LESSON PLAN – “The Mantis Parable” For Grades 5-8
By Larry Shurilla, 6th Grade Teacher, Templeton Middle School, Sussex, WI, USA

- **Materials Needed:**
  2. DVD Player and Television or some other projection device
  3. The Mantis Parable Worksheet, downloadable at www.themantisparable.com
  4. Pen/Pencil
  5. Coloring Supplies

- **Time Needed:** Approximately 50 Minutes

- **Learning Objectives:** Creative Writing Development, Critical Thinking Skills, Citizenship Development

**LESSON PEDAGOGY:**

- **Teacher leads a short discussion with the questions:** What does the word ‘parable’ mean? Can anyone think of a parable you already know? What makes a parable different from another story?

- **Teacher shares definition of Parable:** “A story which is intended to teach a moral lesson.”
  Moral means: “principles or habits with respect to right or wrong conduct”

- **Teacher gives examples of Parables:** The Tortoise and the Hare, The Good Samaritan, The Little Engine That Could, etc.

- **Teacher Introduces Movie:** “Now class we will be watching a parable about a praying mantis and a caterpillar. Try to figure out the lesson or theme this simple, yet powerful story portrays.”

- **Show Movie (9 Minutes)**

- **Pass out “The Mantis Parable Worksheet”**

- **Depending on the class’s ability, Teacher may now read through the questions (1 -7) or have students independently read and answer all questions on the first page.**

- **After a few minutes, have students share answers to first page and discuss.**

- **Teacher then assigns the second page of the worksheet (8-9):**

- **The Next day, students may share their paragraphs/essays with the class.**

**Note to Teachers:** This lesson can be easily modified to challenge more capable writers. The 5-7 sentence instruction is indeed a minimum. Early Language Learners and Learning Disabled students may struggle to produce 7 sentences, but many other students are capable of writing 2 to 3 pages on this topic in a relatively short period of time. Inspire all children to do their best!!!
1. If you could only choose one word to describe the theme of this movie, what would that word be?

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2. What are some character traits of the caterpillar?

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3. What are some character traits of the mantis?

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4. What is the setting of the story?

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5. What problems are presented in the story?

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6. How are the problems resolved?

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7. What is the moral of the story?

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Describe your favorite part of the movie and how this relates to you in your life. (Write at least 5-7 sentences)

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Draw a picture of your favorite scene.