

Hello

## ELINOR WONDERS WHY

- Mrs. H. Walla  
- Mr. Lion Walla

EW128B: The Litterbug  
By Michael Foulke

Elinor's Question: Who is the Animal Town litterbug?

Logline: Elinor and her friends help Mrs. Hippo, the Animal Town custodian try to find a litter bug, who is leaving trash all over Animal Town.

### Curriculum Goals:

ES3: Understand that things people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them, but they can make choices that reduce their impacts on the land, water, air, and other living things: b. Demonstrate an awareness of and the ability to discuss in simple terms the need for conservation, recycling, and respect for the environment c. Participate in simple activities to care for the environment (Elinor and her friends pick up the litter in Animal town and the determine to find the source.)

SEP4: Analyzing and interpreting data a. Collect, describe, and record observations in greater detail and in various ways b. Use the 5 senses and simple tools to gather and record data c. Record observations to describe patterns and/or relationships in the natural and designed world(s) in order to answer scientific questions and solve problems. d. Talk about and reflect on what happened during an investigation or when solving a problem, and why it might have happened

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Olive

SECONDARY: Mrs. Hippo, Mrs. Llama, Mr. Raccoon

LOCATIONS: Animal Town Main Street, Park, Mrs. Llama's Restaurant

PROPS: Golf Cart, Trash, Trash Bags, Old Food, Compost, Hose

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1. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK -- DAY

We see Animal Town Park on a beautiful spring day. All is quiet, until ELINOR and ARI can be heard in the distance.

1 ELINOR (O.S.)  
Here it comes!

2 ARI (O.S.)  
I got it... I got it...

A Frisbee disc then floats through the frame as Ari jumps up to catch it, but fumbles <SFX: WHOOPS>. At the last second, though, OLIVE jumps up from the bottom of frame and catches the Frisbee with her trunk.

3 OLIVE  
(giggling)  
Looks like I got it. Now you catch it!

Elinor and Ari run away from Olive as she hurls the Frisbee with all her might, sending the disc across the park! Elinor and Ari race each other to catch up to the Frisbee.

4 ELINOR  
This one is mine!

5 ARI  
Oh, no! Not this time!

Ari flaps his wings, flying over Elinor as both kids <GIGGLE> back and forth at each other. Despite their best efforts, they can't quite catch up to the Frisbee.

As the Frisbee starts to descend, MRS. HIPPO suddenly rides into frame on a golf cart and stops just before catching the disc right in front of the kids, who are amazed not only by Mrs. Hippo's great catch, but also by this golf cart!

6 ELINOR  
Amazing catch, Mrs. Hippo! Want to play with us?

Mrs. Hippo is a jovial woman, with a Midwestern vibe to her (Think Edie McClurg). She always wants to help out, no matter the situation, but right now, she's got a job to do.

7 MRS. HIPPO  
Oh, I'd love to, kiddos, but I'm cleaning up litter in the park today.

Confused, the kids look around and the park looks great.

8  
ARI  
Litter? You mean, like trash on the ground? But... I don't see any litter.

9  
MRS. HIPPO  
That's because I already cleaned up this part of the park. But, I still have lots to do.

10  
ELINOR  
Keeping all of Animal Town clean must be a big job, Mrs. Hippo.

11  
MRS. HIPPO  
Oh, you betcha! And it's an important one.

12  
OLIVE  
I wish we could help, but we're just kids. What could we do?

As Elinor and Olive think, Mrs. Hippo steps up with some garbage bags.

13  
MRS. HIPPO  
Plenty! Anyone can help keep their town clean. Even the smallest things can make a difference.

14  
ELINOR  
Really? Can we help you?

15  
MRS. HIPPO  
Of course! The more, the merrier. Hop in! Let's go clean up the park!

The kids hop in the golf cart and they all go off excited  
<SFX: AWESOME/COOL>, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

## 2. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK (ANOTHER AREA) -- DAY

Now holding litter bags, the kids walk around the park with Mrs. Hippo, picking up any litter they find on the ground (with the claw sticks) and putting it in big, paper bags. (NOTE: The litter is colorful and not gross). (ANOTHER NOTE: It's very important kids don't touch the garbage directly, it might make sense for design to give them gloves).

16  
ARI  
Got one!

Ari picks up a paper cup and throws it in his bag. As they walk, they find random candy wrappers or cans around.

17

ELINOR

Where did all this litter come from?

17

18

OLIVE

Yeah, everyone loves Animal Town. Why would they leave litter around like this?

18

19

MRS. HIPPO

Even towns as wonderful as Animal Town can have litter. Sometimes, people drop litter by accident or it falls out of trash cans or it may get blown around by the wind...

19

Suddenly, a paper bag blows through frame and Olive catches it (with her claw).

20

OLIVE

I see what you mean.

20

As Elinor picks up a candy wrapper off the ground with her claw and puts it in her bag, she looks around and doesn't see any more litter.

21

ELINOR

I don't see any more litter around here, Mrs. Hippo. Where to next?

21

22

MRS. HIPPO

Actually, Elinor, we're all done cleaning up the park. You kids were such a huge help, we finished early.

22

23

ARI

Aww... but I really liked helping clean up Animal Town.

23

24

MRS. HIPPO

Don't worry, there's always plenty to do. But since we finished early, I thought I might take my helpers on a cart ride around town! Whaddya think?

24

The kids all celebrate as they run towards the nearby cart!  
<SFX: YEAH! WHOO-HOO WALLA> Everyone puts their bags on the back of the golf cart, which are not completely closed, as we:

CUT TO:

3. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - VARIOUS (MONTAGE)

We see a musical montage of the ecstatic kids (with seat-belts) riding around the centre dirt paths of Animal Town with Mrs. Hippo.

- They zig-zag through trees in the park.
- Drive down the sidewalks in town, waving to the townspeople, who wave right back.
- They go past their clubhouse, where kids play in the BG.
- Finally, they are back in the park, <LAUGHING> as they zoom around the paths of the park, leaning into each other with every turn!

~~4. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK -- DAY~~

As the music fades, they come back to where they started.

25                      ARI                      25

Wow, Mrs. Hippo. My mom makes me  
clean my room all the time, but it's  
NEVER this much fun!

26 MRS. HIPPO  
Oh, thanks a bunch, Ari. You kids  
really made cleaning easy today. I've  
never been done so fast. ① 26

Suddenly, Olive notices something.

27 Uh... I'm not so sure we're done.

Elinor now sees it too as they all step out of the cart. We see what the kids see: the park now has new pieces of litter here and there all around!

28 ELINOR Oh, no! What happened? 28

29 OLIVE There's more litter in the park! 29

30 MRS. HIPPO  
But we haven't been gone very long. I wonder where it all came from.

CU a piece of litter on the ground as Ari steps into frame and picks it up (with his claw, he also has a bag), examining it closely. He seems very serious all of the sudden.

31

ARI

There's only one explanation for how  
all this litter got here so fast...  
(dramatic pose)  
Animal Town has...a litterbug!

32

ELINOR

A litterbug?

33

ARI

Yeah! Someone who leaves litter on  
the ground.

34

MRS. HIPPO

Oh, no sirree. I mean, who would do  
such a thing?

Olive then steps up in dramatic fashion.

35

OLIVE

Dun, dun, duuuun... it's a LITTERBUG  
MYSTERY!

Elinor shakes her head, refusing to believe that.

36

MRS. HIPPO

Well, hold on, kiddos! Maybe whoever  
left this litter did it by accident  
and doesn't know they did it.

37

ELINOR

You're right, Mrs. Hippo! And if they  
don't know they're doing it...

38

ARI

They could still be doing it!

39

OLIVE

We need to figure out where all this  
litter came from, and fast.

Mrs. Hippo pulls out a garbage bag.

40

MRS. HIPPO

Great idea! Let's work as a team.  
I'll pick up the litter here and you  
kiddos look around town for clues  
about where the litter might be  
coming from.

She uses a claw to start picking up trash.

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32

33

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37

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39

40

breathe

41

**ELINOR**  
You got it, Mrs. Hippo.  
(then, to Olive)  
So... where should we start?

41

They look around and see a sparse trail of litter leading to town.

42

**OLIVE**  
I know! If you wanna find out where  
the litter is coming from, follow the  
litter. Let's go!

As the kids follow the trail of litter, they pick up each  
piece and put it in a bag as they head to town.

DISSOLVE TO:

# 5. ANIMAL TOWN MAIN STREET -- DAY

As the kids arrive on Main Street in town (Ari with a claw  
and a bag), they continue to pick up litter, which still  
lines the sidewalk.

43

**ARI**  
Looks like the litterbug came this  
way.

43

44

**ELINOR**  
Sure does.

44

Suddenly, the kids stop as Mz. Llama walks out of her shop  
with a big bag of kitchen scraps and dumps it right into a  
pile on the ground!

45

**OLIVE**  
Look, there's Mz. Llama! What is she  
doing?

45

46

**ELINOR**  
Is she... she looks like she's  
putting her litter on the ground!

46

47

**ARI**  
(gasp)  
Could Mz. Llama be the litterbug?!

47

The kids all run over.

**6. EXT. BACK OF MZ. LLAMA'S RESTAURANT -- DAY**

As the kids run over, Mz. Llama is just finishing dumping her bag of trash into the pile as three old, half-eaten tomatoes hit the pile with an SFX: PLOP, PLOP, PLOP. With each plop, our three kids' heads each pop up behind Mz. Llama, one by one in unison with the PLOPS.

As Mz. Llama finishes, she turns and smiles at the kids.

48

**ELINOR**

Hi, Mz. Llama. May we ask what you're doing?

48

49

**ARI**

Yeah, it looks like you're putting litter on the ground.

49

50

**MZ. LLAMA**

Oh, hello, kids. Oh, goodness gracious, no Ari. This isn't litter, it's scraps of food for composting. See?

50

Mz. Llama shows the kids her compost pile, which is surrounded by three walls to keep the compost in place.

51

**ELINOR**

Composting?

51

52

**MZ. LLAMA**

Yes! Whenever I have leftover fruits or vegetables or bread from my restaurant, I dump it here instead of in the trash. (mixing the compost pile with a shovel) After a while, all this old food turns into nice soil for my garden.

52

<SFX: KIDS OOOOH WALLA> Mz. Llama turns the compost pile revealing the dark, rich compost on the bottom.

53

**ARI**

It's compost! Whoa, that's amazing.

53

54

**MZ. LLAMA**

(laughing)

Yes it is. And compost is wonderful for my vegetable garden. Would you kids like to help me spread it around?

54

55

**ARI**

Hmm... sounds messy. I'm in.

55

56

OLIVE

Me too. Every little bit helps.

As Mz. Llama takes a shovel full of compost from the bottom of her compost pile and dumps it in the garden, the kids get down in the garden and spread the compost around on the soil using nearby garden tools.

57

ELINOR

I can't believe all that food can go right back into the dirt like this.

58

OLIVE

Yes, and it makes less trash because we're re-using the old food.

Mz. Llama agrees <SFX: MM-HMMM!>.

59

ARI

Phew... And here I thought you might be the litterbug, Mz. Llama.

Mz. Llama looks confused <SFX: HUH?>.

60

ELINOR

Someone has been leaving litter around Animal Town.

61

OLIVE

Yeah, and we want to find out where it's coming from.

62

MZ. LLAMA

Oh, no. Well, maybe whoever is doing it doesn't realize they're leaving litter around. It isn't me, though. I always reduce, reuse and recycle. After all, we all have to do our part.

63

OLIVE

Yup! It's up to all of us to take care of our town.

64

ELINOR

Like Mz. Llama! Composting all this old food makes less litter!

Elinor and friends put down their garden tools as they finish spreading all of the compost.

65

ARI

Um... speaking of less litter, we still need to find the litterbug.

labcd 56 (a2)

57 2abc  
A.A.

58 labcd  
58a 2 AM.

59 2abc  
59a 2 AM.

60 2abc  
60a 2 AM.

61 labcd  
61a 2 AM.

62 12 3abc

63 labcd  
64 1.2  
65 2abcd  
well.

66

**MZ. LLAMA**

Oh, right! You kids better get back to it. I can finish up here. Thanks for your help!

66

67

**ELINOR**

Bye, Mz. Llama.

67

The kids walk out and Mz. Llama kneels in her garden as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

# 7. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN MAIN STREET -- DAY

As the kids walk away, they spot more litter down the street a bit, leading away from Mz. Llama's shop.

68

**ELINOR**

Look! There's more litter on the ground.

68

69

**ARI**

Let's go!

69

The kids pick up the remaining litter and look around, but that's everything. The street is once again clean.

70

**ELINOR**

Well, I think we got it all. This is the last piece.

70

The kids look up and they are standing down the sidewalk from Mr. Raccoon's shop.

71

**OLIVE**

The litter ended near Mr. Raccoon's shop. Maybe he saw something?

71

As the kids look over, they see Mr. Raccoon standing next to his shop and using a hose on the sidewalk. There is a big, overflowing bag of litter next to him on the ground.

72

**ELINOR**

There he is. What's he doing?

72

73

**OLIVE**

He's got a bag of litter. A BIG bag of litter!

73

74

**ELINOR**

And it looks like he's pouring water all over the sidewalk.

74

75

ARI

(gasp)  
Could Mr. Raccoon be the litterbug?

76

ELINOR

(not convinced)  
Hmm... Let's go ask him.

77

ARI

Mr. Raccoon...

As Ari calls out, Mr. Raccoon turns and accidentally sprays him with a little bit of water (NOT on his face), causing Ari to turn around as water drips off of him. A very apologetic Mr. Raccoon then runs over to the kids.

78

MR. RACCOON

OH, I am so sorry, Ari! I didn't even see you there! Here you go!

79

ARI

Thanks, Mister Raccoon.

Mr. Raccoon grabs a towel off his apron and gives it to Ari to dry off.

80

ELINOR

Mr. Raccoon, we're trying to figure out who is leaving litter around Animal Town.

81

MR. RACCOON

Ah yes, I saw a lot of litter here in front of my shop. It took me a while to pick it all up. That's what's in this bag.

82

OLIVE

Well, that explains why the litter ends at Mr. Raccoon's shop.

83

ARI

Oh, I thought maybe you were the litterbug, Mr. Raccoon.

84

MR. RACCOON

Oh, not me. I always try to keep everything clean. That's why I'm spraying down my sidewalk, to clean up where this litter used to be. But don't worry, I'm using rain water from my rain barrel.

The kids all look up at the clear, blue sky.

85 **ELINOR** But... it's not raining. 85

86 **OLIVE** What's a rain barrel? 86

Mr. Raccoon gestures to a rain barrel on the side of his shop that the hose is connected to. The kids go over and check it out. As Mr. Raccoon explains how a rain barrel works, we see a **THOUGHT BUBBLE** over his head.

87 **MR. RACCOON** Here, take a look. The rain barrel collects water every time it rains, and saves it for later. That way, when I wash my sidewalks or water my grass, I'm not wasting new water. I'm re-using rain water. Saving water is one way we help keep our town clean. 87

Meanwhile, as they walk back to the front of the store, Ari is relieved that Mr. Raccoon is clearly not the litterbug.

88 **ARI** Phew! I'm glad you're not the litterbug, Mr. Raccoon. 88

As they reach the front of the store, Olive spots another piece of litter on the sidewalk.

89 **OLIVE** Hey, there's new litter on the sidewalk! 89

90 **ARI** But the sidewalk was just clean. That means it must be the litterbug! 90

91 **ELINOR** Whoever is leaving this litter must be nearby. See you later, Mr. Raccoon! 91

92 **MR. RACCOON** Good luck, kids. Great job keeping Animal Town clean. 92

93 **ARI** Thanks, Mr. Raccoon! 93

As the kids run off, they pick up the litter from in front of Mr. Raccoon's store, then see a few more up the street.

94

ELINOR

The litter is coming from that way!

Suddenly, another piece of litter flutters down the street from around the corner. The kids follow it around the corner just in time to see another piece fall off of something and onto the ground.

95

ARI

Oh, we're so close! Come on. It looks like the litterbug is...

As the kids come around the next corner they see Mrs. Hippo driving the cart, then see a piece of litter fall off the back of the cart.

96

ELINOR

(confused)  
Mrs. Hippo?

Mrs. Hippo turns to see the kids and stops the cart. When she stops, another piece of litter falls off because the litter bags aren't closed up properly, but Mrs. Hippo has no idea.

97

MRS. HIPPO

Oh, hey kiddos! I've been looking all over for you, dontcha know. Did you figure out where all that litter is coming from?

98

ELINOR

I think we did, Mrs. Hippo. It's coming from... all of us.

Mrs. Hippo is in disbelief.

99

MRS. HIPPO

Us? But, what do you mean?!

Olive, Ari and Elinor walk to the cart to show Mrs. Hippo the opened bags. As Olive explains, a **THOUGHT BUBBLE** appears above her head of the kids driving around and litter falling off the back of the truck.

100

OLIVE

It looks like we didn't close the litter bags properly.

101

ELINOR

So when we drove around town, the litter fell out and went everywhere.

102

MRS. HIPPO

Oh, I didn't know we were spreading  
more litter around.

102

103

ARI

It's okay, Mrs. Hippo. We just made a  
mistake. Don't worry, I make 'em all  
the time.

103

Suddenly, Ari trips over and falls behind the cart. A beat  
later, he pops up, just fine.

104

ARI (CONT'D)

See?

104

Mrs. Hippo starts to tie the bags up tight.

105

MRS. HIPPO

Well, it won't happen again. From now  
on, these bags will be tied up tight!

105

Elinor then steps in to help Mrs. Hippo tie the bags.

106

ELINOR

Here, Mrs. Hippo, I'll help you.  
After all, we can all help make our  
town cleaner.

106

107

MRS. HIPPO

You can sure say that again.

107

Elinor smiles as the music fades up and the ditty begins.  
During the song, the kids demonstrate the various ways they  
saw in the episode to help the environment.

108

ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE

108

ELINOR: To keep your world nice and  
green,  
You just have to keep it clean,  
Follow these steps and you will see  
Helping is easy as can be.

OLIVE: When you're done with fruit  
don't throw it away,  
Compost that all night and day,  
It makes less litter and that doesn't  
hurt,  
'Cause compost really helps the dirt!

ARI: When watering plants don't use a  
hose,  
There's a better way that everyone  
knows,

(MORE)

ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE (CONT'D)

Catch some rain as it falls from the  
sky,  
And use that water when your plants  
get dry!

ELINOR: Here's one more thing that  
you can do,  
To keep the world looking good as  
new.  
When you see litter on the ground,  
Throw it in the cans that are all  
around!

ALL: To keep your world nice and  
green  
You just have to keep it clean  
Follow these steps and you will see  
Helping is easy as can be!

8. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK -- DAY

As the song ends, the kids walk back through the very clean  
park with Mrs. Hippo.

109

MRS. HIPPO

Thanks again, kids. You helped me  
clean up, and reminded me to keep my  
litter in the trash bag.

110

OLIVE

No problem, Mrs. Hippo. We love to  
help keep Animal Town clean.

111

ELINOR

Yeah, because no matter how old you  
are, EVERYONE can do their part to  
keep their town beautiful!

Just as Mrs. Hippo says that, a snack wrapper falls onto the  
ground right near Mrs. Hippo and the kids. As they look over,  
they see Ari standing next to the wrapper, munching on a  
snack. A sheepish Ari then picks up the wrapper and puts it  
in a nearby trash bin.

112

ARI

Whoops! Sorry, I dropped some litter.  
But don't worry, I'm doing my part.

As the kids laugh, we:

FADE OUT.

109

110

111

112

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