

Mutant Mantis Lunch Ladies

By Bruce Hale

GENRE: Mystery Fiction

LEXILE: 630L

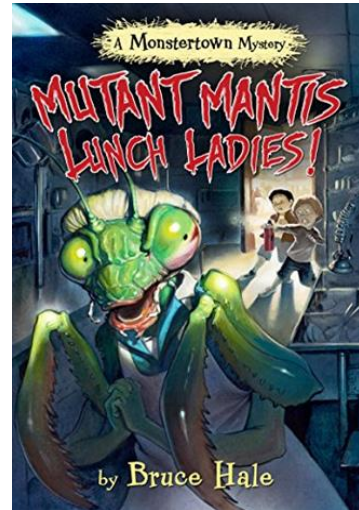
RELEVANT WEBSITES:

[Bruce Hale Website](#)

[GoodReads Link](#)

[Author Interview](#)

[National Geographic: Praying Mantis](#)



BOOK SUMMARY:

Strange things are once again happening at Monterrosa Elementary School. This time rumor has it that the lunch ladies are turning into giant bugs. Benny and Carlos are back in action trying to get to the bottom of the mysterious events occurring in the school cafeteria.

BOOKTALK:

Oh no, not again! Benny and Carlos just calmed the craziness with Mr. Chu and his were-hyena ways, and now strange things are going on in the school cafeteria. Students are missing; boys and girls are being served different foods, and the lunch ladies have...a sort of buggy way about them. Can the two friends get to the bottom of this mystery? What's with the seemingly cool custodian, Mr. Decker (also known as Boo)? And the annoying ponytailed PTA mom who shows up every time Benny and Carlos try to get into the school kitchen to investigate? If you are looking for a good mystery with some weird (and even gross!) events throughout, *Mutant Mantis Lunch Ladies!* is the book for you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Each chapter title is taken from a famous quote, phrase, movie, song, or book title with a few of the original words changed. Choose 5 chapter titles, research the original phrase or title, and write them down.
2. Name the different ways Carlos and Benny tried to rid the school of the mutant mantises.
3. Write a paragraph explaining how *you* would get rid of the mutant mantises if they were taking over your lunchroom.
4. List 3 facts about praying mantises.
5. What theme was Bruce Hale trying to convey with this story? How does that theme connect to events in your life?

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS, YOU MIGHT ALSO ENJOY:

1. *The Curse of the Were-Hyena* by Bruce Hale
2. *Invasion of the Scorp-Lions!* by Bruce Hale
3. *Goosebumps* series by R.L. Stine

ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY: Ellen S. Rempala/Library Media Specialist/Westville, IN