

ELINOR WONDER WHY
COMBINED PITCHES
January 13, 2020

- 1. Rest is the Best**
- 2. A Garden for All!**
- 3. Elinor's Froggy Friend**

1.) Rest is the Best

Elinor's Question: Why do I need to rest?

One evening at Olive's house, Olive is having so much fun reading her books that she doesn't want to go to bed. Ms. Elephant sympathizes—she remembers some time when she wanted to stay up late (a concert?)—but she tells Olive that she still needs to sleep. Olive sighs and goes to bed. Lying in bed, she hears an owl hooting. “Hmm,” thinks Olive, “If owls don't need to go to bed, why do I?” She grabs a flashlight and keeps reading her books under the covers. The next day, she wakes up exhausted. Ari and Elinor come over to play and find Olive yawning uncontrollably. Still, Olive refuses to rest. If owls don't have to rest, why does she? Elinor takes Olive to a nearby tree and shows her a sleeping owl—it seems that owls sleep during the day (as Elinor learned in Owl Girl). Okay, sure, but do other animals need rest? Let's find out! The kids find a busy butterfly, then see it fly to a tree to rest. Elinor lifts up a rock and finds a snake curled up. It's resting, even though its eyes are open (snakes don't have eyelids!). Olive agrees that maybe most animals take time to rest. Still, she doesn't want to take a nap herself. Then Ms. Elephant checks in on the kids. Ari and Elinor ask her opinion about resting. She says to Olive, “Tell me your very favorite things to do!” Olive says that she loves reading, biking, and roller-skating. Ms. Elephant says, “Well, why don't you do those things all day, every day?” “Because I'd get hungry and thirsty and achy and probably bored!” Ms. Elephant nods. Olive says, “Oh, so resting gives our bodies a break so we can do fun things later.” “Yes! Rest is a time for your body to heal up so you'll wake up strong and ready to play and learn.” The kids digest this while Ms. Elephant heads back into the house to get them a snack. When she comes back out, Elinor and Ari say “Shh”—Olive has fallen asleep under a shady tree. Ms. Elephant chuckles quietly and tells the kids she'll get them some good books to read while they let Olive nap.

2.) A Garden for All!

Elinor's Question: How can Koa have his own garden if he doesn't have a yard?

One day, while playing at Olive's house, Koa can't help but admire Olive's garden, especially the delicious strawberries she's growing, which are Koa's favorite! As the day winds down, Koa helps Olive and Elinor tend to the garden and explains that he would love to have a garden of his own, but he can't. Elinor and Olive don't understand and explain to Koa that all he needs to have a garden of his own is some deeds, some water and a patch of dirt that can get some sun.

That's the thing, though, Koa explains that his family lives in an apartment in town, above one of the shops. They don't have a yard of their own, so Koa won't be able to grow his own yummy strawberries like Olive can. Determined to help their friend, Elinor and Olive set out to find another way to make Koa's garden dreams come true. As they investigate, they find that some of the merchants in town (and even some of the Park Rangers) use alternative means to grow plants indoors, including hanging, upside down plants and something called hydroponics, which grows plants in water instead of dirt! Armed with this new knowledge, Elinor and Olive help Koa set up an awesome new garden right in his apartment! He can practically smell the strawberries

3.) Elinor's Froggy Friend

Question: What are all these different animals in the Frog Pond?

Elinor makes friends with a tadpole in the Frog Pond in the park. But when she brings Ari and Olive to meet her new tadpole friend a few days later (amidst a game of Leap Frog), it's gone! Instead they see another animal, it LOOKS like a tadpole, but it has LEGS! Huh? What is this? And where did Elinor's tadpole friend go? Further investigation reveals more animals - a froglet (a frog with legs a tail) a small frog, and a BIG frog! What are all these different animals? With the help of her friends (and confirmation by the nature book) Elinor figures out they are actually all FROGS, in different stages of development. Each animal is good at different things that help them at that stage (swimming, climbing out of the water, hopping) and the biggest frog is REALLY good at Leap Frog!