

ELINOR WONDERS WHY
Elinor's Fishy Friend
OUTLINE - April 3, 2020
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Elinor's Question: What happened to Elinor's fish friend Spotty?

Logline: Elinor makes friends with a fish she names Spotty, but then something amazing happens, Spotty grows LEGS.

LS4. Understand that all animals and plants have a life cycle, can reproduce, and change and grow over time:

- a. Observe the life cycle of familiar plants and animals
- b. Observe the growth in animals and plants
- c. Understand that living things grow and change over time

(Elinor and her friends observe the different stages in the life cycle of a frog).

LS7. Understand that young animals and young plants are very much, but not exactly like their parents:

- a. Understand that the young of a species are the same kind of animal or plant as the parents
- b. Arrange and compare illustrations of humans and other animals in developmental sequence from infancy to adult (Elinor and her friends arrange drawings of Spotty into a developmental sequence as it matures from tadpole to froglet to frog).

INT. ELINOR'S HOUSE -- DAY

"Fish, fish, fishy, fishy, fish..." Elinor is skipping around the house, putting up pictures of her "fish friends" that she's drawn, or cut out of construction paper, or made from paper plates, or whatever. She's even made a "fish mobile" to hang over her bed. Yep, her parents agree with a smile, Elinor is totally on a "fish kick". She can't stop thinking about fish, talking about fish, why she loves them and why she thinks they are sooo interesting. She's just really, really into fish.

Finally Dad asks her if she'd like to go to the park with him, maybe there she can see a REAL fish in the fishpond. Would she EVER!! Let's go!

EXT. PARK - DAY

Elinor (with her drawing pad) can't wait to get to the fishpond and check out the fish. Her Dad happily settles himself on a park bench with his book. He'll just wait here while she goes

on her fish-finding expedition - off you go, Explorer Elinor!
And off she does go (always staying within her Dad's sight).

EXT. FISHPOND (BRIDGE) - DAY

(NOTE: For safety sake it might be best if Elinor stays up on the bridge as she admires the fish, that way she can come back on her own without supervision. This might be a bit of a cheat in terms of actually observing the fish and tadpoles, but hopefully it can be achieved through CU's. Thoughts?)

Elinor is up on the bridge admiring all the different kinds of fish. Ooooh, those ones are really little (minnows) and that fish is super-sparkly (a sunfish), and <GASP> look at that little fish with a spot on her head, so sweet! I'm going to draw you, little fish.

ANGLE ON: Elinor draws a picture on her drawing pad. Now that is one nice fish! I'm gonna name you - SPOTTY!

EXT. PATH ON THE WAY HOME - DAY

As she hops along beside her Dad, Elinor just can't stop admiring her picture and talking about Spotty. Spotty has such a nice shape and such a nice colour and she swims in such an interesting way, wiggling through the sand at the bottom of the pond. Elinor can't wait to tell Olive and Ari all about her tomorrow. She admires her drawing one more time.

ANGLE ON: Elinor's drawing of Spotty.

EXT. SCHOOL YARD - DAY

ANGLE ON: Elinor's drawing. "Her name is Spotty." Says Elinor.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL: Woooooooow! OLIVE and ARI are admiring the drawing. They agree Spotty looks amazing. "I love Spotty's eyes, she looks so friendly." Says Olive. "I like her spot," says Ari. "Spots are soo cool. I wish I had spots." "Well, you have wings," says Olive helpfully. "And wings are very cool too," Oh, yeah, says Ari and he does a little flutter flip.

"I'd sure like to meet Spotty," says Olive. Ari agrees, and Elinor says that's a great idea and she'll happily take them to the park but (she's looking at the sky) maybe not today. Why not? Because I think it's going to...<LOW THUNDER> and it starts to pour. RAIN!!!! The kids run inside, laughing.

RAINFALL TRANSITION

EXT. PARK - A FEW DAYS LATER

This time Elinor is with her Mom. She can't believe it's been so long since she's seen Spotty, but it's been raining so much lately they haven't been able to go to the park. Ranger Rabbit stops to chat with Mrs. Beaver about some park construction, while Elinor runs ahead to the fishpond.

EXT. FISHPOND -- DAY

"Spotty! Where are you, Spotty? Oh, there you are!" Elinor is thrilled to see her little fish friend but then she notices Spotty is changing a little, she has little bumps on her side. "Spotty are you okay?" But Spotty seems great, she wiggles and flips in the water, splashing Elinor a little. Elinor giggles.

At that moment Ranger Rabbit calls to her. "Elinor! We'd better head home. It's starting to rain again!"

MORE RAIN TRANSITION

EXT. PARK - A FEW MORE DAYS LATER

Elinor is running towards the park with her Dad, Olive and Ari. It's a super sunny spring day - AT LAST! The rain is over and the kids are stoked. Olive and Ari can finally meet SPOTTY!!! Dad takes his happy place on the bench under the tree with his book - have fun kids!

EXT. FISHPOND -- DAY

The kids clamber up onto the bridge, soo excited. They see lots of little fish but no Spotty, what gives? Then suddenly Olive sees a little animal with a spot on its head, but it doesn't look like a fish. Could that be Spotty?

Elinor looks to where Olive is pointing. Yep, that's Spotty alright. But then Elinor looks a little more closely and she can't believe her eyes. Wait a second, do you see what I see? It's looks like...Spotty has LEGS!!! How can that be?? Elinor just has to tell her Dad!

EXT. PARK BANCH - DAY

Dad! Dad! My fish friend Spotty has LEGS! Dad smiles. "A fish with legs? I don't think fish HAVE legs, hunny bunny." Well, Spotty does, we saw them. Are you sure Spotty is a fish?" Wha? What else could Spotty be? "Dun, dun dunnn, it's a mystery," says Olive. "A FISHY mystery." Elinor needs MORE observations.

EXT. FISHPOND -- DAY

The kids hurry back to the little pond and start observing. They notice other tadpoles. Some look like Spotty used to (no legs) and some look like Spotty with legs. Look! This one has front legs too!

Olive, who is drawing all the animals in her notebook, realizes something amazing. The animal with front legs is starting to look like...a frog? They compare the animal to the other frogs around and wonder...could Spotty actually be a frog? Is that possible?

At this moment Dad joins them, and they can get a little closer. He confirms (using Olive's drawings and/or thought bubbles) that their theory is true and tells them something else amazing. Frogs start off as eggs. Really? Yep and then when they hatch, they look like fish but they're called tadpoles, "Tadpoles! I LIKE that word!" says Olive. Then they grow legs and arms too, and are called froglets, "I like that word too," says Olive. "Froglets!" "I think I know where this is going," says Elinor. Then they lose their tails and turn into FROGS, right? RIGHT!

Woaaaaow, they are all amazed at this, and Elinor realizes...Spotty is NOT a fish. She's a tadpole, turning into a FROG! Cooooool.

SONG MONTAGE

As we sing the song Elinor follows Spotty on her journey as she turns into a frog.

Every little frog
Starts with an egg
And when it hatches
It has no legs

A tadpole's not much more
Than a tail and a head
But it will grow and change
And become a frog instead.

Grow and change
Grow and change
My friend Spotty
Will grow and change.

We all start out as babies

And then we become kids
And then we grow up
Like our parents did.

Grown-ups have babies
And the cycle starts anew
And those babies will grow up
Like we all do.

Grow and change
Grow and change
All of us,
We grow and change.

Grow and change
Grow and change
Every living thing
Will grow and change.

INT. ELINOR'S ROOM -- DAY

Back at home, Elinor is now putting up the pictures she drew of Spotty, in each different stage. Egg, Tadpole, tadpole with legs, froglet and frog.

As her parents admire her artwork Elinor explains she wanted a real fish friend but it turns out Spotty wasn't a fish after all. She's a FROG. But that's okay because frogs are SO cool. Inspired she runs to her craft table. What are you doing Elinor? I'm making some frog friends for Spotty! And we fade out as she starts talking about frogs, why she loves them and why she thinks they are sooo interesting. She's just really, really into frogs.

THE END