



PROTOSTAR
VOLUME 2

GRAMMAR GALAXY

*Adventures in
Language Arts*



Melanie Wilson, Ph.D.
Illustrated by Rebecca Mueller

Sample Note

The following samples from the *Protostar* text and mission manual are from two different lessons. They will give you an idea of whether or not the curriculum is a good fit for your student.

To download a complete sample lesson, visit <http://GrammarGalaxyBooks.com/samples>. Many of your questions can be answered in the FAQs section at <http://GrammarGalaxyBooks.com/faq>. But if you still have questions, feel free to ask in the Grammar Guardians Facebook group: <http://Facebook.com/groups/grammarguardians>, or email me at grammargalaxybooks@gmail.com.

Melanie Wilson

Grammar Galaxy Scope & Sequence

Nebula – 1 st /2 nd grade	Protostar – 3 rd grade	Yellow Star – 4 th grade	Red Star – 5 th grade	Blue Star – 6 th grade
Literature	Literature	Literature		
Importance of Reading	Book Reports	Graphic Novels		
Reading from Context	Classics	Drawing Conclusions		
Reading Comprehension	Myths	Character Traits		
Identifying Fiction & Nonfiction	Fables	Point of View		
Story Elements	Autobiographies	Personification		
Tall Tales	Alliteration	Similes & Metaphors		
Rhyming Words	Story Action	World Literature		
Vocabulary	Drama Terms	Spelling & Vocabulary		
Synonyms & Antonyms	Spelling & Vocabulary	Prefixes, Suffixes & Word Roots		
Vocabulary	Homophones	Verb Confusion		
Fix the Prefixes	Acronyms	Strong Vocabulary		
Fix the Suffixes	Root Words	Unusual Spellings		
Superlatives	Idioms	Strategies for Commonly Misspelled		
Spelling	Dictionary Skills	Foreign Words		
Alphabetizing	Spelling Rules	Tricky Capitalization		
Syllables	Grammar	Grammar		
Phonics	Possessive Nouns & Pronouns	Abstract Nouns		
Spelling with Phonics	Helping Verbs	Appositives		
Compound Words	Verb Tenses	Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement		
Contractions	Irregular Verbs	Direct Objects		
Abbreviations	Linking Verbs	Subject-Verb Agreement		
Grammar	Prepositions	Perfect Tense		
Nouns	Parts of Speech	Adjective-Adverb Confusion		
Common & Proper Nouns	Subjects	Comparative Confusion		
Singular & Plural Nouns	Predicates	Double Negatives		
Pronouns	Compound Subjects & Predicates	Indirect Objects		
Articles	Commas	Coordinating Conjunctions		
Adjectives	Composition & Speaking	Interjections		
Verbs	Copywork	Composition & Speaking		
Adverbs	Combining Short Sentences	Dictation		
End Marks	Sentences & Fragments	Proofreading		
Quotation Marks	Paragraphs	Run-On Sentences		
Composition & Speaking	Word Order	Transition Words		
Handwriting	Story Completion	Possibility Thinking		
Forms	Encyclopedias	Audience		
Thank-You Notes	Shape Poems	Titles		
Directions	Friendly Letters	Writing Realistic Fiction		
Introductions	Keyboarding	Ad Copy		
Reading Aloud	Keywords	Lipograms		
Storytelling				

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/shop.

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.

WOMAN'S UNIVERSE

Grammar Queen
loves cooking
children
and decorating



Chapter 25

The queen squealed from the sunroom, getting Ellen's attention. "What is it, Mother?" she asked.

The queen was giddy and held up a copy of *Woman's Universe* that she had just received in the mail. "I'm on the cover!" she gushed. She cradled it to her chest. "I just can't believe it."

"Was this for that photo shoot they did here at the castle?" Ellen asked.

“Yes! They took pictures of me cooking. They wanted to see the redecorating I’ve been doing and our new saltwater aquarium. That reminds me. Cook will be so excited to see this, too. Let’s go show her.”

Cook was indeed excited to see the magazine cover and to see the queen so happy.

“I’m so grateful to you, Cook,” the queen said. “If you hadn’t given me cooking lessons, I doubt *Woman’s Universe* would have put me on the cover.” When Cook **demurred**, the queen insisted. “Before my cooking hobby, I wasn’t really doing anything.”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

demurred - *objected*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“She wasn’t,” Ellen agreed, and the three of them laughed.

At dinner that evening, the queen couldn’t stop talking about the magazine. “I’ve read the article and they did such a lovely job. I don’t think it was exaggerated and it wasn’t mean either,” she said.

“That’s lovely, dear. Maybe you’ll inspire more women to take up cooking as a hobby,” the king said.

“I hadn’t even thought of that,” the queen said, grinning.

“Maybe they’ll want you to have your own cooking show!” Ellen suggested.

“Now we may be getting a little ahead of ourselves,” the queen said, but it was obvious she liked the idea. Ellen did give the queen an idea, though. “We should watch *Galaxy Gourmet* for our family time tonight! Cook,” she called loudly. “Will you watch *Galaxy Gourmet* with us? Maybe we could co-host our own cooking show one day!”

Cook came through the kitchen doors blushing. “Your Highness, I would love to! Let me get my cleaning chores finished and I’ll join you. In the media room?” When the queen agreed, Cook returned to the kitchen humming happily. Momentarily, the family heard her telling the staff to hurry.

“Uh, I have a paper I’m working on. Would it be alright if I didn’t watch the show with you?” Kirk asked.

“Oh. Well, your education comes first. Of course, you may be excused, Kirk,” the queen answered.

“Hey! That reminds me. I have to finish a book for literature class. Sorry, I won’t be able to watch with you,” Luke said in a way that suggested he wasn’t sad.

“You too? Alright. I want you to read,” the queen said. “It looks like it will be the four of us then. You,” she said, looking at the king, “me, Ellen, and Cook.”

“Actually...” the king started hesitantly. “I was planning on writing more stories. I don’t want to disappoint you, though.”

The queen sighed. “It’s okay. I know you don’t care for these shows anyway.” The king tried to hide his relief.

After dinner was finished, the three ladies sat down to watch their favorite cooking show. The queen wanted to watch with her own future show in mind. The evening news was just finishing up. A male news anchor said, “Now for a story that everyone is talking about, concerning our own queen.” The queen gasped as a female reporter took the story over.

“People can’t stop talking about this magazine cover featuring the queen. She looks beautiful in her castle kitchen,” she said. “But that’s not what has created all the buzz. Pay close attention to the title: Queen enjoys cooking pets and decorating. People have been discussing what kind of pets the queen might enjoy cooking. Some have mentioned that it’s been a long time since they’ve seen Comet, the royal family’s dog. Could the family have eaten him?”

Video footage of a group of protesters outside the castle played while the reporter continued. “Animal rights activists are demanding that the queen stop cooking pets immediately.”

The queen covered her mouth in horror. “Are they out there now?” She called for the butler to check for them while Cook and Ellen tried to comfort her.

“Don’t take it so hard, Your Majesty,” Cook said. “I know you’ve never cooked a pet in your life. This is all a misunderstanding.”

“But how can I prove it? Those people believe what they’ve read,” the queen said **forlornly**.

★★★★★★★★★★

forlornly - *sadly*

“I’m going to go get Father,” Ellen declared. The queen didn’t object. Ellen knew they had a serious problem.

★★★★★★★★★★

When the king joined the ladies in the media room, he asked to see the magazine. When the queen retrieved it for him, he frowned. “I see why they think you enjoy cooking pets.”

“You do?” the queen asked.

“Yes! The magazine editor left off a comma. Look here. There should be a comma after the word *cooking*.”

The queen fumed. “Do you think they did this on purpose? And to think I thought they were honoring me!”

“I doubt they did it on purpose, dear,” the king said. “I need to check something.”

He left and returned with the newspaper. “It looks like the magazine isn’t the only thing affected by a lack of commas. Read this headline.”

“Very Pretty King,” the queen read. She giggled.

“Yes, very funny. There is supposed to be a comma before king. But this article about the city garden I had planted makes it sound like they’re calling me pretty,” the king explained.

“Wish they had called me pretty instead of suggesting that I cook pets,” the queen said.

“Why are commas missing?”

“That’s what I have to find out,” the king said. He ordered Screen to give him an update from planet Sentence. “It’s just as I feared,” he said a few

minutes later. “It’s the latest result of the war over comma usage. Look at the comma signs in a pile.” He pointed to a photo on the screen.

“I didn’t know commas were important enough to fight over,” Ellen said.

“Oh, indeed they are. The articles about your mother and me are just the beginning of the confusion that will result,” the king said. “I need to talk with your brothers.”

The king requested the guidebook from the library. When Kirk and Luke arrived, he turned to the entry on commas. “There are a



number of comma rules you need to know. But I want to share two of them with you today.”

Commas
<p>A comma is a punctuation mark that is used to show a pause between sentence parts. Proper usage can prevent confusion. There are a number of rules for the correct use of commas.</p> <p>First, commas are used to separate words in a list of three or more items. <u>The children love reading, writing, and playing games.</u></p> <p>Use of a comma before the word <i>and</i> at the end of a list is known as the Oxford comma. If you use it in your writing, you should use it consistently.</p> <p>A second rule for comma usage is to separate the name of the person you are speaking to with commas. Note the difference in meanings below: <u>I will call you, Angel.</u> (The person is going to call someone who is named Angel.) <u>I will call you Angel.</u> (The person is giving someone the name Angel.)</p>

“I didn’t know commas were so important,” Kirk said.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

consistently – *always*

“I didn’t either!” The queen said. ”I do now.”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“What are we going to do about the commas?” Luke asked.

“First, I have to get all of the commas on planet Sentence put back in place. Obviously, I can’t do it alone.”

“Do you need us to go to planet Sentence?” Kirk asked.

When the king agreed, Luke asked, “We are going to need the guardians’ help too, right?”

“Indeed,” the king answered.

“But how will I convince people that I don’t cook pets?” the queen worried aloud.

“I have an idea,” Ellen said.

The three English children worked together to create a mission they called “Commas.”



What does *consistently* mean?

Why did people think the queen enjoyed cooking pets?

Where should the comma go in the headline “Very Pretty King”?

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!

You or your student should read a chapter in the *Grammar Galaxy: Adventures in Language Arts, Protostar* text first. If your student prefers to have you read the text, please do so. Your student will then complete each step of the corresponding mission in this *Protostar Mission Manual*. Provide as much help in reading and completing the missions as your student requires. At this level, much of the students' 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. Beginning writers may choose to dictate some written work. Index cards are used in some missions. One mission requires balloons, string, and permanent marker.

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 using Protostar.

When all three steps of a mission are completed, you or your student should read the Update. For students who want more practice with a particular skill, be sure to check the website for resources at <http://GrammarGalaxyBooks.com/Protostar>. This is also where you can download additional forms where indicated.

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 grammargalaxybooks@gmail.com.

OFFICIAL GUARDIAN MAIL



Mission 25: Commas

Dear guardians,

The comma wars have resulted in comma signs being removed on planet Sentence. What's worse is that their absence has created real confusion. People think our mother likes to cook pets. Did you see the cover of *Woman's Universe*? If your mother or grandmother saw it, do us a favor and tell her that the article title is missing commas. Our mother loves to cook and she is an animal lover, too.

We are headed to planet Sentence to replace the comma signs. But we need your help to know where to put them. Your mission is to make sure commas are put in lists and around names of people being addressed (spoken to).

Thank you so much. Our mother will be especially grateful if you complete this mission.

Sincerely,

Kirk, Luke, and Ellen English

Guardians of Grammar Galaxy

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★ Step 1: On Guard & Highlight Sentences Missing Commas
On Guard. *Highlight TRUE or FALSE for each question.*

1. In the phrase above the clouds, clouds is a preposition. TRUE FALSE
2. The word now is an adjective. TRUE FALSE
3. A subject is what someone or something does in a sentence. TRUE FALSE
4. A simple predicate is just the verb or verb phrase. TRUE FALSE
5. Compound subjects are more than one subject. TRUE FALSE

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

demurred – *objected*

forlornly – *sadly*

consistently – *always*

Drop the silent e at the end of a word before adding a vowel suffix. For example, *having, giving, caving*. What other words follow this rule? Write them here:

Highlight the sentences that are missing list commas.

The library has books magazines and computers.

1. Ellen the queen and Cook watched *Galaxy Gourmet*.
2. The queen asked Kirk Luke and the king to watch too.
3. The queen enjoys cooking, pets, and decorating.
4. Commas are found in magazines, newspapers, and books.
5. Commas are used for lists names and more.

★ Step 2: Find Commas Around Names

Highlight sentences that are missing commas around names.

Note: *These are only used when someone or something is being directly addressed (spoken or written to).*

What is it Mother?

1. "I'm so grateful to you Cook."
2. "Of course you may be excused, Kirk."
3. "Don't take it so hard Your Majesty."
4. The garden is very pretty, King.
5. Guardians we need your help.

Activity. Write a comma on one index card and a not symbol \emptyset on another. Your teacher will read you sentences. Hold up the comma card if it needs a comma and the not symbol if it doesn't. Listen carefully and don't peek!

1. We need to protect planets Sentence Vocabulary and Composition.
2. Luke loves cake and ice cream.
3. _____ (student name) are you paying attention?
4. My favorite colors are red blue green and purple.
5. We love talking to you.
6. Reading and writing are as fun as math science and history.
7. "Ellen are you up?" the queen asked.
8. "Dear are you alright?" the king asked.
9. Literature spelling and vocabulary are important skills.
10. Grammar is one of many language arts skills.

★ Step 3: Add Commas to Sentences

Add commas to lists, to set off names, and for the following rules:

- **Add commas to set off direct quotes.** *Kirk said, "We need the guardians' help."*
- **Add commas to separate dates from years.** *July 4, 1776*
- **Add commas to separate parts of an address (not zip codes).**
12345 Grammar Way, English Town, PE 67890
- **Add commas to separate titles from a name.** *Melanie Wilson, Ph.D.*

Note: *There may be more than one type of comma needed.*

1. Kirk Luke and Ellen need the guardians' help.
2. *Woman's Universe* was dated March 1 2090.
3. The queen said "I did not say I like cooking pets."
4. You can write the editor at 2222 Universe Way
Funnyville PE 67890
5. "Kirk I need you in the study " the king said.
6. The king went to see Robin Williams MD.
7. The king's favorite meals are breakfast lunch and
dinner.
8. The queen was born on January 1 2055.
9. The newspaper's address is 3333 Gazette Drive Publish
Town PE 67891
10. The queen threatened to see Judy Sue Attorney at
Law.

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

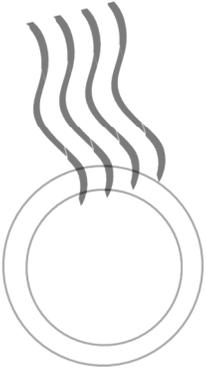
demurred

forlornly

consistently

★ Advanced Guardians Only

Address an envelope to Woman's Universe (2222 Universe Way Funnyville PE 67890) **using your return address.** Put the date under the stamp like the post office does. Use commas where needed. **Hint:** Put a comma between your name and your title of Guardian.

<p>Your Name _____ Guardian</p> <p>Street _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State/Country/Postal Code _____</p>	<p>Woman's Universe</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Date _____</p> 
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OFFICIAL GUARDIAN MAIL



Mission 25: Update

Dear guardians,

Our mother asked us to give you a special thank-you from her. You spread the word about her and you helped us get the commas back in place. Our father is happy, too. He is hopeful no one will call him a pretty king again.

We are including the solutions to this mission. Keep looking for missing commas. It's possible someone will remove the signs again.

Sincerely,

Kirk, Luke, and Ellen English

Guardians of Grammar Galaxy

P.S. You are ready to take the Grammar Challenge. When you get 9 out of 10 correct, you'll have earned your Grammar star. We know you can do it!



Step 1 Solutions

On Guard.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. In the phrase <u>above the clouds</u> , clouds is a preposition. | TRUE <input type="checkbox"/> FALSE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The word <u>now</u> is an adjective. | TRUE <input type="checkbox"/> FALSE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. A subject is what someone or something does in a sentence. | TRUE <input type="checkbox"/> FALSE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. A simple predicate is just the verb or verb phrase. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRUE <input type="checkbox"/> FALSE |
| 5. Compound subjects are more than one subject. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRUE <input type="checkbox"/> FALSE |

Highlight the sentences that are missing list commas.

1. Ellen the queen and Cook watched *Galaxy Gourmet*.
2. The queen asked Kirk Luke and the king to watch too.
3. The queen enjoys cooking, pets, and decorating.

4. Commas are found in magazines, newspapers, and books.
5. Commas are used for lists names and more.

Step 2 Solutions

1. "I'm so grateful to you Cook."
2. "Of course you may be excused, Kirk."
3. "Don't take it so hard Your Majesty."
4. The garden is very pretty, King.
5. Guardians we need your help.

Activity.

1. We need to protect planets Sentence Vocabulary and Composition. ,
2. Luke loves cake and ice cream. Ø
3. _____ (student name) are you paying attention? ,
4. My favorite colors are red blue green and purple. ,
5. We love talking to you. Ø
6. Reading and writing are as fun as math science and history. ,
7. "Ellen are you up?" the queen asked. ,
8. "Dear are you alright?" the king asked. ,
9. Literature spelling and vocabulary are important skills. ,
10. Grammar is one of many language arts skills. Ø

Step 3 Solutions:

1. Kirk, Luke, and Ellen need the guardians' help.
2. *Woman's Universe* was dated March 1, 2090.
3. The queen said, "I did not say I like cooking pets."
4. You can write the editor at 2222 Universe Way, Funnyville, PE 67890
5. "Kirk, I need you in the study," the king said.
6. The king went to see Robin Williams, MD.
7. The king's favorite meals are breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
8. The queen was born on January 1, 2055.
9. The newspaper's address is 3333 Gazette Drive, Publish Town, PE 67891
10. The queen threatened to see Judy Sue, Attorney at Law.

Advanced Guardians.

2222 Universe Way
Funnyville, PE 67890