

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 131A Olive's Library

By: Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: How can we organize all of Olives' books?

Logline: The kids take inspiration from ants and make a little lending library.

Curriculum Goals

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Structure and Function'):
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.

SEP1b. Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena.
(Elinor and her friends ask more complex questions about ants)

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It's OLIVE'S birthday, and she's celebrating with a party outside at her house with her mom (MS. ELEPHANT) and some of her friends, including ELINOR, ARI, SALLY, and TITO. We open as the kids and mom are finishing <SFX: SINGING HAPPY BIRTHDAY>. We pan over some of the characters as they sing.

We stop on Olive, who is wearing a birthday crown and looking excited, sitting in front of a beautifully decorated but clearly home-made cake. Nearby there is a stack of presents (not too many). As the song ends, we hear everyone <SFX: WALLA, CHEER, YAY, CLAPPING> and Olive gets a few hugs.

4 MS. ELEPHANT 4
Make a wish and blow out your
candles, dear.

6 OLIVE 6

I wished for the whole world to
feel happy... and that I could open
my presents right now! Can I open
them, Mom?

7 MS. ELEPHANT 7

Well, I suppose that would be
alright. We can cut the cake
afterwards. Go ahead, sweetie.

8 ARI 8
Oooh, ohh, I hope she opens my
present first. She's going to love
it!

Elinor takes the top present from the pile and hands it to Olive.

9 OLIVE 9
This one is from... Tito.

Tito beams. Ari looks a bit impatient/disappointed. Olive opens Tito's present.

10 OLIVE (CONT'D) 10
It's a book!

11 TITO 11
It's all about insects that start with the letter M.

12 OLIVE 12
(flipping through it)
Moths, mites, millipedes. That's
MMMMMMarvelous. Thank you, Tito!

Tito smiles. Back on Ari, still excited.

13 ARI 13
Ooh, I hope she opens mine next.

Elinor hands Olive the next present.

14 OLIVE 14
This one is from... Elinor.

Elinor smiles. Ari slumps his shoulders. Olive opens Elinor's present.

15 OLIVE (CONT'D) 15
It's another book!

16 ELINOR 16
It's about birds from all around the world.

17 OLIVE 17
Thank you! Ostriches and penguins and robins. And look at this!

The book unfolds into a pop-up book with a bird that flaps its wings when you open/close the book. <SFX: 0000000000H>.

Ari sneaks over to the present pile and pulls his out of the stack and hands it to Olive.

18 ARI (NONCHALANTLY) 18
I think this one is next. I wonder who it's from?

19 OLIVE 19
Oh, it's from you, Ari!

20 ARI 20
I know! Open it!

She opens it.

21 OLIVE 21
It's also a book!

22 ARI 22
Not just *any* book. It's a book
ABOUT books!

23 OLIVE 23
Oh, it shows you all the different
kinds of books there are: history
books, nature books, coloring
books. Amazing. Thank you, Ari!

Ari looks very proud.

CROSSFADE TO: we see the pile of books has grown to five. Ms.
Elephant returns with plates for everyone.

24 MS. ELEPHANT 24
Olive, you got more books. How
wonderful! Why don't you take them
up to your room while I set up for
cake.

The kids offer to help. <SFX: WALLA ELINOR - WE'LL HELP/ARI-
I'LL COME/SALLY - LET'S GO> They each grab a book and head
into the house.

2. INT HALLWAY -- DAY

Elinor, Olive, Ari, Tito and Sally are making their way to
Olive's room.

25 ELINOR 25
You sure got a lot of books today,
Olive.

26 OLIVE 26
Yeah, I have the best friends.
Everyone knows how much I love
books!

27 ARI 27
Where are you going to put them
all?

28 OLIVE 28
Where else? In my room.

3. INT OLIVE'S ROOM -- DAY

Elinor and Ari and the other kids enter Olive's room and we reveal: Olive's room is FULL of books. There are stacks of books EVERYWHERE.

29 ARI 29
Wow, you have a LOT of books,
Olive.

30 SALLY 30
Where should we put them?

The kids look for a place to put the books down. Comically bumping into each other. There's no place to put them down!

31 OLIVE 31
Here, there's a little bit of room
next to my bookshelf.

The kids make a new stack along the window between the bookcase and dresser, and then look around.

32 ELINOR 32
Have you read ALL these books,
Olive?

33 OLIVE 33
Every single one! Sometimes more
than once.

Sally picks up a book near her.

34 SALLY 34
Wow, it's a book about making
things out of wood! I'd love to
read this one.

35 OLIVE 35
Yeah, that one has really good
ideas for projects.

Tito picks up a book and opens it.

36 TITO 36
Cool, a book about running. I love
to run.

He runs a few laps around the room, dodging the kids and the stacks of books.

37 OLIVE 37
Yeah, that's a great book too,
Tito.

She runs a bit with Tito, <SFX: GIGGLING>, but then she
knocks down a small pile of books <SFX: WHOOPS>. They reach
down to stack them back up.

38 ELINOR 38
Uh, Olive... pretty soon you won't
have much room left in your...
room.

39 ARI 39
A room without room! Hah! Get it?
(off everyone's look)
Aaaanyway. What are you going to do
with all these books, Olive?

40 OLIVE 40
Keep them, of course! I like to
keep them because I love books.

Ari and Elinor look at each other with slight concern. At
that moment, Olive's mom calls out to them.

41 MS. ELEPHANT(O.S.) 41
Yoo hoo, kids, it's time for cake!

Ari's stomach grumbles and the kids <SFX: CHEER>.

Tito and Sally set down the books they were holding and they
all run out the door. As they leave, the camera lingers on a
teetering stack of books near the door.

4. EXT. OLIVE'S BACKYARD - DAY

A cross-fade later, we open on a top view of Olive's cake
(some already served) as Ms. Elephant passes out the slices.
The kids are all sitting around the table.

42 OLIVE 42
Yay, banana birthday cake, my
favorite!

43 ARI 43
(munching)
It's SO GOOD. I wish we could have
birthday cake every day.

44 OLIVE 44
You only get one birthday a year,
silly.

45 ARI 45
Sure, but every day is SOMEONE's
birthday.

They all <SFX: GIGGLE>. Then something catches Elinor's attention.

46 ELINOR 46
Ooh, look at that ant.
(She sees a small ant
carrying a tiny (but big
for the ant) seed off the
table.)
I wonder where it's taking that
seed?

Curious, she follows it down the table leg and onto the grass. Soon, she sees it join a trail of other ants carrying and pulling little seeds.

47 ELINOR (CONT'D) 47
Wow, it's a whole bunch of ants!

Other kids notice that Elinor is interested in something and join her.

48 ELINOR (CONT'D) 48
And they're carrying seeds
somewhere.

49 ARI 49
Where are they going?

50 ELINOR 50
Let's find out. We need MORE
OBSERVATIONS!

Musical moment as the kids follow the trail of ants, like a trail of ants themselves: across the yard, and over a rock and a log. Soon, they arrive at the ant hill near the edge of Olive's yard.

51 ELINOR (CONT'D) 51
It looks like they're all going in
there.

52 OLIVE 52
That's where the ants live. It's
called an ant hill.

53 Cool! ARI 53

54 OLIVE 54
There are THOUSANDS of ants inside.
I read all about it in a book about
ants I have in my room.

In a THOUGHT BUBBLE, we see Olive's ant book over her
shoulder. It shows a few ants carrying a little seed on the
cover. She opens it, and we see a cutout diagram of an ant
hill.

55 OLIVE (CONT'D) 55
All animals need food, water, air,
and SPACE to live, and that's why
ants have the anthill. It has lots
of little rooms for them to live
in.

The bubble pops. Elinor looks at the ants entering the ant
hill.

56 ELINOR 56
What are they doing with all those
seeds?

Olive looks more closely at the ants.

57 OLIVE 57
I think these are harvester ants.
It's a special kind of ant that
brings seeds back to the anthill to
eat.

58 ARI 58
Because they need food, too. (after
a beat) Hmm. That seed is bigger
than the ant's belly! Isn't that
too much for one ant?

59 OLIVE 59
I read about that, too! The ants
share their food with each other.

We see another THOUGHT BUBBLE.

60 OLIVE (CONT'D) 60
They put all the seeds in a special
room, and then the other ants come
and get some when they're hungry.

61 SALLY 61
How nice. That way everyone gets
something to eat.

62	ELINOR	62
	That is SO INTERESTING.	
63	SALLY	63
	I wish I knew as much about ants as you do, Olive.	
64	TITO	64
	Me too. That ant book sounds really fun to read.	
65	OLIVE	65
	It's a great book. You know what? I'll go get it from my room and show it to you. Wait here!	

Olive leaves the group as she crosses the yard to go back into the house.

5. INT. OLIVE'S ROOM - DAY

Back in her room, Olive looks for her ant book among the big mess of books.

66	OLIVE	66
	Hmmm, that's not it. That's not it. Where is it? (After a beat, she finds it.) Aha! Here it is!	

She finds the book near the bottom of a large stack. She tugs on it, and the tower of books teeters slightly.

67	OLIVE (CONT'D)	67
	(grunting slightly) Come out, little book.	

Olive tries to carefully pull on it, but it seems to be stuck. Finally, she gives it a yank and pulls it out.

68	OLIVE (CONT'D)	68
	Uh oh!	

The stack of books teeters. Olive backs up, and oops, trips on some other books and falls into a stack of books as the other stack teeters and...

6. EXT. OLIVE'S BACK YARD -- DAY

Outside, we hear a distant <SFX: THUMP, (if it works logically, given Olive's room is quite far>, as the kids are waiting near the ant hill. Most of the kids are still admiring the ants, but Elinor takes notice.

69 ELINOR 69
 Hmm, Olive is taking a long time.

ARI

70 Wasn't she just getting that book? 70

71 SALLY 71
She should be back by now.

They look at each other, remembering her messy stacks of books.

72 ELINOR 72
Maybe we should go check on her.

7. INT. OLIVE'S ROOM - DAY

A cross-fade later, Elinor and Ari approach the room. The entrance is slightly blocked by toppled stacks of books. As they make their way in, they call out:

73 ARI 73
Olive? Are you in here?

She's splayed out on top of some more toppled books, still holding the book she pulled out.

74 OLIVE 74
I'm here! Could I get a little
help?

Elinor and Ari help her up.

75 ELINOR 75
What happened?

76 OLIVE 76

I was trying to get the ant book
from under some other books, but
then I fell into this pile of
books.

77 ARI 77
No wonder. It's a book-o-rama in
here!

Tito and Sally come in.

78 TITO 78
Are you ok, Olive?

79 OLIVE 79
Yeah, I think there might be a few
too many books in here. But what
can I do?

They all scratch their heads for a beat. Olive looks at the book she's been holding all this time. It's the ant book. She looks at the cover drawing of the ants sharing a seed, and has an epiphany.

80 OLIVE (CONT'D) 80
I know. Maybe I should be like the
ants!

81 ELINOR 81
What do you mean?

82 OLIVE 82
Remember how I told you that ants
share their food?

83 ARI 83
(smacks his lips)
You want to share food with us?

84 OLIVE 84
No, I should share my books!

Olive goes over to Sally and hands her the woodworking book near her.

85 OLIVE (CONT'D) 85
Sally, did you say you wanted to
read this book?

86 SALLY 86
Yeah.

87 OLIVE 87
I'll share it with you. Please,
take it home.

88 SALLY 88
Oh, thank you!

89 OLIVE 89
Tito, here is the running book you
wanted to read.

90 TITO 90
Wow, really?

91 OLIVE 91
You can borrow it as long as you like. And when you're done, you can share it with other kids too.

92 TITO 92
Thanks, I will!

93 ELINOR 93
Are you sure you want to share ALL your books, Olive?

94 OLIVE 94
Well, I have my extra special books in this bookcase. I want to keep those here. And I want to keep all the books I got as presents today. But the rest are books I'm happy to share.

Ari looks around at all the books.

95 ARI 95
How are you going to share ALL these books? There are too many to carry around town.

96 TITO 96
You could put them in your living room.

97 ELINOR 97
Or maybe outside, so everyone can get to them.

98 ARI 98
But what if it rains?

Just then, Sally looks up from her book.

99 SALLY 99
I have an idea. You know how ants have a special place where they put all the food they share?

We see a thought bubble of the ant food chamber from before.

100 SALLY (CONT'D) 100
Maybe we can make a special place for the books you want to share, just like the ants do?

She opens the woodworking book to a page that shows a mini-library project (a small standing cabinet, like the kind you see outside schools or homes). The kids look excitedly at the book.

101 ELINOR 101

That's a great idea! We can put it
outside, and that way everyone can
come borrow a book.

102 ARI 102
Cool! And they will stay dry.

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103             OLIVE                                103  
            A mini-library! Let's do it!
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We launch into a ditty with the kids dancing and sharing books and building the mini-library together outside (Sally Beaver, with her awesome beaver teeth, cuts the pieces in no time, while Ms. Elephant helps them assemble).

104	ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE	104
	Here a book, there a book	
	Look, look, share a book!	
	It's fun to share	
	'Cause it shows you care!	

Want to learn
about silly hats? Sure do!
Well, Olive's got (Ari only)
A book about that! (Ari only)

Want to know
Why cows say moo?
Well, Olive's got (Elinor only)
Just the book for you!(Elinor only)

So, take a book, give a book
Look, look, share a book!
It's fun to share
'Cause it shows you care!

8. EXT. FRONT OF OLIVE'S HOUSE

After the song, we see that the mini-library is finished, and Olive is finishing putting in some books.

Ari and Elinor come huffing down the path, carrying some books.

105 ELINOR 105
I brought some books from my house
to share.

106	ARI	106
	Me too! I've got one about rocket ships, and one about cars and one about muffins.	

107 SALLY 107
I've got books to share too! I'll
bring them later.

108	TITO	108
	Me too!	

The kids all smile at the success of their project.

109 OLIVE 109
Thank you for coming to my party.

110 ELINOR 110
It was really fun.

Ari picks out and opens the ant book.

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111                ARI                111
                And we learned a lot about ants!
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112	OLIVE	112
	This is the best gift ever: Now I	
	have more room in my room AND my	
	own little library.	

113 ELINOR 113
So everyone can share.

114 OLIVE 114
Yeah, because everything is always
better when you share.

115 ARI 115
ANT that's the truth.
 (Everyone looks at Ari)
Get it? Because of the ANTS?

The kids all share a big <SFX: GIGGLE>. On a wide angle, we see two small harvester ants nearby carrying a seed as we...

IRIS OUT

SEGMENT 2.

1. INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Pan in from the window that shows a snowy wintery setting outside.

Olive stands at the front of the class proudly showing off a jar of cherries. Mz. Mole stands by as the rest of the class sits in the audience.

116 MZ. MOLE 116
What are you sharing with us today,
Olive?

117 OLIVE 117
Delicious summer cherries!

The kids marvel at the red, glistening treasure. <SFX: OOOO!
AHHH!>

118 ARI 118
Hey waitamminute. How do you have
summer cherries in the middle of
winter?

119 OLIVE 119
My Mom and I picked them last
summer and saved them.

120 MZ. MOLE 120
You know, that reminds me of a
special kind of ant that saves food
for later.

Elinor perks up.

121 ELINOR 121
Ants save up food too?

122 MZ. MOLE 122
Sure - I have a book all about
that!

The kids crowd around to get a closer look as Mz. Mole opens
up her Magic Pop-up Book.

2. EXT DRY FOREST FLOOR (BOOK) -- DAY

As we peer into Mz. Mole's book, we see ants scurrying around
a dry forest floor, collecting food.

123 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) (CONT'D) 123
These are special kinds of ants,
called "Honeypot Ants"!

124 ARI (O.C.) 124
Why are they called "Honeypot
Ants"? They don't look like pots of
honey.

125 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) 125
Not yet, but they will!

We see the ants collecting nectar from flowers.

126 ELINOR (O.C.) 126
What are the ants doing, Mz. Mole?

127 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) 127
The ants are taking nectar from the flowers. It's their food!

128 ARI (O.C.) 128
Why don't they gobble it all up right away?

129 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) 129
When there's extra, they save it for later.

In the book, we see an ant with a bit of food in its mouth, walking toward a tiny jar.

130 ELINOR (O.C.) 130
How do they save it? Ants don't have jars, do they?

131 MZ. MOLE (O.C.) 131
Ha! They don't have jars. Instead, the ants bring the extra nectar to the anthill and give it to a special ant that stores it inside its body!

(In book) The jar disappears in a poof. <SFX: POOF> The ants come back to the hive and join a queue leading up to a storage ant. The workers deliver their food to the storage ant one by one.

132 MZ. MOLE (O.S.) (CONT'D) 132
As more ants come with extra nectar, these special ants grow... and grow.... And grow...!

(In book) close up on hero ant's body as she transforms from a normal looking ant and gradually swells to have the iconic honeypot ant shape. Her abdomen is huge and translucent, full of golden liquid food. Her little legs wiggle around, unable to move her body. She looks stuffed!

133	ARI (O.C.)	133
	Oh, I get it! That's why they're called "honeypot ants!" Their bodies look like pots full of honey!	

134	MZ. MOLE (O.C.)	134
	And this little ant shares the	
	extra food with the other ants when	
	they need it later!	

3. INT CLASSROOM

Olive proudly holds her jar of cherries aloft again.

135	OLIVE	135
	Wow, it's cool that ants save food for later. Just like these cherries!	

136	ARI	136
	Is it "later" yet..?	

Olive pops off the lid of the jar with her trunk with a flourish, and as she does so says..

137 OLIVE 137
Let's eat.

THE END

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