

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

No Need to Shout

By Kate Barris

Elinor's Question: How can I communicate in a way that is familiar when I can't talk?

Logline: Elinor is supposed to sing a song with her friends but she's lost her voice.

Curriculum Goals:

- SEP 1 - Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation
- SEP 4d - Talk about and reflect on what happened during an investigation or when solving a problem and why it might have happened (Elinor and her friends observe how other animals communicate without words and determine how they could use those strategies)

(LS8) Begin to understand that there are many different kinds of living things and how they may be the same or different: a. Observe and describe similarities and differences across different types of plants and animals. Elinor and her friends observe there are many different ways to communicate.

- (ND2). (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Systems'): Begin to understand that systems developed in our world often work in similar ways to systems found in the natural world. Elinor realizes that, just like in the natural world, she and her friends express themselves through actions and expressions, not just sounds/talking.

MAIN CHARACTERS: Olive, Ari, Elinor, Mr. Dog

SECONDARY: Mz. Mole, Ari's Mother

LINE COUNT - 113

FIRST DRAFT: FEB 15, 2019

SECOND DRAFT MAR 8th, 2019

POLISH MAR 27, 2019

ESTABLISHING SHOT: The forest near Elinor's house.

CLOSE: ELINOR'S FOOT as she steps onto a little tree stump.

Elinor taps the baton/twig on a nearby branch.

She starts to "conduct" with her baton and Ari and Olive start to sing. They do some little hand gestures that go along with the song. (Elinor's voice is always **loudest**, as she shouts with glee - in a pleasant non-irritating way.)

4

ARI/OLIVE/ ELINOR

(singing)

Ari/Olive - If you feel...

Elinor (gleefully shouted) **Glad!**

Ari/Olive - Let me know you're **glad**

All - And we'll be **glad** together!

Ari/Olive - If you feel..

Elinor (shouted, pleasantly) **Sad!**

Ari/Olive - Let me know you're **sad**.

All: And I'll try to make it
better.

Ari/Olive - If you feel..

Elinor (shouted) **Silly!**

Ari/Olive - Let me know you're
silly.

All - And we'll laugh and giggle
together.

Olive - So always let your **feelings**
out

Ari - **Smile** or **frown** or **giggle** and
shout

Elinor - 'Cause I can be a friend
for real

All - If I know just how you feel!
If I know just how you feeeeeeeel!

The three of them look very pleased.

5	OLIVE	5	
	Wow! Everyone's going to love our song.		* *
6	ARI	6	
	Yeah! I can't wait to sing it to Mz. Mole and the whole class tomorrow.		*
They get to a fork in the path.			
7	ELINOR	7	
	I want it to be perfect, so I'm going to practice and practice and practice .		*
8	OLIVE	8	
	Don't forget what Ms. Mole said: If you practice too much, you might lose your voice.		*
9	ARI	9	
	My dad lost his voice once. He couldn't talk for a whole day.		* *
10	ELINOR	10	
	I'm just so excited, I can't stop singing. See you tomorrow.		* *
11	ARI/OLIVE	11	
	Bye Elinor.		*

Elinor goes one way and Ari and Olive go the other, waving as they head home.

As Elinor walks, she sings **loudly**.

12	ELINOR	12	
	(singing)		
	<i>If you feel glad</i>		
	<i>Let me know you're glad</i>		
	<i>And we'll be glad together...</i>		

2. INT. ELINOR'S HOUSE - MONTAGE

We see Elinor in a series of snippets, singing **very loudly**.

1. Elinor at the dinner table, her parents amused; 2. Elinor at her desk colouring; 3. Elinor in the bathtub surrounded by bubbles; 4. Elinor brushing her teeth (so song is garbled); 5. Elinor poking her head through her pyjama top; 6.

Sitting in bed, flipping through a book; 7. Elinor lying in bed at night facing one way; 8. Elinor lying in bed facing the other way.

*Elinor: If you feel **sad...**
 Let me know you're **sad...**
 And I'll try to make it **better!**
 If you feel **silly...**
 Let me know you're **silly**
 And we'll laugh and giggle
together!
 So always let your **feelings** out
 Just **smile** or **frown** or **giggle** and
shout
 'Cause I can be a **friend** for **real**
 If I know just how you **feel!**
 If I know just how you **feel!***

*
*

Just before Elinor reaches the end of the song, we CUT to a WIDE SHOT of the house at NIGHT, as the last light goes out and her SINGING FADES.

Then, there's the first pink of sunrise and it's morning.

3. EXT. OUTSIDE ELINOR'S HOUSE - MORNING

Olive and Ari are at the path to Elinor's house.

13	ARI	13
	Race ya to the door.	*

They both run up to the door, and get to the door, knocking at the same time. After a beat, the door opens and Elinor comes out.

14	ARI (CONT'D)	14
	Hi Elinor! Are you ready to sing our song in class today?	

15	ELINOR	15
	(croaks)	

16	OLIVE	16
	What's wrong with your voice?	

17	ARI	17
	Do you have a cold?	

Elinor shakes her head "no".

18 OLIVE 18
Then why does your voice sound
scratchy like that? *

Elinor shrugs.

19 ARI 19
Wait a second. Did you practice our
song all night?

Elinor shrugs and then nods, slightly apologetically. Olive suddenly realizes what's happened.

20 OLIVE 20
Ah! You practiced so much you lost
your voice! *

Elinor shrugs and nods again, a bit more apologetically.

21 ARI 21
What about our song? We told Mz.
Mole we'd sing it today. *

Elinor, Ari and Olive look concerned.

22 OLIVE 22
We can't sing the song without you.
We made it up to sing **together**.

23 ARI 23
Right. If you don't sing, we don't
sing. *

24 ELINOR 24
(hardly any voice) Sorry.

Olive and Ari don't want her to feel bad.

25 ARI 25
If you lost your voice from all
that practicing, maybe you just
need to give it a rest.

26 OLIVE 26
Yeah. Maybe if you don't talk for a
while, it'll be okay by the time we
get to school.

Ari looks concerned. *

27 ARI 27
Speaking of time - we better get to
school. Let's go! *

4. EXT. MR. DOG'S FRONT YARD - A LITTLE LATER

As they skip along together, they meet up with MR. DOG, who is outside his house doing some yard work.

28 ARI 28
Look! There's Mr. Dog!

29 OLIVE 29
Good morning, Mr. Dog!

They group around him, with Olive on one side, Elinor on the other side and Ari nearer his rear end.

30 MR. DOG 30
Good morning, kids! How nice to
see you!

ANGLE ON: Mr. Dog's tail is wagging so vigorously that he keeps hitting Ari with it (Mr. Dog doesn't realize it).

31 ARI 31
 (giggles) Mr. Dog! Your tail is
 tickling me!

Mr. Dog looks at his back end and chuckles.

32 MR. DOG 32

Oops! (chuckle) Sorry Ari! I can't help it! Wagging our tail is the way we dogs show we're happy. And I'm happy to see you!

33 OLIVE 33
We're happy to see you too.

34 ARI 34
Yeah. Except we don't have a tail
to wag.

Elinor smiles and nods. Mr. Dog reacts with curiosity.

35 MR. DOG 35
You're awfully quiet today Elinor.

Elinor tries but nothing comes out, so Olive helps out.

36 OLIVE 36

We made up a new song and Elinor
practiced it so much last night,
her voice got tired.

ARI
Yeah, and we're supposed to sing it
for the whole class, but we can't
unless Elinor gets her voice back.

Mr. Dog's ears droop and his tail stops wagging as he turns to Elinor.

38 MR. DOG 38
Elinor! After all that practicing,
you must be disappointed you can't
sing your song.

As Elinor nods sadly, Olive notices Mr. Dog's ears droop and Ari notices Mr. Dog's tail has stopped hitting him.

39 ARI 39
Hey. Your tail stopped wagging and
tickling me.

Olive points to Mr. Dog's ears.

40 OLIVE 40
And your ears went down too. Is
that because you're sad for Elinor?

Mr. Dog raises and lowers his ears and the kids watch in fascination.

41 MR. DOG 41
My ears do show how I'm feeling.
But I don't feel sad for Elinor. I
just understand how she feels.

42	OLIVE	42
	And we understand how you feel!	
	Even when you don't say anything,	*
	everyone knows how you're feeling	*
	because they see your tail and	*
	ears.	*

Mr. Dog's tail wags.

43 MR. DOG 43
Those are two ways we dogs *
communicate, Olive. *

44 OLIVE 44
As Elinor would say, That's soooo
interesting!

They all respond with smiles.

45 MR. DOG 45
Well, I'd better get back to my
work. I hope you all get to perform
your song - one way or another! *

Elinor smiles and waves to Mr. Dog.

46 ARI/OLIVE 46
Bye Mr. Dog!/Thanks!

As they start to head off, Elinor pauses, clearly thinking.

5. EXT. CLOSER TO SCHOOL - A LITTLE LATER

Elinor, Olive and Ari are almost at school when they hear...

47 ARI'S MOM (O.S.) 47
Ari! Ari! You forgot your lunch!

They turn and see ARI'S MOM catching up to them, with his
lunchbox. In her other arm she's got Ari's baby sister MIRI.
Ari puts his palm to his forehead, in an "Oh man!" Gesture.

48 ARI 48
Whoa! I forgot my lunch? How does
that even happen?

49 ARI'S MOM 49
You were so excited about singing
your song. Are you two as excited
about the song as Ari is?

Ari, Olive and Elinor look slightly disappointed and Ari's
Mom reacts.

50 OLIVE 50
We may not be able to sing our song
today. Elinor lost her voice.

Elinor shrugs sadly, and Ari's mom looks concerned.

51 ARI 51
She's giving her voice a rest. We
hope maybe she'll get it back
before the end of the day. *

Ari's Mom gives Elinor a reassuring look.

52 ARI'S MOM 52
That's a good plan, Elinor.

Just then Ari's little sister starts fussing, <GURGLING> and
waving her hands up and down. Olive reacts.

53 OLIVE 53
Oh! What's wrong with baby Miri?

Ari smiles and waves his arms the same way she just did.

54 ARI 54
She's just hungry. She always goes
like this when she's hungry. Don't
you, Little Sis. (He gurgles just
like her) *

The baby <SFX: BABY GIGGLES> Then the baby starts rubbing her
eyes.

55 ARI (CONT'D) 55
And when she rubs her eyes, it
means she's tired, right Mom?

56 ARI'S MOM 56
That's right. I'd better get her
home for her snack and a nap! I
hope Elinor's voice gets better in
time to sing your song. Bye! *

Ari's Mom gives Ari a kiss on the head and then hurries off.
Olive turns to Ari.

57 OLIVE 57
Wow. You sure know a lot about
babies, Ari. *

58 ARI 58
I just know a lot about my baby
sister. I can tell what she wants,
even though she can't talk yet.

59 OLIVE 59
The same way we could tell how Mr.
Dog felt because his tail was
wagging and his ears drooped down. *

As Elinor is taking in the conversation between Ari and
Olive, we can see from her expression that she's got an
idea. She starts tugging Olive's arm.

60 OLIVE (CONT'D) 60
What is it Elinor? Did you get your
voice back?

Elinor shakes her head no, then points to her temple.

61 ARI 61
Do you have a headache?

She shakes her head no again. Then she holds one finger up, in a kind of "aha!" gesture and has a big smile.

62 ARI (CONT'D) 62
Your finger hurts?

Elinor shakes her head, points to her temple then draws a circle above her head, kind of like a thought bubble.

63	OLIVE	63
	You have an idea??	

Elinor nods her head vigorously.

64 ARI 64
All right! What's your idea?

Elinor points to them, then acts like she's singing.

65 ARI (CONT'D) 65
What's she doing?

Elinor tries again, this time doing some of the hand gestures that they did earlier when they sang the song.

66 OLIVE 66
Oh! You want us to sing our song?

Elinor nods vigorously.

67 ARI 67
But we already said we don't want
to sing the song without you.

Elinor points two fingers at Ari and Olive's eyes then to herself.

68 OLIVE 68
You want us to look at you?

Elinor nods then smiles a great big smile, and points at her smiling mouth.

69 OLIVE (CONT'D) 69
You're happy?

Elinor nods, then makes a sad face and points at her mouth.

[illegible]

Olive suddenly starts to smile.

71 OLIVE 71
I do! We can tell how Elinor is
feeling by the look on her face.

Ari still isn't getting it.

72 ARI 72
... Okay?

Elinor smiles mischievously and wags her butt. Olive gets it
right away but Ari is still puzzled.

73 OLIVE 73
Ah! Just like we could tell Mr. Dog
was happy when he wagged his tail!

Elinor smiles and nods, and then gestures as if she's holding
cradling a baby, then rubs her eyes the way Ari's sister did
earlier. Ari's face lights up.

74 ARI 74
And the way little Miri let us know
she was tired by rubbing her eyes. *

75 OLIVE 75
Exactly! That's soooo interesting! *

Elinor jumps up and down happily - she knows Olive is on the
same track as she is.

76 ARI 76
Wait, I don't get it. *

Olive ushers them toward the school.

77 OLIVE 77
Elinor's figured out a way to sing
our song even if she doesn't have
her voice! C'mon, I'll explain on
the way! *

6. INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

ON MZ. MOLE: Who looks a little surprised as Elinor, Ari and
Olive rush up to her. *

78 ARI/OLIVE 78
Mz. Mole! Mz. Mole! *

79 MZ. MOLE 79
Oh! Good morning, my fine singing
students. *

(MORE)

MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)

Are you all ready to sing your new Feelings Song for the class?

The kids excitedly tell their story.

80 ARI 80

Well, we thought we weren't going to be able to sing our song.

*

81 OLIVE 81

Because Elinor practiced so much
that she lost her voice.

Elinor nods and gestures that she can't talk.

82 ARI 82

And we didn't want to sing The Feelings Song without Elinor.

*

Mz. Mole nods, understanding.

*

83 OLIVE 83

But then we made some observations.

*

84 MZ . MOLE 84

You did? Good for you! What did you observe?

*

Elinor repeats her wagging tail motion, imitating Mr. Dog.
Mz. Mole looks confused.

*

85 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 85

Um ... I'm not sure I understand.

*

86 OLIVE 86

We observed that when Mr. Dog wagged his tail, that meant he was happy.

All three wag their butts and Mz. Mole <chuckles>.

*

87 OLIVE (CONT'D) 87

So even if he didn't talk to us, we could tell how he felt.

88 ART 88

Yeah, and then we observed my little sister and I knew she was hungry because when she's hungry, she always does *this*...

The three of them wave their arms and Mz. Mole laughs.

*

89 ARI (CONT'D) 89
 So we knew how **she** felt.

90 OLIVE 90
 And that gave Elinor ...

All three of them point to their temple.

91 ARI/OLIVE 91
 An idea!

92 ARI 92
 Even if you can't use your voice,
 there are ways to show your friends
 how you feel, or what you're
 thinking.

93 OLIVE 93 *
 Yeah. By the way your face looks or
 your body moves. So Elinor helped
 us realize we can sing our song...

94 ARI/OLIVE 94
 With Elinor!

Elinor smiles and points to her smiling face!

7. INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Elinor, Ari and Olive in front of the class with Mz. Mole. *

95 MZ. MOLE 95 *
 And now, Ari, Olive and Elinor are
 going to present The Feelings Song!

96 OLIVE 96
 Ari and I are going to sing, but
 Elinor's going to show the feelings
 instead of singing them.

97 ARI 97
 Yeah and if you can tell what she's
 feeling, you can join in!

Elinor conducts as she did earlier. NOTE ON THE SONG: Would
 be great to have other kids voices shout the emotions (glad,
 sad, silly) depending on the pairing of this Ep.

98 ARI/OLIVE 98
 (singing)
 Ari/Olive - *If you feel...*

Elinor shows a big smily face and puts her hands on her hips. *

We see the kids looking at Elinor and trying to understand her expression.

99	SALLY	99	
	She looks... happy?		
100	MARY	100	*
	Or glad!		*
101	ARI	101	*
	That's right!		*

They start again, and Elinor puts on her happy face again.

NOTE: It would be best if we get extra kid voices to shout the one shouted word. Not sure how to put this in the song.

	Ari/Olive - <i>If you feel...</i>	*
	Ari/Olive/Kids TBD (shouted) Glad!	
	Ari/Olive (singing) <i>Let me know</i>	
	<i>you're glad</i>	
	<i>And we'll be glad together!</i>	
	Ari/Olive - <i>If you feel..</i>	

Elinor makes a sad face.

On the kids observing Elinor's expression.

102	MARY	102
	Now she's sad.	
103	OLIVE	103
	Yes!	
	Ari/Olive - <i>If you feel...</i>	
	Ari/Olive/Kids TBD(shouted) Sad!	
	Ari/Olive (Singing)- <i>Let me know</i>	
	<i>you're sad.</i>	
	<i>And I'll try to make it better.</i>	
	<i>If you feel..</i>	

Elinor makes a silly face.

	Ari/Olive/ Kids TBD(shouted) Silly!
	Ari/Olive - <i>Let me know you're</i>
	<i>silly.</i>
	<i>And we'll laugh and giggle</i>
	<i>together.</i>

Elinor dances expressively, miming what they're singing (e.g.	*
She opens her arms out on "Let your feelings out") .	*

*Olive - So always let your feelings
out
Ari - Smile or frown or giggle and
shout
Ari/Olive - 'Cause I can be a
friend for real
If I know just how you feel!
If I know just how you feeeeeeeel!*

The class reacts with great <SF: APPLAUSE>

104	MZ. MOLE	104	*
	That was a wonderful! Thank you		*
	for showing us there are a lot of		*
	ways to communicate!		*

105	OLIVE	105	*
	I think our song was even better		*
	with Elinor showing the feelings.		

106	ARI	106	
	Me too. What do you think Elinor?		

Elinor tries to speak.

107	ELINOR	107	
	(croaky but better than earlier) I		
	feel ...		

Then she makes a great big smiley face and wiggles her butt
like they did earlier.

108	ARI	108	
	You don't have to say how you feel		
	Elinor - we can tell. You feel		
	very...		

109	OLIVE	109	
	Very...		

110	ARI/OLIVE	110	
	Happy!		

THE END