

LESSON PLAN

STEM

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

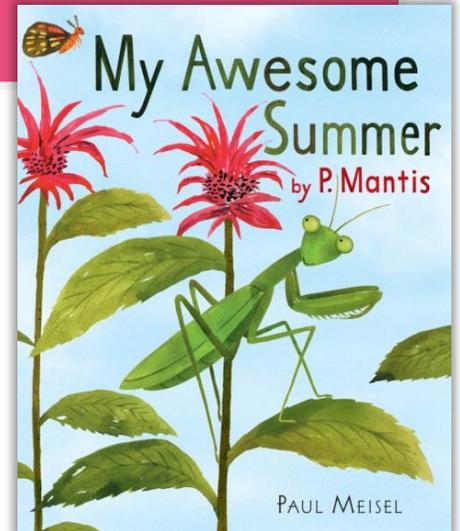
Reading Informational Text: RI.2-4.1,2,3,4,7,8

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



9780823436712 • Ages 4–8 • E-book available

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?



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

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