

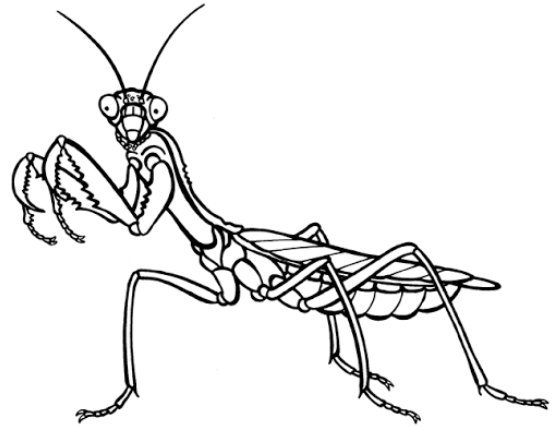
# Praying Mantis

By Mary Ann Hoberman

That praying mantis over there  
Is really not engaged in prayer.  
That praying mantis that you see  
Is really preying (with an “e”).  
It preys upon the garter snake.  
It preys upon the bumblebee.  
It preys upon the cabbage worm,  
The wasp, the fly, the moth, the flea.  
(And sometimes, if its need is great,  
It even preys upon its mate.)

With prey and preying both so endless,  
It tends to end up rather friendless  
And seldom is commended much  
Except by gardeners and such.

Fluency	
	# seconds
1 <sup>st</sup> read	
2 <sup>nd</sup> read	
3 <sup>rd</sup> read	
4 <sup>th</sup> read	
5 <sup>th</sup> read	



(\*hint – read as GAR DEN ERS – 3 syllables)

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**Homophones** – pray/ prey, there/their/they’re

**Suffixes (morphs)** -less (endless, friendless), -ed (engaged, commended)

**Words with long A sound spellings: /ay/ words** – praying, engaged, prayer, preying, preys, snake, great, mate