

Protostar Scope & Sequence

Literature

1. Book reports
2. Classic literature
3. Myths
4. Fables
5. Autobiographies
6. Alliteration
7. Story action
8. Drama terms

Spelling & Vocabulary

9. Homophones
10. Acronyms
11. Word roots
12. Idioms
13. Dictionary skills
14. Spelling rules

Grammar

15. Possessive Nouns & Pronouns
16. Helping verbs
17. Verb tenses
18. Irregular verbs
19. Linking verbs
20. Prepositions
21. Parts of speech
22. Subjects
23. Predicates
24. Compound subjects & predicates
25. List commas

Composition

26. Word order
27. Combining short sentences
28. Sentences & fragments
29. Paragraphs
30. Encyclopedia research
31. Complete a story
32. Letter writing
33. Shape poems
34. Key word oral reports
35. Keyboarding
36. Copywork

Dedicated to future guardians of Grammar Galaxy and to the glory of God.

Special thanks to my family, friends, and to Rebecca Mueller for their invaluable help and support. You made Grammar Galaxy a reality.

GRAMMAR GALAXY: NEBULA

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ISBN:

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 literary concepts, vocabulary, spelling, writing & 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: Protostar is for students who are beginning readers and writers at about a third-grade level. They should have used separate phonics and handwriting curriculum. And they should have completed *Grammar Galaxy: Nebula* or its equivalent. *Protostar* should be read to students unless they and their teachers are confident they can read and comprehend the stories and mission instructions on their own. 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 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

Prologue

The king of Grammar Galaxy stood in the observatory, pondering the events of the previous year. He had been wise to make his children, Kirk, Luke, and Ellen English, official guardians of the galaxy. They had done well in protecting the English language from the Gremlin. The other young guardians of the galaxy had done their part by completing assigned missions.

Despite the Gremlin's evil plans, children were reading, words were where they belonged on the various planets, and young people were learning to write and speak well. The king was pleased, but he was also worried.

He paced back and forth, wondering how the Gremlin would try to destroy the English language next. The king hoped the guardians would remain strong enough to defeat him.



Chapter 1

The royal family sat around the breakfast table. The king reminded them of the upcoming book report deadline. He explained that for the first time, their book reports would be shared across the galaxy. They would be giving them **orally**, rather than submitting them in written form.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

orally - out loud

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ellen chattered excitedly with her mother, asking her what she thought they should wear. Kirk said he was going to have trouble choosing a book because he had read so many amazing titles.

Everyone left the table stating their intention to get to work immediately, except Luke. Luke went to his bedchamber and took out his reading calendars. He had marked stars to show he had read, but he didn't have the titles of the books he'd read.

He sat on his bed trying to recall his favorite titles of the last year, with no luck. Then he realized he could just look on his bookshelves. He spent time flipping through the pages of some of the books. He smiled as he recalled his favorite characters and plots. He was relieved as he realized he would easily be able to choose one of the books for his report.

He figured he had plenty of time to have a snack. Luke made his way to the kitchen where he asked Cook if she had anything especially tasty for him. She **complied** and **presented** Luke with freshly baked cookies. After his snack, Luke decided to take Comet for a long walk.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
complied – *obeyed*
presented – *gave*
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

At dinner that evening everyone chatted about the book they had chosen for their report. Luke smiled and stated that he had his selection narrowed down to three books. The king smiled approvingly. “That’s excellent, Luke. I look forward to hearing your report.”

In the days that followed, Luke figured he still had plenty of time to finish his report. One of his three favorite books was part of a series. He was excited to read the next book, so he checked it out of the library. He starting reading it and also kept busy doing math and science.

A week later when Ellen asked him about his report, Luke realized that he had to get started. He sat down in his bedchamber one evening with paper and pencil. First he wrote the titles of the three books he had chosen. *Which is my favorite?* he wondered. When he couldn’t decide, he asked Comet to sniff one. But Comet barely raised an eyebrow. Luke sighed. “Okay. I’m tired too. I’ll decide tomorrow.”

The next several days were full of activities for Luke. He did think about his report, but told himself he could finish it in an hour or two. He had a sick feeling in his stomach when he awoke two days before he was supposed to be giving his report. “I have to get this done!” he declared.

After a full breakfast, he returned to his room. He was determined to choose a book. “I know! I’ll choose the first book in the series I’m reading.” He was proud of himself for deciding. He would have plenty of time to organize a game of spaceball with his friends when he was done with the report.

On a new sheet of paper, he wrote the book title. He smiled as he imagined himself announcing the book. Then his smile faded. “Now what am I supposed to say? I don’t know even know how to write a book report!” He felt sick as he thought of millions of people watching him. He felt even sicker as he thought of telling his family that he

hadn't started his report. "What should I do?" he asked Comet, who seemed just as sleepy as he had days before.

"I know! I'm really not feeling well. There's no way I can read this report anyway. I need to rest. Right, boy?" Comet groaned as he tried to get back to sleep. "You're not feeling well either. I can't help it that I'm sick."

Luke climbed into bed and imagined himself having to do his report. It helped him to feel sick. Then he used his communicator to contact his mother. "Mother," he said weakly. "I'm not well."

"Oh no!" she cried. "What's wrong?"

"I don't know. I feel sick."

"What can I bring you? Do you have a fever? Should I call the doctor*?"

"No, no fever. I don't need anything. I'll be fine. Well, maybe some soup would be good. And crackers. I could try some pudding, too. Chocolate milk would taste good."

"Okay, dear. I'll ask Cook to make up a tray and I'll bring it to you."

"I don't want you to get sick, too. Just have someone leave it by the door." This worried the queen even more, but she was proud of Luke for thinking of her. "Oh, and Mother?" Luke said.

"Yes, sweet Luke?"

"I'm so disappointed, but I don't think I'll be able to do the book report tomorrow."

"Oh, goodness, Luke. Don't worry about that. You'll probably be fine by tomorrow anyway."

Luke felt quite guilty when he got the "Get Well Soon" note on his meal tray. But when he thought about telling everyone the truth, he really did feel sick. He tried to pass the time by reading more of his new book. But that made him feel sick too. When he finally fell asleep, he had repeated nightmares about the book report.

He woke up to his mother knocking gently on the door. "Luke, how are you?" she called.

Before he could think, he answered, "I'm fine!" When he remembered, he called out, "Uh, I'm starting to feel sick though."

The queen came in and held a hand to Luke's forehead. "No fever," she announced. She looked at the empty food dishes on the tray from the night before. "Appetite seems okay, too."

Luke interjected, "I don't think I'm well enough to do the book report." He held his breath, waiting for his mother to agree.

"I see," she said. She went to Luke's desk and picked up the papers lying there. "Is this your report?"

"Yes...no. That's just the title," he stammered.

"Where's the finished report then?" she asked, staring at him until he could stand it no more.

"Okay, I admit it! I'm not sick. I don't have my report done. I don't even know how to write a book report. I waited so long to start it and then I was too scared to tell you. I'm so sorry! Really I am. Please forgive me, Mother. Please?" Luke's eyes welled up with tears. He jumped out of bed and ran to her, hugging her tightly.

His mother sighed and crouched down to look into Luke's eyes. "I'm disappointed that you lied. We were all worried about you," she said.

"I know. I feel so guilty!"

"I can see that you do. You should. The next time you're really sick we may not believe you."

"I know. I won't lie again."

"You will need to apologize to Cook and the rest of the family."

Luke sighed. "I will."

"And you will have to give your report."

"I'll make a fool of myself! I don't know how to write a book report," he wailed.

The queen smiled. "In the excitement of getting ready to read our reports for TV, I forgot that you hadn't written one before. Get dressed. You can apologize to everyone at breakfast. Then we'll get to work on your report."

Luke was nervous about admitting he had lied. But it was better than having to go on television without a report.

Luke was relieved when he told Cook and his family that he'd lied and they forgave him. He thought his punishment made sense. He would help Cook make dinner for the family and would help clean up, too.

The queen explained that Luke hadn't been taught how to write a book report. So the king called for the guidebook. He read the entry for them.

Book Reports
<p>A book report is a way for readers to think about and share what they've read. Book reports develop literature, writing, and speaking skills. Beginning book reports include an introduction. The introduction gives the book title and author as well as the reason for choosing the book. The body, or main part, of the book report should describe the setting, characters, and plot. The conclusion, or ending, should give the reader's opinion and what was learned. Book reports can include illustrations. They can be written or presented orally.</p>

"I remember what the setting, characters, and plot of a book are," Luke said confidently.

"Me too," Ellen said. "The setting is where and when the book happens. It's also the mood."

"Right, like scary or funny," Luke added.

"The characters are the people in the story. But sometimes animals are the characters," Ellen continued.

"The plot is the problem that is solved in the story," Kirk said.

"I remember this," Luke said. "But I have to be honest and say that I don't remember everything you said should be in the book report."

"I can help," the queen said. She showed Luke some forms that he could use to write his report.

"Wow! If I had these a few weeks ago, I could have written my report easy," Luke said.

"Easily," his mother corrected.

"Mother, do you think anyone else waited to write their book report at the last minute? I mean, do you think there are other kids who don't know how to write reports?" Luke asked.

The queen smiled. "Are you saying what I think you're saying?"

Luke grinned. "Luke, you get to work on your book report. Ellen and I will send out a mission to our fellow guardians called 'Book Reports.' We wouldn't want anyone else to get the Book Report Flu," Kirk said. Everyone laughed.



What does *complied* mean?

What should Luke have done instead of pretending to be sick?

What should be included in the introduction to your book report?

OFFICIAL GUARDIAN MAIL



Mission 6: Alliteration

Greetings, good guardians!

You may have noticed that you are putting words together that begin with the same sound. That's alliteration. A little alliteration is lovely; a lot is lousy. Our mother's mystery may be in trouble if we can't get words on planet Sentence out of alphabetical order.

We are going there now to get rid of the alphabetical order signs. But we need you to help us find words that are making too much alliteration.

We are really rooting for you!

Sincerely,

Kirk, Luke, and Ellen English

Guardians of Grammar Galaxy

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★ Step 1: On Guard & Identify Words in Alphabetical Order
On Guard. *Highlight a, b, or c as the best answer.*

1. The main part of a book report should:
 - a. be extremely funny
 - b. include the setting, characters, and plot
 - c. be at least 100 pages long

2. A classic must be:
 - a. very old
 - b. science fiction
 - c. read by many people

3. A myth is:
 - a. usually about a god or someone with super powers
 - b. trying to explain creation or natural events
 - c. both a and b

4. A fable is:
 - a. usually about animals
 - b. a very long book
 - c. always written by Aesop

5. A biography is:
 - a. 100% true
 - b. 100% fals
 - c. written by someone other than the person the book is about

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

devised – *created*

consummate – *supreme*

delectable – *delicious*

Circle the word groups that are in alphabetical order. ***Hint:** If the first letters are the same in the words, look at the 2nd letter. Which letter comes first in the alphabet? That word should be written first. If the letters are still the same, look at the 3rd letter and so on.*

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

worms
wriggle
write

dogs
cats
fish

big
broken
broom

very
good
book

little
Lizzy
Lou

Click
Clack
Moo

★ Step 2: Identify Alliteration

Highlight the words that make up alliteration in each sentence.

Hint: *Not all sentences will have alliteration.*

1. The quiet queen quit making her cake to listen to Ellen.
2. The dirty dog dug up the queen's flowers.
3. Kirk and the king kicked the ball around.
4. Luke wondered about life in other galaxies.
5. The Gremlin is Grammar Galaxy's villain.

Activity. *Repeat these tongue twisters quickly. What happens?*

A proper copper coffee pot.

Toy boat. Toy boat. Toy boat.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked.
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck
could chuck wood?

One-One was a racehorse.
Two-Two was one, too.
When One-One won one race,
Two-Two won one, too.

★ Step 3: Choose Words to Create Alliteration

For each sentence, highlight the word that creates alliteration.

1. The big box of _____ arrived on time.
 games books toys
2. The Gremlin worried the watching _____.
 words people kids
3. Luke licked the _____.
 Ice cream spoon lollipop
4. The _____ changed the channel.
 king children cook
5. Ellen English _____ the game.
 ended won lost

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

devised

consummate

delectable

★ Advanced Guardians Only

Write or dictate your own alliteration. A *thesaurus* can help you find words that start with the sound you need. Try thesaurus.com with your teacher's help.

Write a sentence about a **fish**.

Write a sentence about a **toad**.

Write a sentence about a **bird**.

Write your own sentence. Make it a tongue twister if you like.

OFFICIAL GUARDIAN MAIL



Mission 6: Update

Dear guardian friends,

Aren't you glad we didn't call you guardian guys and gals? You did it! You helped us solve the alliteration crisis. We explained everything to our mother. She was so happy! She's back at work on her mystery.

It's possible that we missed some words that are still in alphabetical order. We may ask for your help identifying them in the future.

We are attaching the solutions to this mission. We're sure you know what you're doing, though!

Sincerely,

Kirk, Luke, and Ellen English

Guardians of Grammar Galaxy



Step 1 Solutions

On Guard.

- The main part of a book report should:
 - be extremely funny
 - include the setting, characters, and plot
 - be at least 100 pages long
- A classic must be:
 - very old
 - science fiction
 - read by many people
- A myth is:
 - usually about a god or someone with super powers
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- A fable is:
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- A biography is:
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Circle the word groups that are in alphabetical order.

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2. The dirty dog dug up the queen's flowers.
3. Kirk and the king kicked the ball around.
4. Luke wondered about life in other galaxies.
5. The Gremlin is Grammar Galaxy's villain.

Step 2 Solutions

worms
wriggle
write

dogs
cats
fish

big
broken
broom

very
good
book

little
Lizzy
Lou

Click
Clack
Moo

Step 3 Solutions:

1. The big box of _____ arrived on time.
games books toys
2. The Gremlin worried the watching _____.
words people kids
3. Luke licked the _____.
Ice cream spoon lollipop
4. The _____ changed the channel.
king children cook
5. Ellen English _____ the game.
ended won lost

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