

A Note to Teachers

I'm passionate about language arts. I love to read, write, and speak. As a homeschooling mom, I wanted my own children and my friends' children to share my passion. Over the years, I found aspects of many different curricula that clicked with my students. But I never found something that did everything I wanted a complete curriculum for elementary students to do:

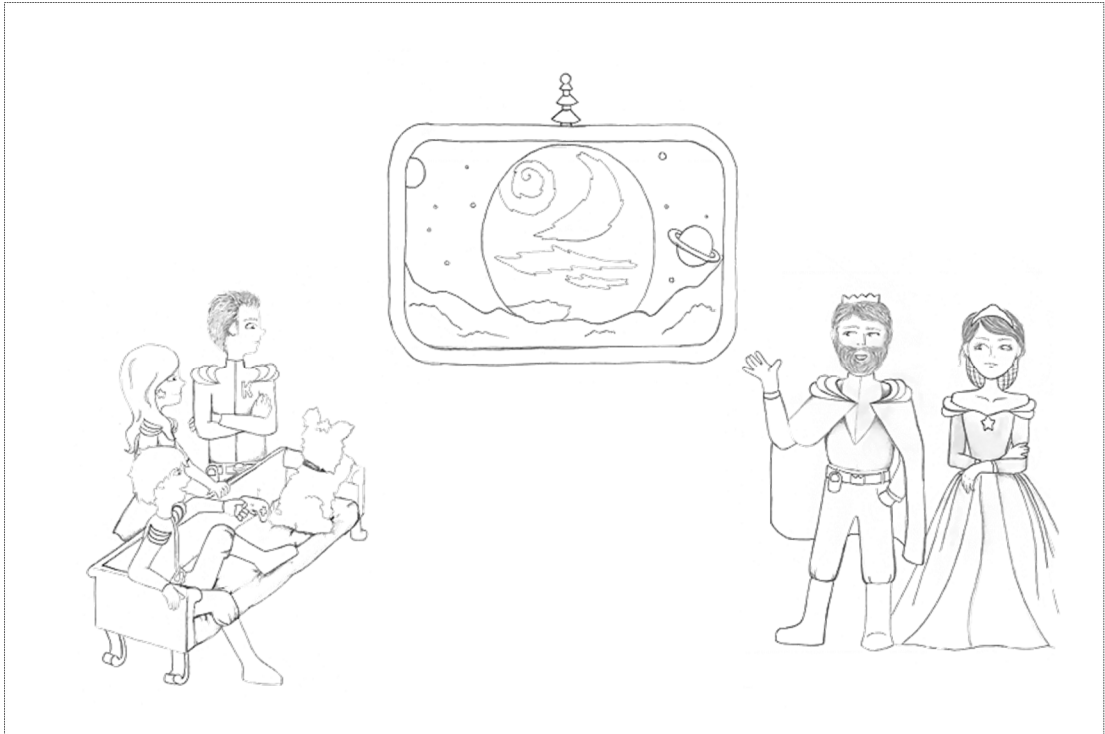
- Use the most powerful medium to teach language arts: story
- Give the why of language arts to motivate students
- Teach to mastery rather than drill the same concepts year after year
- Limit seat work and use little-to-no-prep games to teach instead
- Teach skills like reading fluency, handwriting speed, and public speaking

I felt called to create my own fast, easy, and fun curriculum for homeschooling parents and others who want to see students succeed in language arts.

Grammar Galaxy: Nebula is for students who are just beginning to read and write. This curriculum does not take the place of beginning phonics and handwriting instruction. It is also meant to be read to students. The stories and concepts are appropriate for students in first to sixth grade, however, making this a perfect read aloud for families. Be sure to point out the synonyms for vocabulary words that are provided. Following each story, there are questions to ask your student to check for understanding. With your help, the student should complete the corresponding mission in the *Mission Manual* before moving on to the next story. The *Mission Manual* can be purchased at GrammarGalaxyBooks.com.

My hope is that your student will accept the call to be a guardian of Grammar Galaxy.

Melanie Wilson



Chapter 1

It was Saturday morning. The three English children, Kirk, Luke, and Ellen, sat playing their favorite video game. Their dog, Comet, lay next to them, looking bored.

This was the usual order for a weekend on their planet. Their parents were the King and Queen of English. They wouldn't normally request their presence until lunch time.

Today was different. The king and queen hurried into the game room looking upset. Kirk and Ellen stopped playing immediately and stood to greet their parents.

"What is it, Mother?" Ellen asked.

"Yes, Father, is there a problem?" Kirk asked. Kirk was the oldest and was eager to please.

"There is indeed a problem," the king responded. He seemed more worried than Kirk could ever remember.

“It involves all of you,” the queen explained. When she saw that young Luke was still focused on the game, she sighed. “Luke, you must stop playing and listen,” she said sternly. Luke glanced up and was convinced his mother was serious. He put his game controller down and stood to join them.

“Children, our planet and all of Grammar Galaxy are being threatened,” the king said.

Kirk stood tall and said, “Father, I will do whatever is necessary to protect our planet. You can trust me.”

The king put his hand on Kirk’s shoulder. “I believe I can, Kirk. But this is a problem you cannot solve alone. You will need your brother and sister to help you.”

Kirk looked at his younger sister Ellen and wondered how she could help him fight a real enemy. She wasn’t very good at fighting video-game aliens! Ellen seemed to read his mind and putting her hands on her hips, said, “I will also protect our planet, Father.”

Both of the elder English children turned to look at Luke. He had a gift for gaming, but had a difficult time paying attention to much of anything else. They wondered how they could possibly need his help. “I’ll fight, too!” Luke proclaimed, pretending to kick and punch aliens. Little Comet barked his approval. The king couldn’t help but smile at his children’s courage. But they didn’t know what was happening. He asked the children to take a seat and ordered the screen to play a commercial.

Kids appeared on the screen who were using gaming devices to fire at alien ships. The game-playing kids laughed and smiled while an announcer spoke. “Our children...the hope of Grammar Galaxy. They can learn the battle skills they will need to defeat aliens in the future, or...”

The screen changed to images of children bored with books. “...we can insist that children waste their time on books,” the announcer sneered. “The future belongs to gamers...not readers.” The commercial ended with a boy and girl celebrating their destruction of an alien ship. The announcer rapidly concluded, “Paid for by Citizens for a Better Galaxy.”

“That was awesome!” Luke exclaimed. “Do you want us to become better gamers so we can save the galaxy?”

“No,” his father answered, getting louder. “That’s the *opposite* of what we want.”

“Children,” the queen began. “Grammar Galaxy owes its very existence to books.”

“Yes,” Luke interrupted. “But games are the future!”

“No,” the king said a little too harshly. He calmed himself and said, “Grammar Galaxy will disappear without books. Let me explain.” The king stood and commanded the screen to display a graphic of Grammar Galaxy.

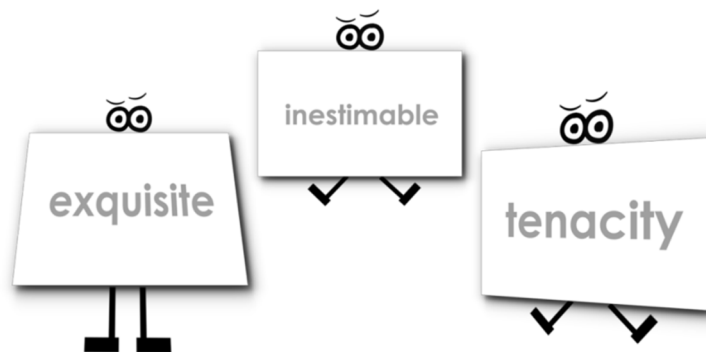
“Here is planet English,” he said, pointing. “You know that anything that happens around the galaxy affects our citizens. In the same way, anything we do on planet English affects the galaxy.”

The three English children nodded. “This ad campaign is telling parents to stop having their children read. It is changing life on our planet and in the galaxy at large.” The king began to pace as he went on. “The head librarian of our English libraries requested an emergency meeting with me. She told me that she will not be purchasing any more books because children aren’t checking them out.

“That’s just the beginning. Because children aren’t reading, words on planet Vocabulary are dying. They aren’t being used because they aren’t being learned in books. Look!”

The king ordered the screen to switch to a live feed of planet Vocabulary. The words **exquisite**, **inestimable**, and **tenacity** faced the camera, looking pale and weak. “I don’t know those words, Father,” Luke said sadly.

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exquisite – *beautiful*
inestimable – *valuable*
tenacity – *determination*
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



“I’m not surprised, Luke. If you don’t start reading, there are many words you will never know. And Vocabulary isn’t the only planet in trouble. Show planet Spelling,” the king ordered.

The screen showed letters running around in a panic. “What’s wrong with them, Father?” Ellen asked.

“They don’t know their place anymore. Children aren’t reading books, so they aren’t learning how words are spelled,” her father explained.

“The poor things look exhausted,” her mother added.

“The worst news of all is that our largest planet is failing. Go to planet **Composition**,” the king said. The screen gave a wide-angle view of the planet and then zoomed in to show Poetry City, deserted.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

composition – *writing*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“Where are all the poems, Father?” Kirk asked.

“The same place as all the stories, papers, and books,” his father answered. “They’re leaving Grammar Galaxy.” He turned back to the screen. “Show Export City.” Poems, stories, papers, and books were boarding ships bound for planet Recycling. “You see, when children don’t read, they stop writing. They have fewer words to use, they don’t know how to spell, and they aren’t inspired to write. All these written works will disappear.”

“What about the writing on the Internet?” Kirk asked.

“With fewer visitors reading, websites will be shut down. We will lose everything that took years to create,” his mother said.

“This is a disaster!” Kirk exclaimed.

“Yes, Kirk, it is. I’m glad you understand,” the king answered.

“Why are these advertisements being run if reading is so important to the survival of the galaxy?” Kirk asked.

“Very good question, my son,” answered the queen. “We believe this is the work of our enemy.”

“Video game makers?” suggested Luke.

“No, dear, though I understand why you think they’re the problem. Instead, our galaxy’s enemy is...” she explained.

“The Gremlin,” the king and queen said together.

“From the beginning of Grammar Galaxy, he has sought to destroy us. He is most likely behind these advertisements,” the king said.

“Father, just get him and put him in the dungeon!” Luke jumped up and pretended to slam the Gremlin into a cell.

The king grinned at his youngest son. “The problem is we can’t see the Gremlin. But we can see the damage he does—damage we have to try to fix right away.”

“Just tell us what to do,” Kirk said.

“You have to get the children of planet English reading again.”

“How can we do that, Father? We’re just children ourselves,” Ellen asked.

The king drew his children close. He raised his hands over them and declared, “You are no longer just the royal children of planet English. You are Guardians of Grammar Galaxy. I give you the authority to assign our young people missions that can defeat the Gremlin. With their help, I know you can save the galaxy.”

A servant entered the game room carrying a book, which the queen took from him. “You will need this,” she said, handing the book to Kirk.

Luke and Ellen were eager to see it, and Ellen was first to read the book’s title, *The Guide to Grammar Galaxy*. The children stared at it and wondered what could be written in it that would be of help to them.

“We are always here for you, children. But you must learn to rely on this guidebook if there is any hope for us,” the king said, reaching for his wife’s hand.

When his parents left the room, Luke broke the silence. “Okay, are you guys up for another game of Super Nova?”

“Luke, this is serious!” Ellen warned.

“I *am* serious. I want to play!”

Kirk ignored his siblings and opened the guidebook to the table of contents—the list of topics that were in the book. “The Importance of Reading” was the first entry, which he read to his brother and sister.

The Importance of Reading
The more you read, the better reader you will become. The better reader you are, the more you will know. The more you know, the more likely you are to get good grades, get a job you love someday, and even get along with others.

The good news is you don't have to read boring books to get all the benefits of reading. Reading books you enjoy will help you increase your vocabulary (the words you know). You will also learn to spell and write well. If you don't read many books now, you can start today and still be a good reader. One of the best ways to find books you like is to go to the library. Reading books that are easy for you is a good place to start. But spend some time trying to read books that are a little more challenging, too. Read out loud, listen to audiobooks, and have someone read to you.

"Now what do we do?" Ellen asked when Kirk finished reading from the guidebook.

Kirk looked thoughtful and then certain. "We give kids a mission."

Once they had decided on a mission to solve the crisis, Ellen had an idea. She suggested giving each young person on the planet a mission manual. Luke insisted on getting a manual as well. Mission 1 on the importance of reading was written. It was then delivered to every young person on the planet with high hopes of saving Grammar Galaxy.



What does *composition* mean?

Do you like to read?

What would happen if everyone stopped reading and played video games instead?

Table of Contents

A Note to Teachers	1
Unit I: Adventures in Literature.....	2
Mission 1: The Importance of Reading	3
Mission 1: Update	14
Mission 2: Reading from Context.....	16
Mission 2: Update	22
Mission 3: Reading Comprehension.....	25
Mission 3: Update	31
Mission 4: Identifying Fiction & Nonfiction	33
Mission 4: Update	39
Mission 5: Story Elements	41
Mission 5: Update	47
Mission 6: Tall Tales	49
Mission 6: Update	55
Mission 7: Rhyming Words	57
Mission 7: Update	63
Literature Challenge 1.....	66
Literature Challenge 2.....	69
Unit II: Adventures in Vocabulary	72
Mission 8: Synonyms and Antonyms	73
Mission 8: Update	79
Mission 9: Vocabulary.....	81
Mission 9: Update	89
Mission 10: Fix the Prefixes	91
Mission 10: Update	97
Mission 11: Fix the Suffixes	99

Mission 11: Update.....	105
Mission 12: Superlatives.....	107
Mission 12: Update.....	113
Vocabulary Challenge 1.....	116
Vocabulary Challenge 2.....	119
Unit III: Adventures in Spelling	122
Mission 13: Alphabetizing.....	123
Mission 13: Update.....	129
Mission 14: Syllables.....	131
Mission 14: Update.....	137
Mission 15: Phonics.....	139
Mission 15: Update.....	145
Mission 16: Spelling with Phonics	147
Mission 16: Update.....	153
Mission 17: Compound Words.....	155
Mission 17: Update.....	161
Mission 18: Contractions	163
Mission 18: Update.....	169
Mission 19: Abbreviations.....	171
Mission 19: Update.....	177
Spelling Challenge 1	179
Spelling Challenge 2.....	182
Unit IV: Adventures in Grammar	185
Mission 20: Nouns	186
Mission 20: Update.....	193
Mission 21: Common and Proper Nouns.....	195
Mission 21: Update.....	201
Mission 22: Singular and Plural Nouns	203
Mission 22: Update.....	208

Mission 23: Pronouns	211
Mission 23: Update	216
Mission 24: Articles	218
Mission 24: Update	224
Mission 25: Adjectives	226
Mission 25: Update	233
Mission 26: Verbs	235
Mission 26: Update	242
Mission 27: Adverbs	244
Mission 27: Update	251
Mission 28: End Marks	253
Mission 28: Update	260
Mission 29: Quotation Marks	262
Mission 29: Update	268
Grammar Challenge 1	270
Grammar Challenge 2	273
Unit V: Adventures in Composition & Speaking	276
Mission 30: Handwriting	277
Mission 30: Update	287
Mission 31: Forms	288
Mission 31: Update	296
Mission 32: Thank-You Notes	297
Mission 32: Update	305
Mission 33: Directions	306
Mission 33: Update	313
Mission 34: Introductions	315
Mission 34: Update	322
Mission 35: Reading Aloud	323
Mission 35: Update	332

Mission 36: Storytelling.....	333
Mission 36: Update.....	340
Nebula Final Challenge 1.....	341
Nebula Final Challenge 2.....	344

A Note to Teachers

This isn't your average language arts workbook. In fact, it is a mission manual your young guardian will use to save Grammar Galaxy from the evil Gremlin. In other words, it's supposed to be fun!

Read the corresponding lesson in the *Grammar Galaxy: Adventures in Language Arts, Nebula* text to the student before completing each mission. You will then read each step of the mission to your student and give as much help in completing them as your student requires. It's important to note that most Nebula-level students aren't ready to work independently. Much of their enjoyment of their mission manuals will come from spending time with their teacher /parent.

Each step of a mission may be completed on separate days or all at once, depending on interest level and schedule. Missions are short so students stay motivated and have time to read and write in other ways they enjoy. Most missions ask students to use a highlighter to indicate their answers. Highlighters are more forgiving for students with less developed fine motor skills and are fun to use. Correction tape / fluid and adhesive flags will also be used for some missions.

Students will be asked to use vocabulary words in a sentence. Give students an example sentence first. All vocabulary words are taken from the text. Vocabulary will improve with repeated exposure. Don't worry if your student doesn't recall word meanings.

Missions marked "For Advanced Guardians Only" can be given to students who want to complete them as well as older students who are beginning with the Nebula level.

When all three steps of a mission are completed, read the Update to your student. For students who want more practice with a particular skill, be sure to check the website for resources at <http://GrammarGalaxyBooks.com/Nebula>.

To use Grammar Galaxy with more than one student, purchase a digital version of the workbook with copying rights for your family or purchase additional printed workbooks. Copying from the printed workbook is a violation of copyright. Thank you in advance for your integrity.

Have a question? Contact the author at funtolearnbooksinfo@gmail.com.

OFFICIAL GUARDIAN MAIL



Mission 20: Nouns

Dear fellow guardians,

We hope you have not disappeared and are able to read this letter. As you probably know, people, places, and things have been disappearing. What you may not know is who is responsible.

Remember General Arnold who caused problems with our phonics? He ordered our ships to remove nouns from Noun Town without permission. We are happy to report that those words have been returned. But the bad news is that we need your help to make sure only nouns have been returned. We also need to determine which street each word lived on.

Thank you in advance for your help. We are hoping our dear dog, Comet, will come back to us if we succeed. Please let us know if you see General Arnold anywhere!

Sincerely,

Kirk and Luke English

Guardians of Grammar Galaxy

P.S. You have been reviewing the words in your word book, haven't you? We sure don't need another vocabulary crisis!

.....

★ Step 1: On Guard & Identify Nouns

On Guard. *Highlight TRUE or FALSE for each statement.*

1. Abbreviations and contractions are both short forms of words. TRUE FALSE
2. Swimmingpool is a correct compound word. TRUE FALSE
3. The word war comes before *word* in the dictionary. TRUE FALSE
4. A thesaurus gives synonyms for words. TRUE FALSE
5. You will probably read more if you read at the same time each day. TRUE FALSE

Say each of these words in a sentence. *Their meanings are given.*

pandemonium – *chaos* **apprehension** – *fear* **essential** – *necessary*

Put the words that are **NOT** nouns back on the spaceship. Draw a line from the words that are **NOT** nouns to the spaceship. **Hint:** Draw a line from words that are NOT people, places, or things.

☹️
book
👤

☹️
cat
👤

☹️
mom
👤

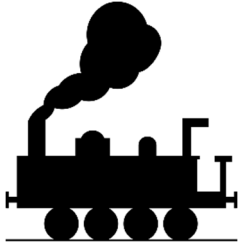
☹️
ran
👤

☹️
old
👤



★ Step 2: Sort Words by People, Places, and Things

Draw a line from each noun to the street where it lives.



Activity. Have your teacher write different kinds of nouns on small sticky notes and put them around the room(s) when you aren't looking. Go on a hunt to find them all. When you do, stick them in the right column for person, place, or thing.

PERSON	PLACE	THING

★ Step 3: Find Nouns in Sentences

Highlight nouns in the following sentences. *These are words that live in Noun Town because they are people, places, or things.*

1. The man and dog were friends.
2. The woman went into the bank.
3. The driver had a fast car.
4. The ship sailed near Africa.
5. The squirrel ate some nuts.

Vocabulary Victory! *Do you remember what these words mean? Check Step 1 if you forgot.*

pandemonium

apprehension

essential

★ Advanced Guardians Only

Write or dictate a sentence using a person noun, place noun, and thing noun. *Your sentence will have at least three nouns.*

Handwriting practice lines consisting of five sets of three horizontal lines each (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

OFFICIAL GUARDIAN MAIL



Mission 20: Update

Dear guardians,

We are so happy to tell you that Comet is back home! We actually found the words *dog* and *pet* and brought them back to Thing Street personally. The museum, shopping mall, and stadium are all back, too.

We wish we could tell you that General Arnold was in jail where he belongs, but we still haven't found him. We will have to stay alert to any nouns that are out of place.

We are attaching the solutions to this mission. Thank you for doing what you do to protect the galaxy!

Sincerely,

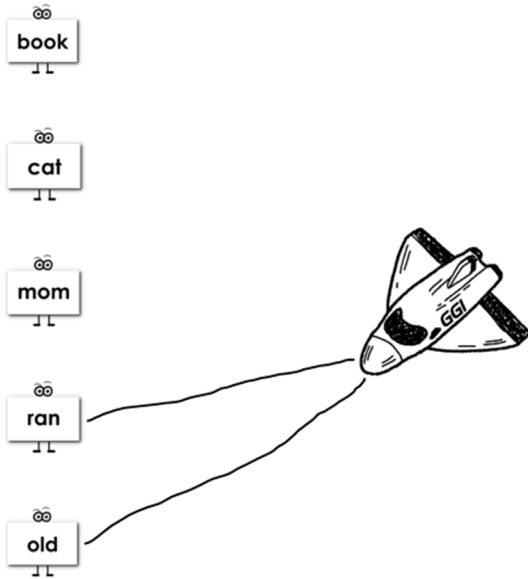
Ellen, Kirk, and Luke English

Guardians of Grammar Galaxy

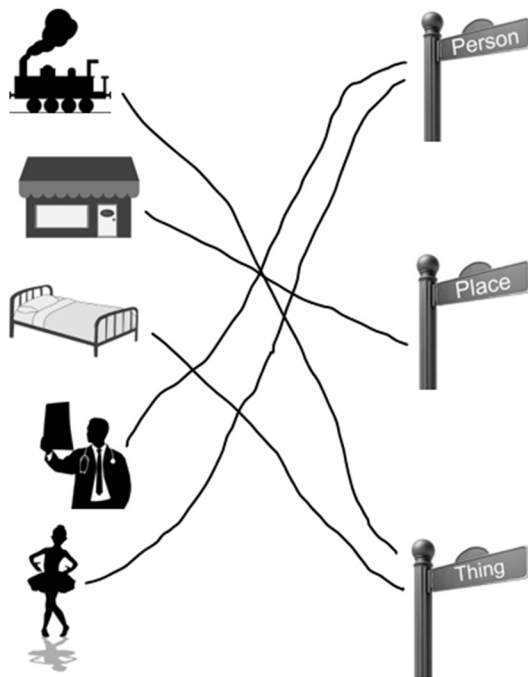


Step 1 Solutions

1. Abbreviations and contractions are both short forms of words. TRUE FALSE
2. Swimmingpool is a correct compound word. TRUE FALSE
3. The word war comes before *word* in the dictionary. TRUE FALSE
4. A thesaurus gives synonyms for words. TRUE FALSE
5. You will probably read more if you read at the same time each day. TRUE FALSE



Step 2 Solutions



Step 3 Solutions:

1. The man and dog were friends.
2. The woman went into the bank.
3. The driver had a fast car.
4. The ship sailed near Africa.
5. The squirrel ate some nuts.