78

RANGER RABBIT

What's going on kids?

79

ELINOR

Mom! You're just in time! We have to put Olive's tree back up.

Ranger Rabbit notices the tree and realizes what happened
<SFX: UH OH>.

Ranger Rabbit inspects the fallen tree, looking at the wood and the bark as the kids stand by, watching hopefully.

80

ELINOR (CONT'D)

Can you fix it, Mom?

81

RANGER RABBIT

I'm sorry, kids, it looks like this tree was very old. It must have gotten sick.

82

OLIVE

Trees get sick?

83

RANGER RABBIT

They do, Olive. Sometimes you can tell when a tree is sick.

84

ELINOR

Mom! Yesterday, one of the branches broke, and it looked really dark inside.

85

ARI

And the bark looked kinda funny in some spots.

86

OLIVE

Does that mean that the tree was sick?

87

RANGER RABBIT

Yes, it looks like it's been sick for a while. See?

The kids look at the bottom of the tree and see that there is a big hole in the middle of the tree.

12 77

1 2 78

abc 79

raci. 12.

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88

(MORE)

95

(Comp) (bold Lat#)

OLIVE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(sad)

But now the tree fell down and we won't be able to climb it again.

Olive puts her head in Ranger Rabbit's shoulder and they share a hug. Ari and Elinor also get in on this hug.

96

RANGER RABBIT

I know, Olive, and I understand why that would make you sad.

97

ELINOR

Mom... what happens to trees when they fall down?

98

RANGER RABBIT

That's a good question, Elinor. And I think the answer might help make you all feel a little better.

Olive looks up at Ranger Rabbit.

99

RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D)

Your special tree will still be around for many more years. It's going to become what we Park Rangers call a wildlife tree.

100

OLIVE

A wildlife tree?

101

RANGER RABBIT

Yes. A wildlife tree is the very last step in a tree's life cycle.

102

ELINOR

What's a life cycle, Mom?

103

ARI

I know. My mom has one of those in the garage. She loves to exercise.

104

RANGER RABBIT

(smiling)

That's a different kind of cycle, Ari.

105

OLIVE

Wait, I think I know. Is the life cycle like how this tree started as an acorn, then grew all the way up from a sprout to a big tree?

123

123

2ab

123

2ab

123

123

2ab

123

123

2

106

~~RANGER RABBIT~~

106

That's right, Olive! And becoming a wildlife tree is the very last step in a tree's life cycle. Come here, I'll show you.

The kids follow Ranger Rabbit out as we crossfade to the next scene.

5. EXT. FOREST -- DAY

The group arrives at a decaying wildlife tree, covered in moss and already starting to break down.

107

~~ELINOR~~

107

So this is a wildlife tree?

108

~~RANGER RABBIT~~

108

It sure is, Elinor. This is a tree that fell down a long time ago, and now it's a very important part of the forest. Wildlife trees are homes to lots of different types of creatures.

109

~~ARI~~

109

Look! A lizard!

Ari points to the tree and the kids turn to see a lizard crawling on the wildlife tree.

110

~~OLIVE~~

110

And look! A bird made a nest in the tree.

The kids then observe a mama bird feeding her babies in a nest.

111

~~ELINOR~~

111

That's SO interesting.

112

~~RANGER RABBIT~~

112

Yes. And as the tree gets even older, it's going to break down and become part of the soil, helping new plants and trees grow in its place.

As Ranger Rabbit speaks, we see a **THOUGHT BUBBLE** that illustrates a tree breaking down and enriching the soil, which grows new, healthy plants.

113

~~OLIVE~~

113

Wow, so even if a tree falls down, it's still a part of the forest.

Ranger Rabbit nods <SFX: MM-HMM>. We take a last look at the wildlife tree, still full of life and at home in the forest. As Olive thinks about this, we...

113a
RR

DISSOLVE TO:

7. EXT. FOREST CLEARING -- DAY

~~Back with her favorite tree, Olive is still deep in thought.~~

114

OLIVE

I know that my tree is going to help lots of plants and creatures, but... I'm still gonna miss seeing it stand up big and tall.

114

1 (2abc)

Elinor stands beside her friend and puts her arm around her.

115

ELINOR

It was a really nice tree, Olive. Maybe we can still come visit all the time.

115

1 2ab

Ari stands on the other side and puts his arm around Olive too.

116

ARI

Yeah, think of all the new kinds of fun we can have with it now that it's a wildlife tree. Maybe we'll meet some new creatures.

116

1 (2)

117

OLIVE

(finally accepting)
I guess it will be pretty cool to see what kinds of animals and plants make my tree their home.

117

1 2 ab

118

RANGER RABBIT

I don't think you're going to have to wait very long to find out. Look!

118

2 ab

Ranger Rabbit points. The kids look over and see a salamander crawl up inside a hollowed out section of the tree's trunk and curl for a nap. <SFX: WHOAA/AMAZING WALLA>

As Olive finally cracks a smile, music rises. The kids sing a song while dancing around the wildlife tree.

119

OLIVE/ELINOR/ARI

A tree can grow both big and small
No matter the size, we love them all!
(MORE)

119

OLIVE/ELINOR/ARI (CONT'D)

*We climb their branches and give us
shade!
Trees are the best things ever made!*

*ELINOR: It starts with a seed planted
in the ground
That becomes a sprout, they're all
around!*

*ARI: It grows bigger, as big as me
But real soon, it's a full grown
tree!*

*OLIVE: Then one day, it's a wildlife
tree
Just as important I hope you'll see
Because it helps new plants to grow
And it's home to animals we know!*

*ALL: A tree can grow both big and
small
No matter the size, we love them all!
We climb their branches and give us
shade!
Trees are the best things ever made!*

5. EXT. FOREST CLEARING -- DUSK

After the song, as the sun sets in the distance again, Olive draws in her notebook, sitting on the ground as Ari, Elinor and Ranger Rabbit walk over to her.

120

ELINOR

How are you feeling now, Olive?

120

121

OLIVE

Better, thanks. My mom's gonna be sad
that the tree fell down, but I think
she'll be happy to know it's still a
part of the forest.

121

122

ARI

And Olive, don't forget one thing...

122

Ari then leads the kids over to the sprout they observed
earlier. The kids excitedly crowd around.

123

OLIVE

The sprout! You're right, Ari. I
forgot this tree sprout is going to
grow into a big, big tree!

123

124

RANGER RABBIT

Hmm, there are no other trees around,
so this sprout must be from an acorn
that fell off your tree, Olive.

The kids <SFX: GASP/AWW>. Olive goes to pat the old wildlife
tree.

125

OLIVE

Don't you worry one bit, old tree.
I'll take care of your sprout so it
grows up big and tall, just like you.

Elinor peeks at the remaining pages in Olive's notebook.

126

ELINOR

I think you're gonna need another
notebook, Olive.

As everyone smiles and <SFX: LIGHT GIGGLES> Olive takes a
seat on the stump of her wildlife tree, we:

FADE OUT.