

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. (Elinor wonders how to make her clubhouse bigger)

SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations (Elinor decides to observe the snail for clues as to how to solve her problem)

SEP4. Analyzing and interpreting data (Elinor compare the two snail shells and figures out, by observing their structures, that one is bigger than the other and how this may have happened.)

SEP5. Using mathematics and computational thinking (Elinor observes the structure of the snails shell, and decides to try it with the clubhouse)

SEP: Design solutions (engineering) (Elinor and her friends design an addition to the Clubhouse)

LS4. Understand that all animals and plants have a life cycle, can reproduce, and change and grow over time (Elinor notices that one older snail is bigger than the younger one)

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. (Elinor realizes that she can use the same technique to expand her clubhouse as she observed in the snails' shells)).

ENGINEERING GOALS: Begin to use the five elements of the Engineering Design Process: Define a problem, Imagine and Plan, Create, Test, and Improve. Begin to understand that engineering is a collaborative process during which ideas can be exchanged and shared with others while defining a problem and working to design, test and revise a solution

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

Secondary Characters: Camilla, Goat Twins (in unison), Tito

Incidental Characters: Norma, LouLou

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

Props: Clubhouse journal, crayon, crackers, leaf, magnifying glass, Clubhouse, building materials

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SECOND DRAFT: January 2, 2018

POLISH DRAFT: January 11, 2018

1	EXT. CLUBHOUSE ON A HILL (WIDE) - DAY	* 1
	Open on a pretty, green, summer glade. We hear indistinct children's chatter.	
1	ELINOR, HAZEL, SALLY (laughter)	1
2	ELINOR (not quite audible) Sally, I'm so glad you're joining our club!	2
	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. We can also see TWO CUTE SNAILS (One bigger and one smaller) perched on the window sill.	
3	ELINOR (CONT'D) Ready?	3
	THROUGH THE WINDOW: Elinor and Hazel start the Explorers Pledge (complete with hand gestures).	
4	ELINOR AND HAZEL An Explorer is brave!	4
	They put their hands on their hips. Sally Beaver follows along repeating the words and the gestures	
5	SALLY An explorer is brave!	5
6	ELINOR AND HAZEL An Explorer is kind!	6
	Elinor and Hazel put their hands over their hearts.	
7	SALLY An Explorer is kind.	7
	Suddenly we hear someone approaching!	
8	ARI (V.O.) (whistling the theme song)	* 8 *
	It's ARI, strolling towards the clubhouse as the voices continue.	
9	ELINOR AND HAZEL An Explorer is CURIOUS!	9

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.

Ooooooh.

ARI

[illegible]

Ari is roused from his reverie and keeps going.

2 INT. CLUBHOUSE -- DAY * 2

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).

12 ELINOR, HAZEL AND SALLY 12
WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL FIND!!!

Ari bursts into the box.

13 ARI 13

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

14 ELINOR 14
(proudly)
Hi, Explorer Ari! We've just been
welcoming the newest member of our
Club - Explorer Sally Beaver!

15	ARI	15
	A new member! Awesome! Welcome Explorer Sally!	

16 SALLY 16
Thanks for letting me be part of
the club.

17 ELINOR 17
Of course! *Anyone* can join the
Explorer's Club!

18 HAZEL 18
Yeah, all you have to do is love
EXPLORING.

19	ARI	19
	Our number one rule is...	

20 ELINOR/HAZEL/ARI 20
Exploring is for everyone!

As they say this, they spread their arms (and wings) wide,
causing them to crowd each other out in a funny way.

21 ELINOR/HAZEL 21
Hey!/Whoa!

22 ARI 22
Whoops, sorry!

23 HAZEL 23
I guess there's less room in the
clubhouse now that we have...
(points to each member as
she counts silently, then
herself)
...four members! *

24 ELINOR 24
OKAY, Explorers! Let's go OUTSIDE
and start EXPLORING!

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

25 ARI 25
Wait! I have something we can
explore ...INSIDE the Clubhouse!

26 ELINOR 26
(interested)
Really? What is it, Explorer Ari?

27 ARI 27
Ta-DAH!

Ari proudly gestures to the windowsill. ANGLE ON: Two nice
snails crawling along the window ledge. NOTE: One snail
(Lou-Lou) is bigger than the other (Norma).

28 ELINOR 28
<GASP!> Snails!

29 HAZEL/SALLY 29
Ooooh.../Whoa...

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

30 ARI 30
Meet Norma and Lou-Lou. I named
them after my Aunties.

Elinor and Hazel share a quizzical glance.

31 ARI (CONT'D) 31
 They look just like them.

32 ELINOR/HAZEL 32
 (giggle)

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

33 ELINOR 33
 Wow, look at their little antennae.

The Snails wiggle their antennae to demo. The Explorers watch for a beat or two as the snails crawl slowly along.

34 ARI 34
 Yup, there they go...(beat)...still *
 going... *

It goes on just long enough to be funny.

35 HAZEL 35
 (giggle) *
 They sure don't move very fast.

36 ARI 36
 <GASP!> Wait a minute, I have a
 great idea! Norma and Lou-Lou can
 be our Explorer Club MASCOTS!

37 ELINOR, HAZEL, SALLY 37
 Ooooh/ Cool!/ Huh?

This is a new word for Sally.

38 SALLY 38
 Uh... what's a mac-sot?

39 ARI 39
 Mascot! It's like a pet... for the
 whole CLUB!!

40 SALLY 40
 Oh, I LOVE pets.

41 HAZEL 41
 And Norma and Lou-Lou will make
 perfect club mascots! They don't *
 take up much room and we'll always *
 know where they are!

Hazel draws a picture of a snail in the club journal.

42 ELINOR 42
Okay! Now that we have mascots,
it's time to go EXPLORING!

This time, Elinor gets a little bit further out the door before...

43	HAZEL	43
	Wait, Explorer Elinor! We have one more thing to do.	
	(Checks the journal)	
	Clean the Clubhouse!	

44 ELINOR 44

Oh, right! Thank you Explorer Hazel. Our Clubhouse gives us shelter and a place to plan our adventures. So 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 map on the wall, hanging up the magnifying glass - that kind of thing. Elinor does an especially speedy job to get going.

45	ELINOR (CONT'D)	45
	Okay! We cleaned up, we have mascots, and now...It's finally time to go EXPLOR-...!	

Elinor runs out the door.

3 EXT. SMALL HILL -- CONTINUOUS * 3

Elinor takes a few steps outside before she runs up against
KAI WOMBAT.

46 ELINOR 46
...RING...whoops.

47 KAI 47
Hey, Elinor! What are you guys
doing?

48 ARI 48
Oh, hi, Kai! We're having a meeting
of the Explorer's Club! Wanna join?

49 Sure! KAI 49

At that moment TITO MOUSE also walks up.

50 TITO 50
Can I join too?

51 HAZEL 51
Sure, Tito, come on in! The
Explorer's Club is for everybody!

Elinor looks back and forth between the great outdoors and
her friends.

52 ELINOR 52
(sighs with a smile)
That's the Explorer Way!

All the kids walk into the Clubhouse.

4 **INT. CLUBHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS** * 4

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

53 KAI 53
Oooh, nice snails.

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

54 ARI 54
(proudly)
They're our Club mascots!

55 ELINOR 55
(good naturedly)
And they're the only ones who have
done any exploring today.

56 HAZEL 56
Don't worry Elinor, we'll
ALL go exploring, right after we
teach Kai and Tito the Explorer's
Club Pledge.

Elinor leads, with gestures:

57 ELINOR 57
Okay, everybody!! Repeat after me!
An Explorer is brave!

58 HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI, TITO 58
An Explorer is BRAVE!!

Suddenly, CAMILLA DROMEDARY pokes her head in the window.

59 CAMILLA 59
Explorer?? Did you say Explorer? I
LOVE exploring!

60 ARI 60
Then join our club!

61 CAMILLA 61
Don't mind if I do!

It takes some doing as she squeezes inside. They can all
barely fit!

62 ELINOR 62
Hookey, let's start the club
pledge...

Suddenly the GOAT TWINS poke their noses in the door.

63 GOAT TWINS 63
(in unison)
Any room for us?

64 ELINOR 64
Uh, sure...

65 HAZEL 65
The Explorers Club is for
everybody!

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

66 ELINOR 66
Okay, time to start the...

67 HAZEL 67
Whoops, I dropped my crayon!

She ducks down trying to retrieve it with her trunk (which
moves like a hand, patting and searching), 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... *

68 HAZEL (CONT'D) 68
Got it!

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

69 KAI 69
(mouth full)
Anybody want some crackers?

70 ELINOR, ARI, HAZEL, SALLY 70
 (ad lib)
 Sure!/I'll have some/Pass them
 over!!/ Me too!

More general shifting as the crackers are shared.

71 ELINOR 71
 Okay, Explorers, let's get this
 pledge started so we can all go
 exploring! An explorer is...

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

72 ARI 72
 (calling out)
 Wait! Has anybody seen Norma and
 Lou-Lou?! They were just here a
 second ago.

73 ELINOR, HAZEL, SALLY 73
 (ad lib)
 Nope/ Sorry/ They're not over here.

5 **EXT. SMALL HILL -- CONTINUOUS** * 5

Ari sticks his head out the window and calls. Norma and Lou- *
 Lou are crawling on the ext wall just above the window (in *
 the same shot). *

74 ARI 74
 Norma!! Lou-Lou!!
 (looking around)
 NORMAAAA!! LOU-LOU!!!!!!!

The Clubhouse starts to tilt as Ari's gestures destabilize *
 it. (Possibly one or two more characters stick their heads *
 out the window, and at the same time see Norma and Lou-lou *
 crawl into the window - so they are safe on the inside - Ari *
 doesn't notice.)

75 ARI (CONT'D) 75
 Wha-oh!

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

76 ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI, SALLY, KAI, TITO, 76
 GOAT TWINS
 (laughing)
 WHOOOAAAW, WHOOOAAAAAW, WHOOAAAAAA

6 EXT. BOTTOM OF THE HILL -- DAY * 6

The Clubhouse tumbles to a halt at the bottom of the small hill. The kids all spill out, giggling.

77 TITO 77
 Whoa, that was cool!

78 GOAT TWINS 78
(together)
Oh my!

Hazel picks herself up first.

79 HAZEL 79
(laughing, looking at the
clubhouse)
I think we have a Clubhouse
problem.

80 ELINOR 80

Yeah!

(Dusts herself off)

The club got bigger, but the
Clubhouse stayed the same size!

ANGLE ON: Meanwhile Ari, who landed a little ways away, picks himself up. He remembers that the snails are missing.

ARI

81 Norma! Lou-Lou! Where are youoooo? 81

BACK ON: Elinor and Hazel are looking at the tumbled Clubhouse.

82 HAZEL 82

What are we going to do?

83 ELINOR 83

Hmmm . . .

84 HAZEL 84
I wonder if we should get a bigger
box?

85 ELINOR 85
That would work...

THOUGHT BUBBLE forms next to Elinor, in which a brand new (and bigger) box is their shiny new clubhouse. Everyone fits inside!

86	ELINOR (CONT'D)	86
	But what if MORE kids join the	
	club? We'll have to get a WHOLE	*
	new, even bigger Clubhouse!	*

In the thought bubble, more and more kids join the club, eventually crowding the bigger box until the thought-bubble bursts.

BACK ON: Ari, searching for Norma and Lou-Lou.

87 ARI 87
Norma! Lou-Lou! Now where did they
go?

Ari puts his hands on his hips and looks around. Suddenly, he realizes the snails are hanging out on his shoulder.

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88                ARI (CONT'D)                                88
                (giggles)
                There you are!  Silly snails.

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BACK ON: Elinor and Hazel are still brainstorming.

89	HAZEL	89
	What if we get <i>another</i> box and keep	*
	this one too? Then we can have TWO	*
	Clubhouses?	

90 ELINOR 90
That could work.

THOUGHT BUBBLE showing two clubhouses near each other. All the kids fit!

91 ELINOR (CONT'D) 91
But then, we wouldn't all be
together.

In the thought bubble, we see the kids in both clubhouses having trouble communicating with the other clubhouse.

92 HAZEL 92

You're right, Elinor...Explorers
are a team and we need to stick
together.

93 ELINOR 93
Yeah! Hmmm...

The **THOUGHT BUBBLE** bursts.

BACK ON: Ari, who is within earshot of Elinor and Hazel. He uses a leaf to gently take the little snails off his shoulder and puts them on a nearby rock.

94	ARI	94
	Phew! There you go, Norma and Lou-	*
	lou.	*
	(he lays them down)	*
	It's a good thing you had those	*
	shells to protect you when we	
	rolled down the hill, Norma and Lou-	
	Lou. It's like you have your own	
	little clubhouses, just like we do!	

This catches Elinor's attention. She hops over to Ari, with Hazel following.

(NOTE: in the background we can see the other kids pushing the clubhouse upright.)	*
	*

95	ELINOR	95
	Did you say Norma and Lou-Lou have	
	their own clubhouses?	

96	ARI	96
	Kind of! See, Norma has a little	
	clubhouse on her back and Lou-Lou,	
	who's bigger, has a <i>bigger</i>	
	clubhouse.	

The snails go into their shells, then peek out. Elinor looks closer at the snails.

97	ARI (CONT'D)	97
	I guess when Norma grows up, she'll	
	need a bigger shell too.	
	(after a beat)	
	But, I wonder how she'll get a	
	bigger shell?	

98	ELINOR	98
	Hmmm... We need more observations!	

She runs past the other kids and into the clubhouse, emerging with the magnifying glass and the club journal. She looks at the snails with the magnifying glass.

99	ELINOR (CONT'D)	99
	Let's take a closer look...	

We track her **MAGNIFIED VIEW** as she goes back and forth between the two shells a few times (maybe pointing with a piece of grass). On close up, we see the number of loops each shell has, and that the larger shell has more lines (or rings) going outwards around the spiral.

100	ELINOR (CONT'D)	100
	Look! Norma's shell gets bigger by	
	going around in a swirly shape.	*
	That is SO INTERESTING!	*
	(she traces her finger	*
	around the spiral as she	*
	counts)	*
	It goes around one, two, three	*
	times.	*

Elinor turns her attention to Lou-Lou.

101	ELINOR (CONT'D)	101
	But Lou-Lou's shell has one, two,	
	three, four, five, six rings -	
	that's a lot more.	

ANGLE ON: Hazel makes a drawing of this in the journal, counting the rings as she draws.

102	HAZEL	102
	One, two, three, four, five, six!	

The kids look at Hazel's drawing.

103	HAZEL (CONT'D)	103
	The snail shell winds around,	
	starting small and getting bigger	
	with each ring...	

THOUGHT BUBBLE next to Elinor, we see Lou-Lou as a little baby snail with a small shell consisting of one loop. As she grows and gets bigger, the shell spirals around and grows, ring by ring.

104	ELINOR	104
	I think you're right! When Lou-Lou	*
	was a baby, she was probably little	
	just like Norma. But as she got	
	bigger Lou-Lou ADDED rings to her	
	shell to make it bigger too.	

105	ARI	105
	Whoa, that is so cool...	

THOUGHT BUBBLE bursts.

106

ELINOR

<GASP!> And that gives me an idea
to solve our Clubhouse problem!
We'll ADD on to our Clubhouse -
just like Norma and Lou-Lou add on
to their shells.

106

She runs off screen. Ari and Hazel look at each other and
follow. We hear the beginning of a song.

CROSSFADE TO:

CLUB-BUILDING MONTAGE

As the kids sing, we see Hazel drawing up plans for expanding
the existing clubhouse, with diagrams of the snails for
inspiration (if it works).

*

The kids discuss how they are going to build it. We see the
other kids bringing in a colorful pile of random and
whimsical building materials -- cardboard, snow saucers,
sheets of colorful fabric and decorations - etc.

Slowly they make the clubhouse bigger by expanding it.

107

ELINOR, HAZEL, ARI

107

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

7 **EXT. CLUBHOUSE - LATER** * 7

Hazel checks her plans.

108 HAZEL 108
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. Through the door we see Kai sitting on Sally's
shoulders. ANGLE ON: Kai pops through a door in the roof.

109 KAI 109
One roof door - DONE!

Elinor looks on with satisfaction.

110 ELINOR 110
Now THAT'S a Clubhouse for
EVERYONE! There's space for all of
us to fit inside, and if we get
even MORE members...

111 HAZEL 111
We have lots of extra stuff to
build with if we need to make the
Clubhouse bigger again. *
*
*

ANGLE ON: Extra stuff. *

112 ELINOR 112
Great!

113 HAZEL 113
(closing the journal)
Well, now we can finally go
exploring like you wanted, Elinor!

114 ELINOR 114
That's OK. We did explore! Norma
and Lou-Lou showed us how to add
space to our clubhouse, so we
learned something from Nature and
that's what exploring is all about!

Suddenly, Ari runs up in a panic.

115 ARI 115
Wait! I've lost Norma and Lou-Lou
AGAIN!!

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

