# **LESSON PLAN**

## My Awesome Summer by P. Mantis

### written and illustrated by Paul Meisel

In journal format, from the point of view of a praying mantis, learn about the life cycle, behaviors, and characteristics of this amazing insect. Front and back matter are factual.

Objectives: Students will be able to read for purpose and understanding, identify text type, answer comprehension questions using text support, identify the "who, what, where, when, and why" of a text, and sequence events.

**Guided Reading Level: N** 

**Grade Level**: 3 Interest Level: 1–5

**Instructional Standards** 

Reading Literature: RL.2-4.1,3,4,5,7

Reading Informational Text: RI.2-4.1,2,3,4,7,8

Reading Foundation Skills: RF.2-4.4, 4a

Writing: W.2.,2,3,4,7,8,10/W.4-5.2,3,4,7,8,9,10

Speaking and Listening: SL.2-4.1,2,3,4,6

**Language:** L.2-4.1,3,4,5,6

#### **BEFORE READING**

- 1. Discuss the front and back cover illustration and the book title.
- 2. Do you think this book is fiction or nonfiction?
- 3. Do you think this book will give us information that is true? Make predictions.

#### Take a picture walk through the book.

\*This book has elements of both fiction and nonfiction. We call this a "hybrid text." As students read they will learn true facts and information about the life cycle of the praying mantis told from his point of view.

- 1. Identify and discuss the pictures of the praying mantis that show he is speaking.
- 2. What do you think this book is about?
- 3. What do you notice about the way Paul Meisel structures the story? Informational front matter, pages are dated like a journal, back matter has a labeled diagram and more facts.
- 4. Write: What do you already know about the praying mantis? Have you ever seen one up close?
- 5. Write: What do you want to learn about the praying mantis?



9780823436712 • Ages 4-8 • E-book available



#### **DURING READING**

First reading/shared: Teacher reads aloud and models as students read along.

**Second reading/independent:** Students read silently.

- 1. From what point of view is the story told?
- 2. How does the point of view affect the text type? Fiction vs. nonfiction
- 3. Is the story organized around a specific topic or idea? Does it teach you facts and give you information?
- 4. When is a mantis born? How many mantises are born at once?
- 5. What do they eat?
- 6. How do young mantises protect themselves and their eggs? What behaviors and characteristics help them survive?
- 7. Why does P. Mantis keep shedding his skin?
- 8. When are mantises mature enough to fly?
- 9. What creatures are predators of the praying mantis?
- 10. How does Paul Meisel create humor in the story?
- 11. Identify difficult vocabulary words or phrases. Predict the meaning of new words in context.
- 12. How do the illustrations and details enhance meaning?
- 13. What are the main idea and details of the story? Take notes as you reread.
- 14. Determine the sequence of events/the life cycle of a praying mantis.
- 15. Identify the author's purpose. (To entertain, explain, or persuade) Why do you think the author chose to write this book?

#### AFTER READING—Make Connections

- 1. What did you find interesting about the praying mantis?
- 2. Create a time line of the life cycle of a praying mantis.
- 3. What information did you get from the main character? Retell the "story elements," including setting, plot, and character development.
- 4. What information did you get from the front and back matter? Create a fact sheet.
- 5. Create a true or false quiz for your classmates, using ten facts from the book.
- 6. Math: How long is the life cycle of a praying mantis from egg to adult? Compare the journal entries from the book with a web search. Is Paul Meisel accurate?
- 7. Create a journal of your life cycle beginning when you were a fetus to the present day. Base your journal on research as well as personal experiences.
- 8. Research the life cycle of another insect. Write a story from the point of view of the insect. Share with the class.

#### **STEM Group Research**

Research how the praying mantis is being used to discover alternative ways to design future 3-D
technology for humans and robots. Why is the praying mantis a good subject for this
experiment? What is the process? How are mantises as research subjects? What was the
outcome of the experiment? Create a PowerPoint presentation.

#### **Online Resources**

Visit NASA and create your own 3D glasses! https://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/classroom/glasses.shtml

Guide written by Marla Conn, reading/literacy specialist and educational consultant

