

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EW163 More Than One Way

by Kate Barris

Elinor's Question: Are all spider webs the same?

Logline: Elinor, Olive and Ari want to make spiderwebs to decorate the classroom for Halloween, and they all think they know what a spider web looks like. But which one right?

Curriculum Goals:

LS8. Observe and describe similarities and differences across different types of plants and animals. (Elinor And her friends observe the different patterns of spiders' webs).

SEP2. Developing and using models

a. Represent observable, concrete objects, events, and findings in many different ways. (Elinor and her friends make models of different spider's webs).

Main Characters: Elinor, Olive, Ari, Mz. Mole

Incidental Characters: Other kids in the classroom

Backgrounds: Schoolyard, trees, shrubs

Props: Witch's hat, yarn glue, three different spiders, spider webs, ghostly sheet, other Halloween decorations.

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1. EXT. NEAR ELINOR'S HOUSE - DAY

It's a BEAUTIFUL FALL DAY. OPEN ON: An ORANGE leaf, wiggling on a branch as a breeze blows by. Then, the leaf detaches and FLUTTERS downward, drifting this way and that.

Below, we see Elinor, Ari and Olive on their way to school.

	ELINOR	
1	Are you scared?	1

	OLIVE	
2	Why should we be scared?	2

Elinor wiggles her fingers and tries to look "spooky".

	ELINOR	
3	'Cause it's almost Halloween. (using scary voice) That's when ghosts and goblins appear out of nowhere.	3

	ARI	
4	That doesn't scare me. Nothing scares me!	4

Just then THE LEAF lands right on Ari's head! <SFX: STARTLED SHOUT> Ari leaps into the air and ends up hanging from a tree.

Elinor and Olive <SFX: GIGGLE>. The leaf falls off Ari and Elinor picks it up to show him.

	ELINOR	
5	It was just a leaf, Ari.	5

Ari lets go and drops to the ground, trying to regain composure.

	ARI	
6	I knew that. I was just kidding.	6

They continue walking.

	OLIVE	
7	I love Halloween.	7

	ARI	
8	Me too.	8

Elinor stops and turns to the other two.

	ELINOR	
9	And you know what the best part of Halloween is, right?	9
	Ari and Olive <SFX: AGREEMENT WALLA>.	
	ELINOR (CONT'D)	
10	(confidently) The cool decorations.	10
	Ari and Olive look at each other, confused.	
	ARI	
11	Huh?	11
	OLIVE	
12	It's not the decorations.	12
	Ari shakes his head in agreement with Olive.	
	ARI	
13	Nuh-uh.	13
	OLIVE	
14	It's the costumes.	14
	Ari nods his head. Then stops and looks at Olive, surprised.	
	ARI	
15	Right... Wait. What?	15
	Ari looks at Olive, then Elinor like they've got two heads.	
	ARI (CONT'D)	
16	It's not the costumes or the decorations. It's the candy!	16
	ELINOR	
17	Okay, the candy is good, but what would Halloween be without all those cool, scary decorations - like jack-o-lanterns and ghosts?	17
	OLIVE	
18	But what about making a costume and going around the neighbourhood dressed like somebody else?	18
	ARI	
19	I'm sorry, but costumes are fun and scary decorations are nice, but Halloween is all about the candy. Am I right?	19

OLIVE
 20 Can't we all be right? 20

ARI
 21 I don't know. 21

ELINOR
 22 Well *I* know we'll be late for 22
 school if we don't hurry. I can't
 wait to see what Mz. Mole's doing
 for Halloween.

<SFX: EXCITED WALLA> as they race off.

2. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - MOMENTS LATER

The kids race into the schoolyard.

ELINOR
 23 I still say scary decorations are 23
 the best part of Halloween.

ARI
 24 And I still say I'm not scared of 24
 anything.

Suddenly Olive has a surprised look on her face as she looks toward the school.

OLIVE
 25 What's that? 25

They look at the window and see a silhouette of a witch!

ARI
 26 A witch!! 26

He leaps behind Olive and peeks out from behind as they all stare at the window.

Then, MZ. MOLE opens the curtain and they see that she's wearing a WITCH'S HAT. She smiles and waves at the kids.

ELINOR
 27 (giggle) It's just Mz. Mole. She 27
 loves Halloween too.

Ari comes out from behind Olive, trying to look cool.

ARI
 28 I knew it was her. I was just being 28
 funny.

Elinor and Olive smile, amused by their friend.

3. INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Elinor, Olive and Ari run into the classroom. Other kids are already there, working on their own projects, and there are already a few DECORATIONS up. Mz. Mole, who is still wearing her witch's hat greets them. <SFX: GREETINGS>

	MZ. MOLE	
29	Good Morning. Welcome to Halloween Headquarters. We're making decorations for the classroom. Want to help?	29

	OLIVE	
30	Sure!	30

	ARI	
31	I'm in.	31

	ELINOR	
32	Halloween decorations are my favourite thing.	32

	MZ. MOLE	
33	Well, it's one of the three things that make Halloween fun - along with costumes and candy, of course.	33

Elinor, Olive and Ari look at each other in surprise.

	OLIVE	
34	See? We were all right.	34

	ELINOR	
35	What can we make?	35

Mz. Mole peers into the cupboard. Then she spots something.

	MZ. MOLE	
36	Let's see... Ah! What about spiderweb decorations?	36

Elinor, Olive and Ari respond with enthusiastic <SFX: WALLA> as Mz. Mole pulls out some supplies - BALLS OF YARN AND GLUE.

	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	
37	Here are some supplies. Do you all know what a spiderweb looks like?	37

The kids dive into the supplies, pulling out yarn.

38	ELINOR	38
	Sure.	
39	OLIVE	39
	I think so.	
40	ARI	40
	I do.	
41	MZ. MOLE	41
	Okay, let's see what you come up with.	

Elinor and Olive start working on their webs. We see Elinor laying down criss-crossed pieces of yarn and then gluing longer pieces of yarn around in kind of a circle.

42	ELINOR	42
	I'm using black yarn for my spider web. That'll make it scarier looking.	

We see Olive laying down four pieces of yarn joined at one end and then laying pieces of yarn across them to make a triangular shape.

43	OLIVE	43
	I'm using gold, so it looks like it's in the sun.	

Ari has his back turned to them. We see his arms flying as he works on his web, but we can't see what he's doing.

44	ELINOR	44
	What colour is your spider web going to be, Ari?	

Ari still has his back to them, but he's not working on his web anymore.

45	ARI	45
	Not "going to be." I'm done.	

Elinor and Olive look surprised. Ari turns around to show a big messy tangle of yarn.

46	ARI (CONT'D)	46
	Ta da! A spiderweb.	

Elinor and Olive look at each other, puzzled.

47	ELINOR	47
	Mmm, I don't think a spiderweb looks like that.	

ARI
48 It doesn't? What's it look like 48
then?

Elinor turns to her project and holds up her version, which is not quite finished but we can see the shape - it's a TRADITIONAL ORB WEB.

ELINOR
49 Like this. Kind of. I think. 49

Ari looks puzzled and Olive looks surprised.

OLIVE
50 Mmmm. I think a spiderweb looks 50
like this.

She holds up her version, which has strands of yarn attached in a triangle shape, like a TRIANGLE WEB.

Ari shakes his head and holds up his mess of yarn, which looks like a TANGLE WEB.

ARI
51 Uhn uhn. It's like this. Isn't it? 51

The three of them look confused. Mz. Mole comes over.

MZ. MOLE
52 How are my spiderweb builders 52
doing?

ELINOR
53 Not so well, Mz. Mole. Can you tell 53
us which one looks like a real
spiderweb?

As the kids show her their webs, Mz. Mole pauses to think.

MZ. MOLE
54 They all seem like good models - 54
that's an example you make of
something real. But, hmmm ... I'm
trying to remember what a REAL
spiderweb looks like.

The kids react with realization.

OLIVE
55 I haven't seen one for a while. 55

ARI
56 It's been like forever. 56

Elinor leads the way outside.

	ELINOR	
57	It's time to go on a spiderweb hunt.	57

	OLIVE	
58	Then we'll know how to make one that looks like the real thing.	58

<SFX: EXCITED WALLA> As they head out. Mz. Mole watches and
<SFX: CHUCKLES>.

4. EXT. SCHOOLYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Outside the kids are hunting around looking for a web. Elinor looks around a tree. Olive peers into some shrubs. Ari is investigating the other side of the shrubs.

	ELINOR	
59	Have you found a spiderweb yet?	59

	ARI	
60	Nothing here.	60

Suddenly, Olive pops up just on the other side of the shrub, startling Ari.

	OLIVE	
61	Nothing here either.	61

Ari does a back flip.

	ARI	
62	Aaah!	62

He immediately leaps to his feet.

	ARI (CONT'D)	
63	I wasn't scared.	63

Olive <SFX: GIGGLE> as Elinor joins the two of them.

	ELINOR	
64	Where do you look to find a spiderweb?	64

Olive gets an idea.

	OLIVE	
65	Since spiders make webs, maybe if we find a spider, it'll lead us to its web.	65

ARI
Great idea, Olive.

67 ELINOR First we find the spider, then we find the web. Let's go. 67

SERIES OF SHOTS: Elinor, Olive and Ari look for spiders in various spots around the schoolyard.

End with shot of Elinor standing underneath a branch. Ari and Olive come and join her.

68 ELINOR (CONT'D) 68
No spiders. Maybe we're looking in
the wrong place.

ON: Olive, whose face lights up.

OLIVE

69 You're right Elinor. You should look up. 69

Elinor's eyes go up and there's a spider walking upside down on the branch above her. She breaks out in a big smile.

70 ELINOR (gasp) A spider. 70

Olive and Ari hurry over to get a closer look.

ARI

71 Okay, we've found a spider, but 71
 where's its web?

72 OLIVE Let's watch where it goes. 72

They watch for a second, and then <SFX: WHOOSH!> The spider drops through the frame. We see their surprised faces.

73 OLIVE (CONT'D) 73

Oh no.

ARI

74 I hope it didn't hurt itself. I 74
know what it feels like when I
forget to flap my wings and fall on
the ground.

But then Elinor crouches down and looks amazed as she sees the spider suspended by a thin silky strand.

ELINOR
75 But it didn't fall on the ground. 75
Look.

Ari and Olive drop down to see.

ELINOR (CONT'D)
76 It's hanging from a really thin 76
kind of thread.

ARI
77 Where'd that come from? 77

The spider starts weaving its web.

OLIVE
78 Oh. I remember my mom told me that 78
spiders spin their own strands of
silk.

ON: Elinor, Olive and Ari, giving time for the spider to spin
more of its web.

ARI
79 So the spider is making a web from 79
its own silk?

OLIVE
80 Uh huh. See? 80

Olive points to the spider which is quickly creating a web.
They follow its movements, with great curiosity.

ELINOR
81 Look how it climbs up the silk and 81
then starts another strand. That's
so cool.

ARI
82 Yeah. But it doesn't look anything 82
like the web I made.

Ari gets a THOUGHT BUBBLE over his head, showing him holding
up his tangle of yarn.

Olive looks at the spider web uncertainly. There are some
angled strands that look like her Triangle web. She points
out the angled lines.

OLIVE
83 See these lines? They look a **little** 83
like the web I was making.

She gets a THOUGHT BUBBLE over her head, showing her holding up her Triangle Web.

They continue to watch as the spider creates another portion of the web that confirms that it's an Orb Web.

	ELINOR	
84	Hmmm... Look at the circle it's making. I think it's going to be just like my web.	84

Elinor gets a THOUGHT BUBBLE over her head, showing her holding up her Orb Web.

Olive and Ari are confused. They plunk down on the ground.

	OLIVE	
85	I don't get it. I know I've seen a spider web that looks like the one I made.	85

	ARI	
86	And I'm sure I've seen one that looks like the web <i>I</i> made.	86

	OLIVE	
87	There's got to be an explanation.	87

Elinor looks at her friends. Then she spots another spider.

	ELINOR	
88	Look. There's another spider.	88

Ari leaps up and looks at it.

	ARI	
89	It looks different from the first spider.	89

Elinor looks pensive. Then she has a thought.

	ELINOR	
90	That's SO interesting.	90

Olive gets what she's thinking.

	OLIVE	
91	(gasp) Oh. I know what you're thinking.	91

	ARI	
92	You do? What is she thinking?	92

OLIVE
93 Maybe a different kind of spider 93
 makes...

Suddenly Ari gets it too!

ARI
94 A different kind of web. 94

ELINOR
95 Right. We need more observations! 95

ARI
96 Follow that spider! 96

They follow the spider as it scurries up a tree and then
along a branch until it takes them to ... a perfect TRIANGLE
WEB! Olive is thrilled. <SFX: EXCITED WALLA>

OLIVE
97 Look. This web is shaped like a 97
 triangle. It's almost exactly like
 the web I made.

ELINOR
98 So there are two different kinds of 98
 spiderwebs.

Ari forms a thought.

ARI
99 Wait. If one spider makes a web 99
 like Elinor's ... and a different
 spider makes a web like Olive's ...
 maybe there's **another** kind of
 spider that makes a web like mine.

ELINOR
100 Let's look. 100

ANOTHER SEQUENCE: The kids searching around trees, flowers
and shrubs.

It ends with Ari lying beside a shrub and smiling smugly.

ARI
101 (singsongy) Oh Elinor. Oh Olive. 101
 Look what I found.

Olive and Elinor come over to see Ari pointing into the mass
of leaves, where there's a TANGLE WEB. It looks like Ari's
web - a big tangled mess, with a SPIDER in the middle.

OLIVE
102 Ari. It's just like your web. 102

ARI
103 Uh huh. So there's definitely more 103
than one kind of spider's web.

Elinor's face lights up.

ELINOR
104 Just like there's more than one 104
great thing about Halloween.

OLIVE
105 Let's go tell Mz. Mole. 105

They race back to the classroom.

5. INT. CLASSROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Elinor, Olive and Ari race into the classroom. <SFX: EXCITED WALLA>

They <SFX: SCREECH> to a stop when they see what looks like a ghost floating through the room!

ARI
106 A g-ghost!! 106

Ari dives under a desk. From behind the "ghost", Mz. Mole peeks out, and we see that it's a sheet that she's about to hang in the corner.

MZ. MOLE
107 Ari? Are you okay? 107

Ari, realizing his mistake, slides out from under the desk.

ARI
108 I was just ... um ... checking out 108
for ghosts under the desk. It's all clear.

Elinor and Olive <SFX: GIGGLE> as Ari joins them.

MZ. MOLE
109 Did you find a spiderweb? 109

ELINOR
110 We didn't find a spiderweb, Mz. 110
Mole.

	MZ. MOLE	
111	Oh?	111
	ELINOR	
112	We found three spiderwebs.	112
	MZ. MOLE	
113	Oh!	113
	OLIVE	
114	And they were all different.	114
	ARI	
115	Because the spiders were all different.	115
	MZ. MOLE	
116	Well aren't you clever. You figured out that different spiders make different kinds of webs. Because each kind of spider has a different way of catching food in their webs. Isn't Nature wonderful?	116
	ELINOR	
117	As wonderful as Halloween decorations. Let's get decorating.	117

As Elinor, Olive and Ari finish their webs (making them bigger) and hang them in different parts of the classroom, they sing:

SONG: MORE THAN ONE WAY

	ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI	
118	<i>ELINOR: You do it that way And I do it this way. OLIVE: We each have our own way. ARI: And that's okay! 'Cause there's more than one way To do almost everything. And each of those ways is great, right? Yes, each of those ways is great! ELINOR: My web's a circle. OLIVE: And mine is a triangle. ARI: And mine's just a tangle. And that's okay! 'Cause there's more than one way To do almost everything. (MORE)</i>	118

ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI (CONT'D)

*And each of those ways is great,
right?
Yes, each of those ways is great!*

By the end of their song, they've finished hanging their three different webs around the class.

Mz. Mole looks around admiring them.

MZ. MOLE

119 Your spider web decorations are 119
 wonderful! And you know what I like
 best about them?

Elinor, Olive and Ari don't know but they're eager to hear her answer.

MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)

120 They're all different. Just like 120
 you!

<SFX: HAPPY WALLA>