

ELINOR'S TOWN

EP 103 Owl Girl

By: Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

Elinor's Question: Why do owls sleep during the day?

Logline: Elinor learns that some animals sleep during the day and are awake at night.

Curriculum Goals:

LS2 Begin to explore how different external features of an animal help it survive in its environment. Elinor learns that an Owl has certain characteristics that help it survive at night.

SEP2: Developing and using models

SEP8 Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information

- o Obtain information through discussing prior knowledge and observations with experts including teachers or knowledgeable adults
- o Use basic science and engineering content vocabulary when investigating and describing observable phenomena
- o Share findings and explanations (correct or incorrect) through a variety of methods

Main Characters: Elinor, Hazel, Ari

Secondary Characters: Ms. Mole, Ranger Rabbit, Mr. Raccoon, Owl

Incidental Characters: Classroom kids

Backgrounds: Forest daytime, Elinor's bedroom at night, Elinor's parent's at night, Forest at night, Classroom

Props: Hazel in a book costume, Ari as a magician, Owl-Girl

Elinor, Ms. Mole as a flower, flashlights, robes, slippers.

OUTLINE: November 23, 2018

FIRST DRAFT: December 19, 2018

REV. FIRST DRAFT: December 20, 2018

1. EXT. FOREST -- DAY

1

OPEN WIDE: It's a beautiful day in the forest. MOVE IN ON ELINOR looking closely at a flower with a curious but uncertain expression, like she's evaluating it.

1 ELINOR 1
HMMMMMMMM.

She turns from the flower and lifts up a small rock, spotting something under it. She seems interested for a moment before putting the rock down.

2 ELINOR (CONT'D) 2
Mmm, that's not it either...

WIDEN TO REVEAL: HAZEL and ARI walking ahead along the path.

3 HAZEL 3
Elinor? Are you coming?

4 ELINOR 4
Right behind you, Hazel!

Elinor catches up to them and then bounces ahead. She stops suddenly to look at a weird mushroom.

5 ELINOR (CONT'D) 5
Ooooh.

She only looks at it for a moment, then she gets interested in something else. She is energetic, hopping around and jumping over rocks in her enthusiasm. Hazel and Ari look at each other and follow, passing her.

6 HAZEL 6
I can't wait for school tomorrow!

7 ARI 7
Me too, Hazel!
(thinks about it)
Wait, why?

Behind them, we see Elinor rushing around, following a buzzing bug.

8 HAZEL 8
(laughing)
It's Costume Day, Ari!

9 ARI 9
Yes! Costume Day! We get to wear a costume to school tomorrow! Remember last year?

A thought bubble forms next to Ari as he remembers his costume. It's just him holding a baseball.

10	ARI (CONT'D)	10
	I was a baseball AND bat! Get it?	
	Because I AM a bat?	

On the thought bubble, a drawing of a baseball and bat (the kind you swing) appears next to the previous drawing.

11	HAZEL	11
	I remember.	
	(giggles)	
	It was so funny.	

The thought bubble pops and Ari draws one wing over half of his face mysteriously.

12	ARI	12
	This year, I'm going to be	
	something SUPER cool and	
	MYSTERIOUS.	

His dramatic pose is disrupted by Elinor, who lifts up one of his feet to look at something underneath, Ari comically staggers.

13	ARI (CONT'D)	13
	(laughing)	
	Whooops, careful Elinor!!	

14	ELINOR	14
	Sorry, Ari.	

Elinor bounces OS, following a bird.

15	ARI	15
	So what are you going to dress up	
	as, Hazel?	

16	HAZEL	16
	I've been working on my costume for	
	DAYS! I'm going as something I	
	LOVE!	

17	ARI	17
	Let me guess: a banana?	

18	HAZEL	18
	A BANANA???	
	(laughs)	
	No...but I DO love bananas.	

At this point, Elinor returns from looking around. She looks a little dejected.

19 ELINOR 19
Sigh...

20 ARI 20
Hey, Elinor, what are YOU going to
be for Costume Day?

21 ELINOR 21
(a little frustrated)
I just don't know!

22 HAZEL 22
Uh oh.

23 ELINOR 23
I've been looking EVERYWHERE, but I
haven't found the *right* idea for my
costume yet.

24 ARI 24
Huh.

25 ELINOR 25
I want it to be something
reeeeaaally interesting....
(she looks around)
But, I don't know what, and Costume
Day is TOMORROW!

26 HAZEL 26
We'll help you look for ideas,
Elinor.

27 ARI 27
You bet - just call me idea-hunter
Ari!

28 ELINOR 28
(relieved)
Aww, thank you!

QUICK SEARCHING MONTAGE

The kids look under a bush.

29 HAZEL 29
Nothing under here.

They check out a hole in the trunk of a large, old tree.

30 ARI 30
Nothing in here.

They look behind the tree.

31 ELINOR 31
Nothing behind here!

END MONTAGE - They pause, and Ari makes a show of looking around.

32 ARI 32
Nope, nothing interesting anywhere
that I can s-...
(he looks up)
Yikes!

Ari jumps and Elinor and Hazel look up too. ANGLE ON: An OWL, perched on a high branch above Ari's head. It looks very majestic and peaceful and it has its eyes closed.

33 ELINOR 33
(in awe)
<GASP!> Wooooooooow!

34 HAZEL 34
It's an OWL!

35 ARI 35
I've never seen an Owl this close
before.

They all look up to admire. The owl does nothing for a beat.

36 ELINOR 36
What's it doing?

37 HAZEL 37
It's not moving.

38 ARI 38
I'll take a closer look!

Ari flies up.

39 ARI (CONT'D) 39
(comically loud whisper)
Its eyes are closed!
(a beat later)
I think it's sleeping!

40 ELINOR 40
Sleeping? In the middle of the day?

41 HAZEL 41
 Maybe it's taking a nap.

Ari flies down, a little winded.

42 ARI 42
 Phew! I could use nap. AND a snack.

43 ELINOR 43
 Let's wait for the Owl to wake up!
 I want to see it fly - WHOOSH!

Elinor pantomimes a flying owl, wings open.

44 HAZEL 44
 Ok, let's wait.

SERIES OF X-DISS. They sit down to wait, expecting it to wake *
at any moment. After a beat, nothing happens. They get a bit
fidgety. Hazel takes out a book. Elinor stays focused on the
owl. Ari unpacks a small bag. Suddenly, we hear a loud <SFX:
CRUNCH> sound. Elinor and Hazel look to Ari, who has a
mouthful of crunchy snack.

45 ARI 45
 (munching)
 What? I'm hungry!

Ari continues to crunch on his snack, with Elinor and Hazel
cringing each time. Elinor gets fidgety.

46 ELINOR 46
 Is the owl going to sleep ALL DAY?

47 HAZEL 47
 It can't sleep ALL day. Can it?

48 ARI 48
 (munching)
 Sounds pretty good to me. Some of
 my cousins sleep all day.

49 HAZEL 49
 I wonder when it eats.

Ari takes a last bite of his snack.

50 ARI 50
 (munching)
 Speaking of eating...
 (looks at his watch)
 It's almost dinner time!

51 HAZEL 51
You're right, we'd better go.

Hazel and Ari grab their things and run off, out of the frame. Elinor stays back for a moment to look at the owl one last time, hoping to see it wake up.

52 ELINOR 52
 (to herself, a wish)
Oh, please - wake up!

2. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN -- SUNSET

Over a view of Animal Town, we see the sun set and the moon rise as the sky turns a dark blue with pinpoints of stars.

3. INT. ELINOR'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Open on Elinor in bed. She is sleeping, but she's moving a bit as if she's having an active dream.

53 ELINOR (CONT'D) 53
 (in her sleep)
Wake up owl... wake up!

<SFX: OS MUFFLED OWL - WHOOO>. Elinor turns over but doesn't wake up. <SFX: OWL - WHOOO>. Elinor's eyes open and she sits up, yawning and stretching. <SFX: MUFFLED OWL WHOOO> Elinor turns to the sound, hops out of bed and goes to her window.

54 ELINOR (CONT'D) 54
Who's out there?

She looks outside for a moment and then opens it. <SFX: OWL (CLEAR) WHOOO!> Elinor looks confused.

55 ELINOR (CONT'D) 55
Who what?

<SFX: OWL (CLEAR) WHOOO!>

56 ELINOR (CONT'D) 56
Who, me?

<SFX: OWL (CLEAR) WHOOO!> Elinor gets annoyed.

57 ELINOR (YELLING) (CONT'D) 57
Yes I heard you! Do you mean me?
I'm Elinor, that's who!

<SFX: OWL (CLEAR) WHOOO!> Elinor closes the window.

4. INT. PARENT'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Elinor tiptoes into her parents' bedroom, where they are both sleeping. She approaches her mom's side of the bed.

58	ELINOR (CONT'D)	58
	(whisper comically loud)	
	Mom!	
	(Her mom stirs a bit.)	
	Mom! Wake up!	

Ranger Rabbit wakes up and rubs her eyes.

59	RANGER RABBIT	59
	What is it Elinor? Is something wrong?	

60	ELINOR	60
	I can't sleep.	

61	RANGER RABBIT	61
	Oh, honey. What's keeping you awake?	

62	ELINOR	62
	I can't sleep because I have a QUESTION.	

63	RANGER RABBIT	63
	Of course you do. Tell me, what is your middle-of-the-night question?	

64	ELINOR	64
	Someone is outside my window asking ME questions. They keep saying "WHO!", and won't stop.	

65	RANGER RABBIT	65
	I see.	

66	ELINOR	66
	I want to go outside and see who it is. Can you come with me?	

67	RANGER RABBIT	67
	(after a breath, smiling)	
	Yes I can. Let's get our night-time observation kit!	

Elinor runs out of the room. Ranger Rabbit pulls a basket out from under the bed that has two flashlights. Elinor reappears immediately wearing her robe and slippers!

68	ELINOR	68
	I'm ready! Are you?	

69 RANGER RABBIT 69
It's the middle of the night. Of
course I'm ready!

<SFX: OS MUFFLED OWL - WHOOO> Elinor tugs on her mom's hand.

70 ELINOR 70
There it is again! Come on, Mom! We
need MORE OBSERVATIONS!

5. EXT. ELINOR'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Elinor and Ranger Rabbit (now wearing her robe and slippers)
step out of the house. A light in the front of the house
illuminates the door and immediate surroundings, but
everything else nearby is dark.

71 ELINOR (CONT'D) 71
Wow, it's so dark! I can't see
anything!

Elinor turns on her flashlight and a cone of light
illuminates a nearby bush.

72 ELINOR (CONT'D) 72
Is there anything awake out here?

73 RANGER RABBIT 73
(yawning)
Other than two sleepy rabbits?
Let's have a look!

Elinor and Ranger Rabbit walk a little bit into the woods,
their flashlights searching around them. They come to the
same clearing from earlier.

We hear a rustling sound in a bush. Elinor points her
flashlight at it and we see a gecko briefly, before it runs
into the bushes.

74 ELINOR 74
Wow! That was such a cool lizard!
I've never seen one like that
before.

75 RANGER RABBIT 75
That's because you usually go into
the forest during the day. Some
animals only come out at night.
Like this lizard - it's called a
gecko!

Elinor searches some more. Her flashlight finds some worms
wriggling on the ground.

76 ELINOR 76
Look at this! These worms are
awake! That is SO INTERESTING!

She points her flashlight around, and we see some bugs flying around, as well as some more lizards scurrying about.

77 ELINOR (CONT'D) 77
I wonder what all these animals are
doing up so late?

78 RANGER RABBIT 78
Maybe their children woke them up
to go exploring?

Elinor laughs, getting the joke.

79 ELINOR 79
<LAUGHS>

Suddenly, we hear a <SFX: RUSTLE> in the bushes. Elinor and Ranger Rabbit point their flashlights at it. Out pops Mr. Raccoon, who is a little startled by the bright lights.

80 MR. RACCOON 80
Oh, hello, Ranger Rabbit! Hello,
Elinor!

81 ELINOR 81
Hello, Mr. Raccoon! Are you out
looking for the mysterious "who"
too?

82 MR. RACCOON 82
Mysterious who?

83 ELINOR 83
Yes, who!

Mr. Raccoon scratches his head.

84 MR. RACCOON 84
I mean, WHO are you looking for?

85 ELINOR 85
We're looking for the WHO, that's
who!

Mr. Raccoon looks confused. Ranger Rabbit smiles.

86 RANGER RABBIT 86
We are out exploring, Mr. Raccoon.

87	MR. RACCOON	87
	Ahh!	
88	ELINOR	88
	Why are you awake so late, Mr. Raccoon?	
89	MR. RACCOON	89
	Oh, I always get up around this time.	
90	ELINOR	90
	REALLY? Does the WHO wake you up?	
91	MR. RACCOON	91
	Who..? Never mind. No, I have to wake up to work at the bakery!	
92	ELINOR	92
	You can't do that during the day?	
93	MR. RACCOON	93
	Oh, no. I have to start baking the tasty treats at the night, so they'll be ready in time for breakfast!	
94	ELINOR	94
	Ohhhh...	
95	MR. RACCOON	95
	That way your favorite carrot cake muffins will be fresh from the oven when you come into my store in the morning.	
96	ELINOR	96
	Oh! I didn't know that. But then, when do you sleep?	
97	MR. RACCOON	97
	I sleep in the afternoon when everyone else is awake.	
98	ELINOR	98
	Ohhh.	
99	MR. RACCOON	99
	Well, love to chat more, but I have to get going. Time to make the muffins!	

100 RANGER RABBIT 100
Goodbye, Mr. Raccoon.

Mr. Raccoon nods and rushes off.

101 ELINOR 101
(calling)
Don't forget the carrot cake ones!
(to her mom)
Wow, mom. There sure is a lot going
on in the forest at night!

Elinor starts to sing:

102 ELINOR (CONT'D) 102
(singing)
I thought the forest was quiet at
night.
But now that I have my trusty
flashlight,
I see worms and bugs and lizards,
too!
But I still wonder who said...

<SFX: OS OWL (CLEAR) - WHOOO>

103 ELINOR (CONT'D) 103
There it is again!

Elinor and Ranger Rabbit look for the source of the sound.
They move their flashlights around the clearing. Elinor looks
up.

104 ELINOR (CONT'D) 104
<GASP!> Look!

ANGLE ON the owl soaring in the sky. It's above the trees and
it flies and banks with amazing grace and beauty. Most
important, it flies SILENTLY.

105 ELINOR (CONT'D) 105
(amazed)
Wooooow!

The owl turns and glides down to the ground, grabbing
something before landing up in the tree. <SFX: OWL - WHOOO>
Elinor turns to her mother.

106 ELINOR (CONT'D) 106
Mom, that's the owl Ari, Hazel and
I saw on our way home! It's so
quiet I almost didn't notice it fly
by!

107 RANGER RABBIT 107
That's because owl are really
SILENT FLYERS. They have special
feathers on their wings that don't
make any sound.

108 ELINOR 108
Oooh...

<SFX: OWL - WHOOO>

109 ELINOR (CONT'D) 109
 (gets it)
Wait a minute. That's who's been
saying "whoo!" It's the Owl!! He's
up late, just like Mr. Raccoon!

110 RANGER RABBIT 110
Yep, owls are NOCTURNAL. That means
they stay awake at night.

111 ELINOR 111
But why?
 (after a beat)
Does the Owl work at a bakery too?
I didn't even know there WERE Owl
bakeries.

112 RANGER RABBIT 112
 (smiling)
I don't think so! Owls are awake at
night because they eat things like
bugs and worms that come out.

ANGLE ON: The Owl's eyes.

113 RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D) 113
They have super special eyes that
are really good at seeing things in
the dark.

Elinor and her mom look at the owl a moment longer.

114 ELINOR 114
Wow! I didn't know there was so
much happening in the forest at
night. And I didn't know that owls
were so... INTERESTING!

Elinor has a flash of inspiration.

115 ELINOR (CONT'D) 115
Mom!! I just had a GREAT idea -
come on!

She runs off screen followed by her mom, ANGLE ON: The beautiful Owl watches them go. <SFX: OS OWL (CLEAR) - WHOOO>

6. INT. CLASSROOM -- DAY

It's Costume Day at Elinor's school! We open on a bunch of children in costume talking excitedly, including Hazel and Ari (but not Elinor). Hazel is dressed like a big book.

116 ARI 116
Oooh, nice costume, Hazel!

117 HAZEL 117
Thanks, Ari! You know I LOVE books,
and I always wished I had one that
turned the pages for me, so check
this out.

She turns the pages with her trunk.

118 ARI 118
Ha ha, AWESOME!

He looks closer at one of the pages, which has some drawings of bananas.

119 ARI (CONT'D) 119
Wait a second...is this a book
about bananas?

120 HAZEL 120
(giggles)
I couldn't resist! So, what are
you, Ari?

121 ARI 121
Me? Well, I am...

ANGLE ON: Ari is dressed in a tuxedo with a cape and a top hat. He swirls his cape.

122 ARI (CONT'D) 122
(dramatic voice)
The Mysterious Mysterioso! Super
magician, at your service!

123 HAZEL 123
Cool! Are you going to do some
magic?

124 ARI 124
Yes, I'm going to make my lunch
disappear later.

125 SILAS, SALLY, GOAT TWINS, HAZEL 125
 <LAUGH>

126 HAZEL 126
 (giggling)
 Very impressive, Mysterious
 Mysterioso.

Suddenly, from behind them, we see a feathery blur rush towards them. Elinor, dressed as an owl, jumps into the scene, surprising everyone.

127 ELINOR 127
 Whoooo! Whoo!! WHOOOO!!!

Elinor starts "flying around the classroom" as she does the dialogue below.

128 HAZEL 128
 <Gasp!> Elinor, you look just like
 the owl we saw yesterday!

129 ELINOR 129
 That's right! My mom and I stayed
 up all night making my costume.
 Isn't it iinnnnnteresting?

130 ARI 130
 It sure is!!!
 (a beat)
 But I thought owls slept all the
 time?

131 ELINOR 131
 Nope, owls only sleep during the
 day, but they're awake at night!
 That's called being NOCTURNAL!

132 HAZEL 132
 Nocturnal! I LIKE that word!

133 ELINOR 133
 They have super good eyes for
 seeing in the dark. That's when
 they eat their food.

134 ARI 134
 Oohh.

135 ELINOR 135
 AND they have special feathers that
 help them fly *really* quietly.

Elinor runs around her friends with her wings spread out, not making a sound.

136 HAZEL 136
 (figures something out)
 So that's why we the Owl we saw
 wouldn't open its eyes! It was
 sleeping so it could be awake at
 night!

137 ELINOR 137
 That's riiiiigghht
 (yaaaaaaaawns)

Elinor lets out a biiig yawn. At that moment, Ms. Mole call the class to order.

138 MS. MOLE 138
 Alright class, time to find our
 places!

Ms. Mole is wearing a flower costume. The kids gather.

139 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 139
 Welcome to COSTUME DAY! Okay, now
 who wants to talk about the costume
 they're wearing?

140 SILAS/SALLY/GOAT 140
 Me! / I want to talk about my
 costume! / Me first!

141 MS. MOLE 141
 Wait, where's Elinor?

The kids look around. After a beat, Ari raises his hand.

142 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 142
 Yes, Ari?

143 ARI 143
 Ms. Mole, Elinor's an owl and she
 was awake all night making her
 costume. That means just like an
 owl...

He moves aside to reveal Elinor curled up with her head tucked under a wing, sleeping.

144 HAZEL 144
 She'll be sleeping all day!

145 MS. MOLE 145
 Oh, Elinor...

We end on a close up of Elinor, smiling and breathing softly
as she sleeps.

146

ELINOR

146

(quietly)

SNOOOORE - Whooo.....

*