THE MANTIS PARABLE

LESSON PLAN – "The Mantis Parable" For Grades 5-8

By Larry Shurilla, 6th Grade Teacher, Templeton Middle School, Sussex, WI, USA

- **Materials Needed:**

  1. "The Mantis Parable" DVD by Josh Staub, available at **www.themantisparable.com**
  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!!!

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1. **If you could only choose one word to describe the theme of this movie, what would that word be?**

_____

2. **What are some character traits of the caterpillar?**

_____

_____

3. **What are some character traits of the mantis?**

_____

_____

4. **What is the setting of the story?**

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_____

5. **What problems are presented in the story?**

_____

_____

6. **How are the problems resolved?**

_____

_____

7. **What is the moral of the story?**

_____

_____

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

9 **Draw a picture of your favorite scene.**