

ELINOR'S TOWN

EP 102 The Amazing Expandable
Clubhouse

By: Katherine Sandford

Elinor's Question: How does a snail always seem to fit even when the snail grows bigger?

Logline: Elinor and her friends run into trouble when so many kids join their club that there's no more room in the Clubhouse.

Curriculum Goals:

SEP1. Asking questions and defining problems.

SEP5. Using mathematics and computational thinking

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data

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

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

Main Characters: Elinor, Hazel, Ari, Sally, Kai

Secondary Characters: Camilla, Goat Twins (in unison)

Incidental Characters: Tito, Norma, LouLou

Backgrounds: Top of the hill, Inside the Clubhouse, bottom of the hill

Props: notebook, crayon, granola, leaf, magnifying glass, nature book, Clubhouse, building materials

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FIRST DRAFT: December 10, 2018

1. EXT. CLUBHOUSE ON A HILL (WIDE) - DAY

Open on a pretty, green, summer glade. We hear indistinct <SFX: CHILDREN'S CHATTER> IN ON: a big cardboard box "clubhouse" with cut-out windows, perched on a very small hill.

Now we hear voices coming from inside the box more clearly, and we can see ELINOR, HAZEL and SALLY BEAVER through the window. (NOTE: Perhaps Sally is a little younger than our mains, so they can explain things to her). We can also see TWO CUTE SNAILS (One bigger and one smaller) perched on the window sill.

1 ELINOR
Ready?

THROUGH THE WINDOW: Elinor and Hazel start the Explorers Pledge (complete with hand gestures).

2 ELINOR AND HAZEL
An Explorer is brave!

They cross their arms over their chests. Sally Beaver follows along repeating the words and the gestures

3 SALLY
An explorer is brave!

4 ELINOR AND HAZEL
An Explorer is kind!

Elinor and Hazel put their hands over their hearts.

5 SALLY
An Explorer is kind.

Suddenly we hear someone approaching! It's ARI, running towards the clubhouse as the voices continue.

6 ELINOR AND HAZEL
An Explorer is CURIOUS!

THROUGH THE WINDOW: Elinor and Hazel put their hands to their brows, looking. At the same moment, OUTSIDE Ari DOES see something that stops him in his tracks. He takes a moment to check out the snails on the windowsill.

7 ARI
Ooooooh.

8 ELINOR AND HAZEL
An Explorer is CURIOUS!

Ari is roused from his reverie and keeps going.

2. INT. CLUBHOUSE -- DAY

Elinor, Hazel and Sally say the last line together, arms wide out in joyous wonder. (ala Julie Andrews in Sound of Music but without the spinning).

9 ELINOR, HAZEL AND SALLY
 WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL FIND!!!

Ari bursts into the box.

10 ARI
 Sorry I'm late, Explorers! What
 did I miss?

11 ELINOR
 (proudly)
 Hi Explorer Ari! We've just been
 welcoming the newest member of our
 Club - Explorer Sally Beaver.

12 ARI
 A new member!! Awesome! Welcome
 Explorer Sally!

13 SALLY
 Thanks, Explorer Ari. I'm so
 excited to be part of the Club!
 So, is Explorers Club anyway?

Ari makes his way to the windowsill and checks out the snails (the others don't notice yet).

14 ELINOR
 Good question, Explorer Sally! The
 Explorers Club is a group of
 friends (we call them members). We
 meet in the Explorer Clubhouse.
 Then we go through the Club
 Checklist, right Hazel?

15 HAZEL
 Right!

Hazel holds up her notebook.

16 ELINOR
 Then we go outside and look at
 EVERYTHING! That's exploring! So,
 let's...

Elinor antics to exit the door, but Ari interrupts her.

17 ARI
Wait a second, Explorer Elinor. I
have something we can explore
...INSIDE the Clubhouse!

18 ELINOR
(interested)
Really? What is it Explorer Ari?

19 ARI
Ta-DAH!

Ari proudly gestures to the windowsill. ANGLE ON: Two nice
snails crawling along the window ledge.

20 ELINOR
<GASP!> Snails!

Elinor, Hazel and Sally join Ari at the windowsill admiring
the snails.

21 ARI
Meet Norma and Lou-Lou. I named
them after my Aunties.

A beat then...

22 ARI (CONT'D)
They look just like them.

The Explorers take a minute to look closely at their new
friends. SCIENCE MOMENT CU:

23 ELINOR
Wow, they do look like your Aunties
- except for their antennae.

The Snails wiggle their antennae to demo. The Explorers watch
for a beat or two as the snails crawl slowly along. It goes
on just long enough to be funny.

24 ELINOR (CONT'D)
But they sure don't move very fast.

25 ARI
<GASP!> Wait a minute, I just had a
great idea! Norma and Loulou can be
our Explorer Club MASCOTS!

26 ELINOR, HAZEL, SALLY
Ooooh/ Cool!/ YES!

This is a new word for Sally.

27 SALLY
Uh...what's a mac-sot?

28 ARI
MasCOT! It's like a pet...for the
whole CLUB!!

29 SALLY
Oh, I LOVE pets.

30 HAZEL
And Norma and Loulou will make
perfect club mascots! We'll always
know where they are! Mascots -
check!

Hazel draws a picture of a snail and makes a check-mark.

31 ELINOR
Okay! Now if that's everything on
the checklist, then it's time to go
EX...

32 HAZEL
Wait a minute Explorer Elinor! We
do have one more thing.

ON: her checklist - there's a picture of the clubhouse.

33 HAZEL (CONT'D)
Take care of the Clubhouse!

34 ELINOR
Oh, right! Thank you Explorer
Hazel - Explorers MUST take care of
their Clubhouse before they
EXPLORE!

Elinor, Ari, Hazel and Sally tidy up, picking up some papers
and crayons and stacking them in the corner, straightening a
picture on the wall - that kind of thing.

35 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Okay, we made Sally our new member,
we found our new mascots, AND we
took care of the clubhouse. Now
it's finally time for the Explorer
Club to...!

Elinor is interrupted, KAI WOMBAT pokes his head in the door.

36 KAI
Hey! What are you guys doing?

37 HAZEL
Hi, Kai. We're having a meeting of
the Explorer's Club. Wanna join?

38 KAI
Sure!

At that moment TITO MOUSE pokes his nose in beside Kai.

39 ELINOR
You too, Tito, come on in. The
Explorer's Club is for everybody!!

40 HAZEL
That's the Explorer Way!

The Clubhouse is getting pretty crowded and as everyone
settles into place, Kai notices Norma and Loulou.

41 KAI
Oooh, nice snails.

And we take another look at the snails in CU: happily
crawling along the windowsill.

42 ARI
(proudly)
They're our Club mascots!

43 ELINOR
(good naturedly)
And they're the only ones who have
done any exploring today. Even if
it was just the windowsill.

44 HAZEL
Don't worry Elinor, we'll
ALL go exploring, right after we
teach Kai and Tito the Club Pledge.

Elinor leads, with gestures:

45 ELINOR
Okay, everybody!! Repeat after me!
An Explorer is brave!

NOTE: So far Tito has not spoken, and I think he can remain
silent if all the other Explorers do the pledge. Thoughts?

46 HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI
An Explorer is BRAVE!!

Suddenly, CAMILLA DROMEDARY pokes her head in the window.

47 CAMILLA
Explorer?? Did you say Explorer? I
LOVE exploring!!

48 ELINOR
Then join our club!

49 CAMILLA
Be right in!

It takes some doing as she squeezes inside, they can all barely fit!

50 ELINOR
Hookey, let's start the club
pledge...

Suddenly the GOAT TWINS poke their noses in the door.

51 GOAT TWINS
(in unison)
Any room for us?

52 ELINOR
Uh, sure...

53 HAZEL
The Explorers Club is for
everybody!

They squeeze inside, now there's REALLY no room.

54 ELINOR
Okay time to start the...

55 HAZEL
Whoops, I dropped my crayon!

She ducks down trying to retrieve it, causing the whole group to squirm and squish. ANGLE ON: her hand fishing for the crayon as we see a grouping of feet all shuffling as the crayon is accidentally kicked around - finally...

56 HAZEL (CONT'D)
Got it!

Hazel stands up triumphant. Suddenly <SFX: Crunch, crunch, crunch>

57 KAI
 (mouth full)
 Anybody want some granola? I made
 it myself.

58 ELINOR, ARI, HAZEL, SALLY
 (ad lib)
 Sure!/I'll have some/pass it
 over!!/ Me too!

More general shifting as the granola is shared.

59 HAZEL
 Okay, Explorers, let's get this
 pledge started so we can get out of
 here! An explorer is...

Just that moment Ari (squished in the far corner beside the window) calls out.

60 ARI
 (calling out)
 Has anybody seen Norma and Loulou?!

61 ELINOR, HAZEL, SALLY
 (ad lib)
 Nope/ Sorry/ They're not over here.

3. EXT. SMALL HILL -- CONTINUOUS

Ari sticks his head out the window and calls. NOTE: Maybe Norma and Louolou are crawling upside down along the top of the window.

62 ARI
 Norma!! Loulou!!
 (looking around)
 NORMAAAA!! LOULOU!!!!!!!

The Clubhouse starts to teeter as Ari's gestures and the kid movements inside destabilize it.

63 ARI (CONT'D)
 Wha-oh!

After shifting back and forth a couple of times...

64 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI
 WHOOOAAAW, WHOOOOAAAAAW, WHOOAAAAAA

It tips over and entire Clubhouse comically tumbles over and rolls down the (small) hill.

66 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI
 (CONT'D)
 (laughing)

As the clubhouse tumbles Ari flies out the window ANGLE ON:
he lands a little way off.

67 ARI
 Norma? Loulou?

4. EXT. BOTTOM OF THE HILL -- DAY

Hazel climbs out first, then comes Elinor.

68 HAZEL
 (laughing)
 I think we have a Clubhouse
 problem.

69 ELINOR
 Yep, too many members and not
 enough Clubhouse.

70 HAZEL
 What are we going to do?

ANGLE ON: Meanwhile Ari, who has landed a little ways away,
is looking for the snails.

71 ARI
 Norma! Loulou! Where are youoooo?

BACK ON: The kids brainstorm, calling ideas as they climb out
of the clubhouse. First, Kai.

72 KAI
 Maybe we could get a bigger box?

73 ELINOR
 Maybe...but what would we do when
 even MORE friends join the Club.

Here comes Sally.

74 SALLY
 Maybe we can have two boxes?

75 HAZEL
 But then we wouldn't all be
 together.

76 ELINOR
And that's what the Explorers Club
is all about - exploring TOGETHER!

At this moment Ari runs up in a bit of a panic!

77 ARI
Has anyone seen Norma and Loulou?
I can't find them any...why are you
all smiling?

ANGLE ON: All his friends are smiling at him.

78 HAZEL
Because Norma and Loulou are fine,
Ari.

79 ELINOR
And they're on your SHOULDER!

The kids erupt in <SFX: LAUGHTER>. Ari smiles as Hazel (using a leaf) gently takes the little snails off his shoulders and puts them on a nearby rock.

SCIENCE CU ON: The snails, mildly disturbed they disappear back into their shells. Elinor notices.

80 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Ooooh. Norma and Lou-Lou
disappeared right inside their
shells. That's SO interesting.

81 HAZEL
It's like they have little
Clubhouses on their backs!

82 ELINOR
<GASP> Like us! Only we don't
carry our clubhouse on our backs.
HMMMM. I wonder what happens when
they grow.

83 ARI
I guess they need bigger shells.

84 HAZEL
Like we need a bigger Clubhouse.

85 ELINOR
Right! AND we need MORE
observations!!

Quick thinking Hazel reaches into the Club-house and hands Elinor her magnifying glass.

She also takes out her Explorer's Nature book. NOTE: Maybe this Science moment can be between Elinor, Hazel and Ari as the other kids work on setting up the Clubhouse in the background.

86 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Thank you Explorer Hazel!

 KAI
And while you're observing, we'll
fix the Clubhouse.

 ELINOR
Thank you Explorer Kai!

Elinor and her friends examine the two snails more closely.
SCIENCE MOMENT CU they slowly emerge from their shells.

87 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Norma is a lot bigger than Loulou.
And Norma's shell is waay bigger,
too.

CLOSE ON: The two shells side by side.

88 HAZEL
Maybe that's because Norma is older
than Loulou.

89 ELINOR
Maybe. But what's Loulou going to
do when SHE gets older and bigger?

90 HAZEL
Does she have to get a NEW shell?

91 ARI
I don't think so, the shells look
like they are PART of the snail.

92 ELINOR
Hnnnnnn...So I guess the shells get
bigger as the snail grows. But how
do the snails make their shells
bigger?

MAGNIFYING GLASS CU: Elinor examines Loulou more closely,
pointing to the spiral rings of the snail shell (maybe with a
piece of grass).

93 ELINOR (CONT'D)
Look. Loulou's shell gets bigger
by winding around in a spiral.
(MORE)

ELINOR (CONT'D)
(she demos the shape)
She has one, two, three rings.

Elinor turns her attention to Norma.

94 ELINOR (CONT'D)
But Norma's shell has one, two,
three, four, five, six rings -
that's a lot more. Iiiinteresting.

ANGLE ON: Hazel makes a drawing of this in her note-pad,
counting the rings as she draws.

95 HAZEL
One, two, three, four, five, six!

Elinor consults Hazel's drawing.

96 ELINOR
Wait a minute, the snail shell
winds around, starting small and
getting bigger with each ring!! I
think the snails are ADDING to
their shells to make them BIGGER!

Hazel consults her (pictorial) Nature Book.

97 HAZEL
You're right, Elinor - see!

She points to a simple diagram of a snail that animates as
the snail shell grows and confirms Elinor's theory.

98 HAZEL (CONT'D)
The snail gets bigger as it gets
older, and so does its shell.

99 ELINOR
You were right, Hazel, Norma is
OLDER than Loulou. And as she got
bigger Norma ADDED rings to her
shell to make it bigger too.

100 ELINOR (CONT'D)
(thrilled, penny drops)
<GASP!> And that's what WE'RE
going to do too! We'll GROW our
Clubhouse by adding on more parts,
just like the snails do!!

101 ARI
Elinor, you've figured it out
AGAIN!

Hazel takes out her crayon and starts drawing.

102 HAZEL
I'll draw up some plans.

103 ARI
And I'll organize the others to
gather up stuff to use to GROW OUR
CLUBHOUSE.
 (to the others)
Come on EXPLORERS - let's roll!

CROSSFADE TO:

EXT. CLUBHOUSE - LATER

CU: On Hazel's drawing, an imaginative one that makes room
for ALL the animals.

104 HAZEL
Okay we have a mouse hole for Tito,
two matching doors for the twins, a
sunroom with a dome for Camilla's
hump. Anything else?

105 ELINOR
Hmmm, maybe we need a door on the
roof, in case the Giraffe family
visits there will be room for their
tall necks.

106 HAZEL
Ooooh, good idea.

Hazel quickly adds one. Elinor admires the plans.

107 ELINOR
Wow, nice work Hazel, that's a
perfect Clubhouse - there's room
for EVERYONE.
 (calling)
Ari? How is the building material
collection going?

108 ARI
Super-dee-duper, if I do say so
myself!

WIDEN TO REVEAL: The Explorers are standing beside a colorful
pile of random and whimsical building materials -- snow-
saucers, posters, pieces of wood, branches with leaves,
sheets of colorful fabric and colorful decorations - etc.

109 ELINOR
Wow, look at all this great stuff.
We're gonna have the coolest
Clubhouse ever!
 (to the group)
Explorers, are you ready?

110 HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI
We are READY!!!

111 ELINOR
Then let's get BUILDING!!!

CLUB-BUILDING MONTAGE

The kids sing as we show a montage of them building the clubhouse addition.

112 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI
Room for everyone!
Room for everyone!
Everyone is welcome, 'cause there's
room for everyone!!

Elinor: We have a lot of friends,
Hazel: And a club that's really
fun,
ARI: We had a awesome Clubhouse
ELINOR: But we need a bigger one!
HAZEL: We'll add on rooms and
sections.
ARI: Like our snails, we'll get it
done.

 (ANGLE ON: The Snails)
ELINOR: Our Club keeps growing
bigger, we need...
ALL: ROOM FOR EVERYONE!

Room for everyone!
Room for everyone!
Explorer's Club is AWESOME cause
there's room for everyone!!

END MONTAGE!

Hazel checks her plans.

113 HAZEL
I think we've got everything except
the door on the roof!

PAN UP TO REVEAL: The REAL Clubhouse and all the Explorers
working on it. Kai pops through a door in the roof.

114 KAI
One roof door - DONE!

Elinor looks on with satisfaction.

115 ELINOR
Now THAT'S a Clubhouse for
EVERYONE!

116 HAZEL
And we have lots of extra building
stuff if need to make it bigger
later.

ANGLE ON: Extra stuff.

117 ELINOR
Great! So now that the Clubhouse is
finished, it's time to go
EXPLORING!! Finally! Come on
Explorers!

The Explorers happily approach, but Ari runs up in a panic.

118 ARI
We can't go yet! I've lost Norma
and Loulou AGAIN!!

A beat as he looks at his smiling friends and figures it out.

119 ARI (CONT'D)
Don't tell me. They're on my
shoulder, aren't they?
 (covering)
I knew that.

Hazel again uses a leaf to put them gently on a rock

120 ELINOR
Explorers, are you ready?

121 HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI, CAMILLA, GOATS
We are READY!!!

Elinor leads her friends(with gestures) as they march OS.

122 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI,
 CAMILLA, GOAT TWINS
An Explorer is BRAVE, an Explorer
is KIND!! An Explorer is
CURIOUS!!! WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL
FIND!!

IRIS OUT, THE END