# ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 108A Mz. Mole's Glasses

By: Rachel Lipman

Elinor's Question: How can Mz. Mole get around without her glasses?

Logline: When Mz. Mole leaves her glasses behind at school, Elinor, Olive and Ari track her down to return them, and discover that Mz. Mole relies on other senses to get around.

Curriculum Goals:

**SEP 6** - Constructing explanations a. Use background knowledge, experiences and data to construct reasonable explanations and theories of natural phenomena b. Look for and describe patterns and relationships in natural phenomena. c. Use and apply productive science discourse to support an explanation. d. Use evidence to support a theory or solution to a problem. (Using an evidence-based inquiry Elinor and her friends deduce that Mz. Mole is using her other senses (smell, touch, hearing) to get around when she leaves her glasses behind).

**LS2 -** Understand that animals have different body parts that are used in different ways to meet their needs, and that plants have different parts that help them survive and grow. A. Identify body parts of animals and their function. (Elinor and her friends realize that Mz. Mole uses her ears for hearing, her hands for touching, her nose for smelling and her eyes for seeing).

Line count: 120 (WITH INTERSTITIAL)
Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mz. Mole, S. Tapir
Secondary Characters: Mr. Raccoon, Mrs. Gorilla, Mr. Dog
Incidental Characters: BG populating street, park
Backgrounds: Top of the hill, Inside the Clubhouse, bottom of the hill
Props: Olive's satchel, Mz. Mole's bag, Mz. Mole's glasses, Olive's notebook, three breads (rye, sourdough, banana), an apple, orange, banana, grapes, banana peel, rolling log.

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1 **INT. SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY** 1

It's a clear day in the forest, and class-time has just ended at Elinor's school. Kids are exiting with their backpacks, waving to MZ. MOLE as they walk by. She waves back.

1 MZ. MOLE 1
Goodbye, kids! See you tomorrow!

CU OLIVE'S SATCHEL as she puts her things away. PULL BACK - OLIVE is packing, with ELINOR and ARI standing by with their backpacks.

2 ARI 2
Today was the best day ever! We got to play hopscotch AND had milk for a snack!

3 ELINOR 3
But Ari, we play hopscotch and have milk every day.

4 ARI 4
And that's why every day is the best day ever, Elinor!

Elinor <GIGGLES>.

5 OLIVE 5
Ok, I'm ready!

The kids are the last to leave the classroom and stop to talk to Mz. Mole as she packs up <u>her</u> bag. Elinor looks on curiously.

6 ELINOR 6
What do you do after school is finished, Mz. Mole?

Mz. Mole smiles as she closes her bag.

7 MZ. MOLE 7
Oh, I do lots of things, Elinor. Today, I'm doing some shopping.

8 ARI 8
(pushing his hands out)
Whoa! Wait a minute... you mean teachers go places besides school??

9 MZ. MOLE 9
(amused)
Sure. We teachers are just like everybody else, Ari.

10 ARI 10
Wow.

11 OLIVE 11
What are you shopping for, Mz. Mole?

Mz. Mole takes off her glasses, blows on them, and begins to clean them with a soft cloth.

12 MZ. MOLE 12
Well, Olive, first I'm going to get some fresh bread from Mr. Raccoon's bakery.

13 ARI 13
Oooh, I love fresh bread, it smells soooo yummy.

14 ELINOR/OLIVE 14
I think we better go get Ari a snack, Mz. Mole./Bye, see you tomorrow!

Mz. Mole gives her glasses another puff and wipes them.

15 MZ. MOLE 15
Goodbye, kids!

2 **EXT. SCHOOL - DAY - CONTINUOUS** 2

The kids exit school, heading towards the forest. After a few paces, we see Mz. Mole (from the back) in the background, closing the door and heading in the direction of town.

16 ARI 16
(Still in amazement)
I didn't know teachers did things *outside* of school. I thought they lived IN the school!

17 ELINOR 17
<GIGGLES> Ari, if Mz. Mole lived IN the school, where would she sleep?

18 ARI 18
You mean teachers SLEEP too??

Suddenly, Olive stops in her tracks, clutching her satchel.

19 OLIVE 19
<GASP!!>
Wait, I forgot my notebook!

She slaps her pocket with her trunk. Frowns. No notebook. She suddenly claps her trunk to her head, remembering:

20 OLIVE (CONT'D) 20
I must have left it on my chair.

21 ELINOR 21
Let's go back and get it.

They head back to the school.

3 **INT. CLASSROOM - DAY** 3

As Elinor and Ari wait in the open doorway, Olive enters, and instantly finds her notebook on her chair.

22 OLIVE 22
(calling to others)
I found my notebook!

23 ELINOR 23
Great! Good thing we came back.

Just as Olive picks up her notebook and looks up, she sees something on Mz. Mole's desk across the room.

Olive's POV - CLOSE ON Mz. Mole's GLASSES on the desk.

24 OLIVE 24
(gasps)
Mz. Mole's glasses!

She picks them up carefully then runs to show Elinor and Ari.

25 OLIVE (CONT'D) 25
Mz. Mole left these on her desk!

26 ARI 26
Uh-oh.

27 ELINOR 27
She was cleaning them before. She must have forgotten to put them back on!

28 OLIVE 28
Do you think she needs them?

Ari makes eyeglasses with his fingers on his face.

29 ARI 29
My dad uses glasses. He says he can't see *anything* without them.

30 OLIVE 30
Oh no, what if Mz. Mole needs them to see? What should we do?

31 ELINOR 31
(After a beat)
Let's find Mz. Mole and give her back her glasses!

32 ARI 32
Yeah, good idea! But how do we find her?

33 OLIVE 33
(remembering)
She said she was going to the bakery first.

34 ELINOR 34
Then let's go to the bakery! C'mon!

The kids run out the door.

CROSSFADE TO:

4 **EXT. ANIMAL TOWN SQUARE - DAY** 4

It's the center of Animal Town, (like a very small Main Street, with friendly adults and families walking around and no traffic). We hear typical <SFX: DOWNTOWN HUBBUB>, including a small <SFX: DING> as we see Mz. Mole exits the bakery waving the store owner goodbye.

35 MZ. MOLE 35
(barely audible)
Goodbye, Mr. Raccoon!

From the door, Mz. Mole walks off in one direction and the camera pans in the opposite direction, down the sidewalk and to the corner, where the three kids are just coming around.

36 ELINOR 36
C'mon - we're almost there.

As they head up the block, Ari picks up his nose and sniffs. Smell FX waves waft into his nostrils from the bakery.

37 ARI 37
(sniff, sniff)
Mmmm... something sure smells good around here.

5 **INT. MR. RACCOON'S BAKERY - DAY** 5

Elinor, Olive and Ari enter the bakery. MR. RACCOON, in white apron and hat, gives them a friendly greeting.

38 MR. RACCOON 38
Well, hello Elinor, Olive and Ari! How can I help you?

39 ELINOR 39
Hi, Mr. Raccoon.

40 ARI 40
It smells SO good here.

Olive <SFX: SNIFFS> the air with her trunk.

41 ELINOR 41
We're looking for Mz. Mole. Olive found her glasses in the classroom, and we want to give them back to her.

42 MR. RACCOON 42
Ah, how nice of you. She was here a minute ago! And I *did* notice she <u>wasn't</u> wearing her glasses, but... she had no trouble picking out a nice loaf of pumpernickel bread.

Elinor, Ari and Olive look surprised as they glance back to the shelves of different breads lining the wall behind the counter.

43 ELINOR 43
I wonder... how did Mz. Mole pick out the pumpernickel bread without her glasses?

Olive scratches her head with her trunk. Meanwhile, Ari runs over to the pumpernickel bread.

44 ARI 44
Here is the pumpernickel bread. (smelling) Oohh, it smells so good. (then, sniffing another loaf nearby) Ooh, and here is sourdough, mmm...

The sourdough is a long baguette, and the pumpernickel is dark brown and round. The rye bread is cigar-shaped and has visible caraway seeds as dark dots.

45 ELINOR 45
(lightbulb going off)
That's it! She must have smelled the bread!

46 OLIVE 46
(sniff, sniff with her trunk)
I think you're right!

Mr. Raccoon smiles, gestures to indicate all the breads.

47 MR. RACCOON 47
(proudly)
Well, I do bake the best-smelling breads in town. Of course, I'm also the only baker in town...
(beat)
And all my breads smell different. Close your eyes and try to smell which is which.

Standing in front of the entire array of breads at the wall, Ari closes his eyes and concentrates, sniffing:

48 ARI 48
(sniff sniff over to one of the loafs)
I smell... rye bread.

Elinor closes her eyes and twitches her nose.

49 ELINOR 49
(sniff over to another loaf)
I think I smell sourdough.

Olive closes her eyes and sniffs with her trunk in the air.

50 OLIVE 50
(biiig sniff)
YUUUUM!! That's definitely banana bread! My favorite!

They open their eyes to see Mr. Raccoon putting some bread samples on a tray.

51 MR. RACCOON 51
You're <u>each</u> right - here are some samples to try.

Mr. Raccoon hands them bread slices. As they chew happily:

52 OLIVE 52
Mm, yummy. Thanks Mr. Raccoon!

53 ELINOR 53
(to Mr. Raccoon)
Wait, we still need to find Mz. Mole. Did she say where she was going?

54 MR. RACCOON 54
Why yes. She said she was going to the fruit stand near the park. Maybe you can find her there.

As the kids rush out the door:

55 ELINOR 55
Thanks, Mr. Raccoon!

6 **EXT. OUTSIDE THE PARK - DAY- MEANWHILE** 6

Mz. Mole walks along the park periphery with her bag and a loaf of bread in it.

56 MZ. MOLE 56
(whistling to herself)
Hmm... And now to get some fruit!

She makes her way, happy and confident, and we see her walking towards a fruit stand ahead of her.

7 **EXT. OUTSIDE PARK - DAY- A LITTLE LATER** 7

Elinor, Olive and Ari are walking near the park.

57 ARI 57
(munching on his piece of bread)
Mr. Raccoon is the best!

58 ELINOR 58
I guess Mz. Mole didn't need her glasses to pick out the bread.

59 OLIVE 59
(sniffing her piece with her trunk)
She just used her nose!

60 ELINOR 60
There's Mrs. Gorilla's fruit stand!

The kids run up to the fruit stand, where friendly MRS. GORILLA waits at the register.

61 ELINOR (CONT'D) 61
Hi, Mrs. Gorilla!

62 MRS. GORILLA 62
Hello, kids! Ooh, is that bread that you're eating? Smells good! What can I help you with today?

63 ELINOR 63
We're looking for our teacher, Mz. Mole.

64 MRS. GORILLA 64
Oh, you kids *just* missed her. She was here a minute ago!

The kids exchange glances.

65 ELINOR 65
Aw. We found her glasses and we're trying to return them to her.

66 MRS. GORILLA 66
Oh, how nice of you. I did notice she wasn't wearing her glasses, but she had no trouble picking out the fruits she wanted. She got three apples, two oranges and some grapes.

Ari leans over and sniffs the fruit, then turns to Olive and Elinor.

67 ARI 67
The fruits don't really smell that much. How did Mz. Mole know which fruit to pick? There are so many different kinds.

Elinor picks up an apple and holds it.

68 ELINOR 68
Ooh, feel how smooth this apple is.

Olive picks up an orange.

69 OLIVE 69
And feel this orange - it's got little bumps!

Ari picks up a bunch of grapes.

70 ARI 70
And these grapes are small and round.
(he gently squeezes one)
And a little squishy.

71 OLIVE 71
The fruits all <u>feel</u> different.

72 ELINOR 72
That's it! Mz. Mole must have used her hands to FEEL which fruit was which!

73 MRS. GORILLA 73
That's right, Elinor. Fruit can be different sizes - bigger and smaller - and also have different textures. That means they feel different - like how the oranges feel bumpy and the apples feel smooth when you hold them in your hand.
(She holds out a tray of cut up apples.)
Would you like to try some apple slices before you go?

They all help themselves.

74 ELINOR 74
Thanks for the fruit, Mrs. Gorilla! Do you know where Mz. Mole was going next?

75 MRS. GORILLA 75
Hmm, she said she was heading to the park.

76 OLIVE 76
She has bread and fruit... Maybe she's going to have a picnic!

77 ELINOR 77
Let's go and find her!

CUT TO:

8 **EXT. PARK - DAY - MEANWHILE** 8

It's a mildly busy day at the park, and there are a few families and kids playing. In one corner, we see Mz.

Mole as she sets down her bag near a big tree with <SFX: SINGING BIRDS>. She lays out her blanket and picnic food items. <WHISTLING TO HERSELF> she starts to take out the bread and some fruit.

In the background, behind her and behind the tree, we see the three kids walking into the park.

78 ELINOR 78
Now where is Mz. Mole..?

Ari hangs back and gestures ahead of him at the path.

79 ARI 79
I'll look around here. Do you want to look for her up that path?

80 OLIVE 80
Sure!

Elinor and Olive move on as Ari looks around. After a beat, Ari looks up, sees Elinor and Olive up ahead and calls out:

81 ARI 81
(shouting)
Hey, Elinor! Olive! HEY,OLIVE!!!

Olive turns her head, and Ari waves. She waves back, but can't hear him.

82 ARI (CONT'D) 82
(calling)
I DON'T SEE MZ. MOLE. DO YOU SEE HER ANYWHERE THAT WAY?

Elinor and Olive look over at him, mime "can't hear you." as they walk closer to the tree where Ms. Mole is hiding.

83 ELINOR 83
(shouting)
WHAT?

84 ARI 84
I SAID, HAVE YOU SEEN MZ. MOLE??

Suddenly, Mz. Mole pops up from behind the tree.

85 MZ. MOLE 85
Boo! Is somebody looking for me?

86 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 86
(surprised laugh)

87 OLIVE 87
Mz. Mole! We've been looking all over for you! How did you find us?

88 MZ. MOLE 88
(laughs)
Oh, it was easy. I could hear you! We Moles have great hearing, especially for loud things, like little bats.

She glances affectionately at Ari running to join them.

89 ARI 89
Like me!

90 OLIVE 90
You left your glasses in the classroom, Mz. Mole, so we wanted to bring them to you!

91 MZ. MOLE 91
Why, thank you! That's very kind of you to track me all the way to the park!

Olive hands her the glasses. Mz. Mole wipes them and puts them on.

MZ. MOLE'S POV - things are still a bit fuzzy - not perfect.

92 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 92
Ah, that's a bit better!

93 OLIVE 93
Can you see really well now, Mz. Mole?

94 MZ. MOLE 94
No, my glasses help me see better, but not perfectly. And that's okay. Do you know why?

95 ARI 95
Why?

96 MZ. MOLE 96
Moles like me don't need strong eyes. We live in dark tunnels, so we also use our noses, and our ears, and our paws to get around.

97 ELINOR 97
Ooh - now we know! You used your nose to smell the loaf of bread, and you used your hands feel the fruit to tell them apart!

98 OLIVE 98
And you used your ears to hear us and find us in the park!

99 MZ. MOLE 99
Very good! I'm glad you understand.

Mz. Mole sings a ditty, over which we see clips of her getting around and doing her errands - using her nose in the bakery, using her hands to pick the fruit she wants and her ears to find the kids in the park.

100 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 100
(singing)
*We use our eyes to see,*
*But we have other senses too--*
*Smell and touch and sound,*
*All help us get around.*

*We have a nose to smell,*
*so we can tell,*
*If we're sniffing bread*
*Or a taco shell.*

*Bumpy, smooth or soft?*
*Touch tells us how things feel,*
*We can tell which fruit is which,*
*and find a yummy meal.*

*We listen with our ears,*
*there are many sounds to hear,*
*We can tell if our friends' voices,*
*are far away or near!*

*In this great big world,*
*There is more than meets the eye,*
*Smell and touch and sound,*
*All help us get around.*

BACK TO SCENE. The kids and Mz. Mole are now back at her picnic blanket.

101 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 101
And now let's have a picnic!

The kids help Mz. Mole set the food items out.

102 ARI 102
Oooh, I loove a picnic. "Taste" is my favorite sense to use!

While Mz. Mole has her back turned towards the bag, Ari sits and reaches for some of the fruit in the bag.

103 MZ. MOLE 103
Ah-ah, Ari! Let's wait for everyone to sit down first.

104 ARI 104
(reacting to being caught)
Eep!

105 ELINOR 105
Wait, Mz. Mole - how did you know Ari was reaching for the fruit?

106 OLIVE 106
Did you see, smell or hear Ari?

107 MZ. MOLE 107
Oh, I don't need my eyes, nose or ears to know that Ari is always hungry! I just use my <u>head</u>!

Mz. Mole taps her temple. They all <SFX: ELINOR, OLIVE, ARI, Mz. MOLE LAUGH> as they begin the picnic.

IRIS OUT:

**SEGMENT 2.**

**1. EXT PARK - DAY**

Open on Elinor, Olive and Ari standing around looking expectantly. Mr Dog walks by.

108 OLIVE 108
Mr Dog, we're looking for Señor Tapir.

Mr Dog sniffs the air and smiles.

109 MR DOG 109
I can help! I have a special way to find my friends. Watch this trick.

Mr Dog pulls out a blindfold.

110 MR DOG (CONT'D) 110
Now mix yourselves up.

The kids shuffle their positions. Mr. Dog then leans down and sniffs (at a distance) each one. <SFX: SNIFF, SNIFF> then he points.

111 MR DOG (CONT'D) 111
Olive..Elinor..Ari

Mr Dog turns his nose toward a small bush behind the kids

112 MR DOG (CONT'D) 112
...and hello Señor Tapir!

Señor Tapir pops out from behind the small bush, with a big smile. <SFX: WHOAA WALLA AND LAUGHTER> as Mr. Dog takes off his blindfold.

Señor Tapir swings his guitar around from behind his back.

113 SEÑOR TAPIR 113
You know, Mr. Dog's fancy trick
reminds me of a scientist named
Alexandra Horowitz who wanted to
know how dogs can tell who is who.

**2. EXT PARK - DAY**

We see a family of elephants.

114 SENOR TAPIR 114
(singing)
Some animals use their eyes to tell
who is who
That one is Jim, that's Sally,
that's Lou

An elephant looks over at three other elephants who each wave their trunk as their names are called out

But dogs have themselves a powerful
nose
Could they use it to tell Mike from
Rose
Well, Alexandra Horowitz wondered
that too
So she set out to see how they tell
who is who

Alexandra (as a cat) walks up, smiles and points to the dog's nose.

So she designed an experiment and
found a surprise
A dog uses its nose like others use
their eyes

Smells waft into a dog’s nose, and it gets thought bubbles of the faces of the animals.

When a dog sniffs a hand, a leg or
a sleeve,
They smell so much more than you
would believe
Sniff sniff, who is Mike
Sniff sniff, who is Rose
Dogs figure it out by using their
nose!

Each one of us has our own unique
smell.
But the difference is small so it’s
quite hard to tell

But to a dog it’s not small, in
fact it’s quite clear
Mike is right there and Rose is
right here.

When a dog sniffs a hand, a leg or
some feet
They smell so much more than you
would believe
Sniff sniff, who is Mike
Sniff sniff, who is Rose
Dogs figure it out by using their
nose!

**3. EXT PARK - DAY**

Back in the park.

115 SEÑOR TAPIR 115
So you see, dogs use their sense of
smell to figure out who is who.

Mr Dog sniffs the air.

116 ELINOR 116
That nose sure is special

117 MR DOG 117
I sure think so. And what do you
think Ms. Gorilla?

The kids look confused when Ms. Gorilla pops out from behind a second small bush next to the first one. The kids all <SFX: LAUGH> at the sight of the large gorilla popping out from a small bush. *

Reference: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/22/science/dogs-smell-recognition.html