

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EP 156 The Litterbug

By: Michael Foulke

Elinor's Question: Who is the Animal Town litterbug?

Logline: Elinor and her friends help Mrs. Hippo, the Animal Town custodian try to find a litter bug, who is leaving trash all over Animal Town.

Curriculum Goals:

ES3: Understand that things people do to live comfortably can affect the world around them, but they can make choices that reduce their impacts on the land, water, air, and other living things: b. Demonstrate an awareness of and the ability to discuss in simple terms the need for conservation, recycling, and respect for the environment c. Participate in simple activities to care for the environment (Elinor and her friends pick up the litter in Animal town and the determine to find the source.)

SEP4: Analyzing and interpreting data a. Collect, describe, and record observations in greater detail and in various ways b. Use the 5 senses and simple tools to gather and record data c. Record observations to describe patterns and/or relationships in the natural and designed world(s) in order to answer scientific questions and solve problems. d. Talk about and reflect on what happened during an investigation or when solving a problem, and why it might have happened

MAINS: Elinor, Ari, Olive

SECONDARY: Mrs. Hippo, Mrs. Llama, Mr. Raccoon

LOCATIONS: Animal Town Main Street, Park, Mrs. Llama's Restaurant

PROPS: Golf Cart, Trash, Trash Bags, Old Food, Compost, Hose

Outline: October 31, 2019

First Draft: November 28, 2019

We see the lovely Animal Town Park on a beautiful spring Day. All is quiet, until the voices of ELINOR and ARI can be heard in the distance.

8 ARI 8
But... there's no litter in the park.

9 MRS. HIPPO 9
That's because I already cleaned up
this part of the park, but I still
have lots more to do. Keeping Animal
Town healthy and beautiful is a big
job, I'm afraid.

10 ELINOR 10
And an important one. I wish we could
help.

11 OLIVE 11
Me too, but we're just kids. What
could we do?

As Elinor and Olive think, Mrs. Hippo steps up with some
garbage bags for the kids.

12 MRS. HIPPO 12
Plenty! Anyone can pitch in to keep
Animal Town clean. Even the smallest
things help!

13 ELINOR 13
Really? Like what?

Off Elinor's curious expression, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

2. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK -- DAY

Now holding litter bags, the kids walk around the park with
Mrs. Hippo, picking up any litter they find on the ground and
putting it in big, paper bags. (NOTE: The litter is colourful
and not gross).

14 ARI 14
Got one!

Ari picks up a paper cup and throws it in his bag. As they
walk, they find random candy wrappers or cans around.

15 ELINOR 15
Where did all this litter come from?

16 OLIVE 16
Yeah? Everyone loves Animal Town. Why
would they want to leave litter
around like this?

17 MRS. HIPPO 17
Even towns as wonderful as Animal
Town have litter. Sometimes, people
drop litter accidentally or it falls
out of litter cans or even get blown
around by the wind...

Suddenly, a paper bag blows through frame and Olive catches
it with her trunk.

18 OLIVE (O.S.) 18
I see what you mean.

As Elinor picks up a candy wrapper off the ground and puts it
in her bag, she looks around and doesn't see any more litter.

19 ELINOR 19
It looks good around here, Mrs.
Hippo. Where to next?

20 MRS. HIPPO 20
Actually, Elinor, we're all done
cleaning up the park! You kids were
such a huge help, we finished much
earlier than I planned.

21 ARI 21
Aww... but I really liked helping
clean up Animal Town.

22 MRS. HIPPO 22
Don't worry, Ari. There's always
plenty to do. But for now, since we
finished so early, I thought I might
take my helpers on a ride around town
on the cart! What do you think?

The kids all celebrate!

23 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 23
Yeah! / Woo hoo! / Helping is
awesome!

As everyone puts their bags on the back of the golf cart and
then hops on, we:

CUT TO:

3. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN - VARIOUS (MONTAGE)

We see a musical montage of the ecstatic kids (with seat-
belts) riding around Animal Town with Mrs. Hippo.

- They zig-zag through trees in the park.
- Drive down the sidewalks in town, past Mr. Raccoon, who waves to the excited kids, who wave right back.
- They go past the soccer field, where kids play in the BG.
- Finally, they are back in the park, <LAUGHING> as they zoom around the paths of the park, leaning into each other with every turn!

24 OLIVE 24
(joyful)
Whoa!

25 ARI 25
Whooooaaaaa!

Finally, Mrs. Hippo stops the cart, they all stare in disbelief.

26 ELINOR 26
(shocked)
Whoa.

4. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK -- DAY

As the music fades, we see what the kids see: the park now has more litter than ever, with pieces of litter here and there all around the park!

27 ELINOR 27
What happened?

28 OLIVE 28
I don't know, but there's more litter here than there was before.

29 ELINOR 29
But we were only gone for a few minutes. Where did it all come from?

CU a piece of litter on the ground as Ari steps into frame and picks it up, examining it closely. He seems very serious all of the sudden.

30 ARI 30
There's only one explanation for how all this litter got here so fast...
(dramatic pose)
Animal Town has a litterbug.

31 ELINOR 31
A litterbug? But... who would do such
a thing?

Olive then steps up in dramatic fashion.

32 OLIVE 32
Dun, dun, duuuun... it's a MYSTERY!

Elinor shakes her head, refusing to believe that.

33 ELINOR 33
No. I don't think so. Everyone loves
Animal Town. Whoever did this must've
done it by accident.

34 ARI 34
Maybe, but if that's true, they might
still be doing it and not know.

35 OLIVE 35
Ari's right. We need to figure out
where all this litter came from,
fast.

Meanwhile, a sad Mrs. Hippo looks over the park as a lizard
walks by, inspecting a piece of litter, then moving on.

36 ELINOR 36
Are you okay, Mrs. Hippo?

37 MRS. HIPPO 37
Yeah, I just wish that whoever did
this knew that they aren't just
leaving some litter on the ground.
This park is a home to lots of
creatures like this little guy.

38 OLIVE 38
Don't worry, Mrs. Hippo. We'll help
you clean up again.

39 MRS. HIPPO 39
No, I can clean this up, it won't
take long. But I think you kids are
right. Whoever did this couldn't have
done it on purpose. You need to go
find them and make sure they know
that they're harming Animal Town.

40 ELINOR 40
You got it, Mrs. Hippo. We'll find
out where this litter is coming from.
(MORE)

ELINOR (CONT'D)
(then, to Olive)
So... where should we start?

They look around and see a trail of litter leading to town.

41 OLIVE 41
If you wanna find out where the
litter is coming from, follow the
litter. Let's go!

As the kids follow the trail of litter, they pick up each
piece and put it in a bag as they head to town.

DISSOLVE TO:

5. ANIMAL TOWN MAIN STREET -- DAY

As the kids arrive on Main Street in town, they continue to
pick up litter, which still lines the sidewalk.

42 ARI 42
Looks like the litterbug definitely
came this way.

43 ELINOR 43
We just rode through here with Mrs.
Hippo and the streets were clean!

44 OLIVE 44
That means that the litter might be
coming from somewhere close. Let's
keep an eye out.

Suddenly, the kids stop as Mz. Llama walks out of her shop
with a big bag of litter and dumps it right into her garden!

45 ARI 45
Look, Mz. Llama has litter.

46 OLIVE 46
And she's dumping her litter... in
her garden? You don't think...?

47 ELINOR 47
No, Mz. Llama would never dump litter
on the ground. Come on.

6. EXT. BACK OF MZ. LLAMA'S RESTAURANT -- DAY

As Mz. Llama grabs another bag of litter, she dumps three
old, half-eaten tomatoes into a bin.

As each tomato hits the bin with an SFX: PLOP, PLOP, PLOP, our three kids' heads each pop up nearby, one by one in unison with the PLOPS.

48 OLIVE 48
What is she doing? Is that a litter
can?

49 ELINOR 49
I don't know.

As the curious kids watch nearby, Mz. Llama grabs another bag of litter and goes to dump it on the ground in her garden again, but the kids jump up.

50 ELINOR (CONT'D) 50
Whatcha doing, Mz. Llama?

51 ARI 51
Yeah, just, I don't know... dumping
some litter on the ground?

Mz. Llama turns and smiles at the kids.

52 MZ. LLAMA 52
Oh, goodness gracious, no. This isn't
litter, it's compost. See?

Mz. Llama shows the kids the bag, which is filled with rich, dark soil looking material.

53 OLIVE 53
That kinda looks like dirt.

54 MZ. LLAMA 54
Well, that's where it's going, Olive.
I use compost in my garden to help
all my fruits and vegetables grow.
You kids wanna help spread it around?

Mz. Llama dumps the bag of compost into the robust garden.

55 ARI 55
Hmm... sounds messy. I'm in.

56 ELINOR 56
Every little bit helps, right?

As the kids get down in the garden and spread the compost around on the soil. Suddenly, Olive feels something and picks it out, holding up an apple core.

57 OLIVE 57
Uh, Mz. Llama... I think there's an
old apple in your compost.

Mz. Llama grabs the apple from Olive as she and the kids walk
over to her compost bin.

58 MZ. LLAMA 58
Actually, Olive, that old apple core
is a part of the compost.

The kids look into the compost bin to see lots of old fruit
and vegetables in various stages of decomposition.

59 ELINOR 59
So that compost is just old food?

60 MZ. LLAMA 60
That's right, Elinor. Whenever I have
leftover fruits or vegetables or
bread from my restaurant, I always
compost it rather than throw it away.
Over time, all this food will break
down and turn into...

Mz. Llama opens the bottom of her compost bin and more dark,
rich compost comes out.

61 ARI 61
Compost! Whoa, that's like magic.

62 MZ. LLAMA 62
(laughing)
Yep, compost magic is a great way to
reuse old scraps of food and help
grow new food.

63 ARI 63
So... does composting mean you make
less litter?

64 MZ. LLAMA 64
It sure does.

65 ARI 65
Phew... And here, I thought you might
be the litterbug.

66 MZ. LLAMA 66
The what?

67 ELINOR 67
Litterbug. Someone is dumping litter
on the ground all over town.

68 OLIVE 68
We want to find out who it is and let
them know how bad that is for Animal
Town.

69 MZ. LLAMA 69
Oh, no. Well, I'm sure whoever did
that just made a mistake, but it
certainly wasn't me. I always reduce,
reuse and recycle. After all, we all
have to do our part.

70 OLIVE 70
It's up to all of us to take care of
Animal Town.

71 ELINOR 71
We should get back to finding out
where this litter is coming from.
Bye, Mz. Llama.

72 MZ. LLAMA 72
Bye, kids!

The kids walk out and Mz. Llama kneels in her garden as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

7. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN MAIN STREET -- DAY

As the kids walk away, they spot more litter down the street
a bit, leading away from Mz. Llama's shop.

73 ELINOR 73
There's more litter on the ground.

74 ARI 74
Let's go!

The kids pick up the remaining litter and look around, but
that's everything. The street is once again clean. Olive
picks up the last piece of litter and holds it up.

75 OLIVE 75
Well, it looks like we got it all.
This is the last piece of litter.

The kids look up and they are standing in front of Mr.
Raccoon's shop.

76 OLIVE (CONT'D) 76
The trail ended at Mr. Raccoon's
shop. Maybe he saw something?

ARI
Wait... look.

As the kids go to enter the shop, Mr. Raccoon exits out the back of the shop, carrying a bag of litter!

OLIVE
(gasp)
He's got a bag of litter. A BIG bag of litter!

ELINOR
No... Mr. Raccoon couldn't be the litterbug! He loves Animal Town more than just about anybody I know. There must be a reason he has all that litter.

ARI
Let's go ask him.

As Ari turns the corner, he is suddenly sprayed with water, causing him to turn around as water drips off of him.

ARI (CONT'D)
He's also wasting water.

A very apologetic Mr. Raccoon then runs over to the kids.

MR. RACCOON
I am so sorry, Ari! I didn't even see you kids there! What can I do for you?

ELINOR
We wanted to ask you about that big bag of litter you were carrying.

MR. RACCOON
Oh, you mean this? Can you believe someone left all this litter on the sidewalks? It took me quite a while to pick all this up.

OLIVE
Well, that explains why the trail ends at Mr. Raccoon's shop.

ARI
Hold on, what about your hose? Isn't using all that water bad for Animal Town?

87 MR. RACCOON 87
It's usually bad to use too much
water. But this water comes from my
rain barrel.

Mr. Raccoon gestures to a rain barrel that the hose is
connected to.

88 ELINOR 88
A rain barrel?

89 MR. RACCOON 89
Yes, it collects water every time it
rains and I use that water to wash my
sidewalks or water my grass so that
I'm not wasting any water. After all,
we all have to do our part to keep
Animal Town healthy.

Meanwhile, Ari is relieved that Mr. Raccoon is clearly not
the litterbug.

90 ARI 90
We sure do.

Suddenly, Olive spots another piece of litter on the
sidewalk.

91 OLIVE 91
Hey, there's a new piece of litter.

92 ARI 92
But the sidewalk was just clean. That
means it must be...

93 ELINOR 93
The litterbug! See you later, Mr.
Raccoon! We have to figure out where
all this litter is coming from.

94 MR. RACCOON 94
Good luck, kids. Great job keeping
Animal Town clean.

As the kids run off, they pick up the litter from in front of
Mr. Raccoon's store, then see a few more up the street.

95 ELINOR 95
The litter is coming from that way!

Suddenly, another piece of litter flutters down the street
from around the corner. The kids follow it around the corner
just in time to see another piece fall off of something and
onto the ground.

96 ARI 96
Oh, we're so close! Come on. We're
about to find out that the litterbug
is...

As the kids come around the next corner they see Mrs. Hippo driving the cart, then see a piece of litter fall off the back of the cart.

97 ELINOR 97
(confused)
Mrs. Hippo?

Mrs. Hippo turns to see the kids and stops the cart. When she stops, another piece of litter falls off because the litter bags aren't closed up properly, but Mrs. Hippo has no idea.

98 MRS. HIPPO 98
Oh, hey kids! I've been looking for
you. Did you figure out where all
that litter is coming from?

99 ELINOR 99
I think we did, Mrs. Hippo. It's
coming from... you.

Mrs. Hippo is in disbelief.

100 MRS. HIPPO 100
Me? But, what do you mean?!

Olive walks to the cart to show Mrs. Hippo the opened bags.

101 OLIVE 101
It looks like we didn't close the
litter bags properly, so when we
drove around town, the litter fell
out and went everywhere.

102 MRS. HIPPO 102
Oh, and here I thought I was helping
Animal Town when really I was
spreading more litter around.

103 ARI 103
It's okay, Mrs. Hippo. You're no
litterbug. You just made a mistake,
that's all. I make 'em all the time.

104 MRS. HIPPO 104
Thanks, Ari. I certainly won't let
this happen again, though. From now
on, these litter bags will be tied up
tight!

105 ELINOR 105
Way to go, Mrs. Hippo! We may not
always realize that the things we do
can affect our world in a bad way.

106 OLIVE 106
Yeah, but once we know the right way
to do things, we can all pitch in to
make our world cleaner.

107 MRS. HIPPO 107
Oh, you can say that again.

108 ELINOR 108
We will!

Elinor smiles as the music fades up and the ditty begins.
During the song, the kids demonstrate the various ways they
saw in the episode to help the environment.

109 ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE 109
*ELINOR: To keep your world nice and
green,
You just have to keep it clean,
Follow these steps and you will see
Doing your part is easy as can be.*

*OLIVE: When you're done with fruit
don't throw it away,
Compost that all night and day,
It makes less litter and that doesn't
hurt,
And compost really helps the dirt!*

*ARI: When watering plants don't use a
hose,
There's a better way that everyone
knows,
Catch some rain as it falls from the
sky,
And use that water when your plants
get dry!*

*ELINOR: Here's one more thing that
you can do,
To keep the world looking good as
new.
When you see litter laying on the
ground,
Throw it in the cans that are all
around!*

(MORE)

ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE (CONT'D)

*ALL: To keep your world nice and
green
You just have to keep it clean
Follow these steps and you will see
Doing your part is easy as can be!*

8. EXT. ANIMAL TOWN PARK -- DAY

As the song ends, the kids walk back through the very clean park with Mrs. Hippo.

110 MRS. HIPPO 110
 Thanks again, kids. You helped me
 clean up, and reminded me to keep my
 litter in the trash bag.

111 OLIVE 111
 No problem, Mrs. Hippo. We love to
 keep Animal Town clean.

112 ELINOR 112
 Yeah, because no matter how old you
 are, EVERYONE can do their part to
 keep Animal Town beautiful!

Just as Mrs. Hippo says that, a plastic milk bottle falls onto the ground right near Mrs. Hippo and the kids. As they look over, they see standing next to the milk bottle with a milk mustache. A sheepish Ari picks up the bottle and puts it in a nearby recycling bin.

113 ARI 113
 Don't worry, I'm doing my part too.

As the kids laugh, we:

FADE OUT.