

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, a mask for Koa, other Halloween decorations.

FIRST DRAFT: January 27, 2020

SECOND DRAFT: February 18, 2020

POLISH DRAFT: March 13, 2020

1. EXT. NEAR ELINOR'S HOUSE - DAY

It's a BEAUTIFUL, SLIGHTLY OVERCAST FALL DAY.

OPEN ON: An ORANGE leaf, wiggling on a branch as a breeze blows by. Then, the leaf detaches and we follow it as it FLUTTERS downward, drifting this way and that.

Below, we see Elinor, hopping down her front step as Ari and Olive arrive. The kids are <SFX: GIGGLING>.

1	ELINOR	1	
	Hi Olive. Hi Ari. Are you scared?		*

2	OLIVE	2	
	Why should we be scared, Elinor?		*

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

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

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

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. The leaf falls off Ari, and Elinor and Olive <SFX: GIGGLES> as it drifts down into Elinor's hand. She shows it to Ari, who is still clutching the branch.

5	ELINOR	5	
	It was just a leaf, Ari.		

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

6	ARI	6	
	I knew that. I was just jumping. For fun. So... what were we talking about?		* *

They continue walking.

7	OLIVE	7	
	Halloween. I love it.		

8	ARI	8	
	Me too.		

Elinor stops and turns to the other two.

9 ELINOR 9
And you know what the best part of
Halloween is, right?

Ari and Olive <SFX: AGREEMENT WALLA>.

10 ELINOR (CONT'D) 10
(confidently) The cool decorations.

Ari and Olive look at each other, confused. <SFX: WALLA:
HUH?>

11 OLIVE 11
Decorations aren't the best part.

Ari nods his head in agreement with Olive. <SFX: AGREEMENT
WALLA>.

12 OLIVE (CONT'D) 12
It's the costumes.

Ari nods his head. Then stops and looks at Olive, surprised.

13 ARI 13
Right... Wait. What?

Ari looks at Olive, then Elinor like they've got two heads.

14 ARI (CONT'D) 14
The best part of Halloween isn't *
the costumes **or** the decorations. *
It's allllll the yummy candy!

15 ELINOR 15
Okay, the candy is good, but it *
wouldn't be Halloween without all *
those fun decorations - like jack-o-
lanterns and ghosts.

16 OLIVE 16
But what about wearing a costume *
and going around the neighborhood *
dressed like something fun?

17 ARI 17
I'm sorry. Costumes are fun and
scary decorations are nice, but
Halloween is all about the candy.
Am I right?

18	ELINOR	18	*
	I wonder ... How can we all have		*
	such different ways of thinking		
	about Halloween?		

19 ARI 19
I don't know.

20 OLIVE 20 *

Well I do know we'll be late for
school if we don't hurry. Come on.
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.

21 ELINOR 21
I hope there are lots of scary
decorations.

22 ARI 22

It doesn't matter to me. I'm not *

scared of anything.

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

23 OLIVE 23
What's that?

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

24 ARI 24
 It's a witch!! *

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.

25 ELINOR 25
(giggle) It's just Mz. Mole. She
loves Halloween too.

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

32 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 32
Here are some supplies. Do you all
know what a spiderweb looks like?

The kids dive into the supplies, pulling out yarn. <SFX:
EXCITED WALLA: SURE. YUP. I DO.>

33 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 33
You know, when you make something *
that looks like the real thing, *
that's called 'making a model.' *

Elinor and Olive start working on their models. We see Elinor *
laying down outward-pointing pieces of YARN and then gluing *
longer pieces of yarn around in kind of a circle.

34 ELINOR 34
I'm going to make the scariest *
looking spiderweb model. *

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

35 OLIVE 35
I'm using this yellow yarn, so it *
looks like my spiderweb is 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.

36 OLIVE (CONT'D) 36 *
What color is your spiderweb going *
to be, Ari?

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

37 ARI 37
Not "going to be." I'm done.

Elinor and Olive look surprised. Ari turns around to show a
big messy tangle of yarn, which looks like a TANGLE WEB.

38 ARI (CONT'D) 38
Ta da! A spiderweb.

Elinor and Olive look at each other, puzzled.

39 ELINOR 39
Mmm, I don't think a spiderweb
looks like that.

40	ARI	40
	It doesn't? What's it look like 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.

41 ELINOR 41
Like this. Kind of. I think.

Ari looks puzzled and Olive looks surprised.

42 OLIVE 42
Mmmm. I think a spiderweb looks
like this.

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

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

43	MZ. MOLE	43
	How are my spiderweb builders doing?	

44 ELINOR 44
Not so well, Mz. Mole. We each made
spiderwebs, but they're all
different. Can you tell us which
one looks like a real spiderweb?

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

45 MZ. MOLE 45
You've all made interesting models.
But... I'm trying to remember what
a REAL spiderweb looks like.

The kids react with realization.

46 OLIVE 46
I haven't seen a real spiderweb for
a while.

47 ARI 47
It's been like forever for me.

Elinor agrees, then gets an idea.

48 ELINOR 48
Me too. (gasp) I know, let's go
outside and look for a real
spiderweb.

(MORE)

ELINOR (CONT'D)
Then we'll know how to make our
decorations look like the real
thing. *

49 OLIVE 49
Good idea Elinor. *

ELINOR
We need more observations. *

They look to Mz. Mole who nods in approval. <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.

50 ELINOR 50
Have you found one yet?

51 ARI 51
Nothing here.

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

52 OLIVE 52
Nothing here either.

Ari does a back flip.

53 ARI 53
Aaah!

He immediately leaps to his feet.

54 ARI (CONT'D) 54
I wasn't scared.

Olive <SFX: GIGGLE> as Elinor joins the two of them. Ari
tries to act as if nothing happened. *

55 ELINOR 55
There have to be spiderwebs around
here somewhere. *

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.

56 ELINOR (CONT'D) 56
I haven't seen any spiderwebs. Or spiders. Maybe we're looking in the wrong place. *

ON: Olive, whose face lights up.

57 OLIVE 57
You're right Elinor. You should look up.

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.

58 ELINOR 58
(gasp) A spider.

Ari comes over to get a closer look.

59 ARI 59
Okay, we've found a spider, but where's its web?

60 OLIVE 60
Let's watch where it goes.

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

61 ELINOR 61
Oh no. It fell.

62 ARI 62
I hope it didn't hurt itself. *

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

63 ELINOR 63
Huh. It didn't fall on the ground. Look. *

Ari and Olive drop down to see.

64 ELINOR (CONT'D) 64
It's hanging from a really thin kind of string. *

65 ARI 65
Where'd that come from?

The spider starts weaving its web.

66	OLIVE	66	
	I think it's called a spider		*
	thread. And ooh, look. It's making		*
	it with its body. That's what it		*
	uses to make spiderwebs.		*

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

67	ELINOR	67	
	You're right Olive. Look how it		*
	climbs up the thread and then		
	starts a new one. That's so cool.		*

68	ARI	68	
	Yeah... But it's going to take a		*
	long time to make a whole web.		*

Olive looks at the spider climbing up a strand and nods.

69	OLIVE	69	
	You're right Ari. Maybe we should		
	look for one that's already made.		

Ari nods, and they start to head off, but Elinor stays put.

70	ELINOR	70	
	You go ahead. I'm going to stay and		
	watch this spider make its web.		*
	It's SO interesting!		

71	OLIVE	71	
	OK. We'll let you know if we find		*
	one.		

Olive and Ari split up, looking in different place for a spiderweb.

ANGLE ON: Olive is searching through some bushes

72	OLIVE (CONT'D)	72	
	Okay spiders. Come out, come out		
	wherever you are.		

Suddenly she sees a SPIDER skittering along a leaf. It's a
DIFFERENT LOOKING SPIDER from the one they saw earlier.

73	OLIVE (CONT'D)	73	
	There's one. Hello little spider.		
	Oh. You look different from the		
	spider we saw before. Now if you		
	could just lead me to your web.		

80	ARI	80	
	Ari the World's Greatest Spider Finder ... lost his spider. But he'll find it again. Aaah!		*
	He spins around, where he finds his spider, sitting in the middle of a big beautiful ORB WEB.		
81	ARI (CONT'D)	81	
	Aha! I found you. Right in the middle of ... Hmmm. That doesn't look like the spiderweb I made. It looks like the one Elinor made.		* *
	A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears above his head, showing Elinor holding up her Orb Web model.		
82	ARI (CONT'D)	82	
	I guess she was right.		
	ANGLE ON: Elinor is looking perplexed as the spider finishes its web, which turns out to be a TRIANGLE WEB.		
83	ELINOR	83	
	Well, you are a very good web builder, spider. But it doesn't look like the web I made at all. It looks like the web Olive made.		* * *
	A THOUGHT BUBBLE appears above her head showing Olive and her TRIANGLE WEB MODEL.		
84	ELINOR (CONT'D)	84	
	I better go tell her.		
	She gets up and goes to the middle of the schoolyard, where she meets up with Ari and Olive. Elinor points at Olive, Ari points at Elinor, Olive points at Ari. THEY SPEAK SIMULTANEOUSLY.		
85	ELINOR/ARI/OLIVE	85	*
	You were right, Olive (Elinor, Ari).		* *
86	ARI	86	*
	Wait. What?		*
87	ELINOR	87	
	How can we all be right? I watched my spider make a web that looked just like the one you made, Olive.		* *

88	OLIVE	88	
	But the web I found looked like Ari's model.		
89	ARI	89	
	And the web I found looked just like the one Elinor made.		*
	Elinor gets a thought. She turns to Ari.		*
90	ELINOR	90	*
	Wait. What did your spider look like?		
91	ARI	91	
	It was way different from the first one we saw.		
92	OLIVE	92	
	Mine was different too.		
93	ELINOR	93	
	That's SO interesting.		
	Olive smiles knowingly.		
94	OLIVE	94	
	I think I know what you're thinking, Elinor.		* *
95	ARI	95	
	What? What are you two thinking that I'm not thinking?		
96	ELINOR	96	*
	Maybe different kinds of spiders make...		* *
	She waits for Ari to figure it out. And he does!		*
97	ARI	97	
	Aha! Make different kinds of webs!		*
98	OLIVE	98	
	So there are different kinds of spiderwebs.		*
99	ELINOR	99	
	Just like there are different ways to think about Halloween.		*
100	OLIVE	100	
	Awesome! Let's go tell Mz. Mole.		*

111 MZ. MOLE 111
Well aren't you clever. You figured
out that different kinds of spiders
make different kinds of webs.

Mz. Mole gestures to the three models the kids made. They *
beam with pride. *

112 ELINOR 112
So we were ALL right. Cool. Let's
get decorating. *

As Elinor, Olive and Ari finish their webs (making them
bigger) and hang them in different parts of the classroom:
The other kids join in hanging their own decoration as the
kids sing.

SONG: MORE THAN ONE WAY

113 ELINOR/OLIVE/ARI 113
*ELINOR: You do it that way
And I do it this way.
OLIVE: We each have our own way.
ARI: And that's okay!
ALL: '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!
BOO!*

Reacting to a scary Halloween decoration.

*ELINOR: Just like a spider making a
web
OLIVE: We each do our own thing, **
*ARI: And that's okay!
ALL: '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!*

By the end of their song, they've finished hanging their
three different webs around the class, and the other
decorations are in place.

Mz. Mole looks around admiring them.

114 MZ. MOLE 114
Your spider web decorations are
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.

115 MZ. MOLE (CONT'D) 115
They're all different. Just like
you!

<SFX: HAPPY WALLA>