

# Drones

[Patricia Ryan](#) | JANUARY 4, 2010

The dictionary names drones  
“male bees making no honey”  
or “parasitic loafers”

Reapers and Predators  
eleven million dollars each  
an altogether grim business

“unmanned”  
good try, but it wouldn’t  
happen without one of us

250 pairs of “eyes in the sky”  
pilots in Nevada  
bombing civilians in Iraq

“engaging insurgents  
successfully” taking them out  
and making it home in time for dinner

“enlarging the battlefield”  
when you back off far enough  
around a globe you become the enemy

**Drones** was featured in the January 4, 2010 America Magazine, and is shown here with permission. Patricia Ryan is also author of the book of poetry “Also Born of the Fire.”