

Sample Note

The following sample is from *Grammar Galaxy Supernova*, a middle school volume for students who have completed *Nova* or its equivalent.

The text sample is from the literature unit and the mission manual sample is from the composition unit. If you'd like to try a complete sample on subject vs. object pronouns, you can request one at FunToLearnBooks.com/samples.

If you'd like to start with an earlier volume, review the included scope and lesson sequence or take the placement quiz at FunToLearnBooks.com. Use code SAMPLE to take 10% off your purchase (bundles and launch-priced products are excluded).

Find answers to questions in the FAQ section at FunToLearnBooks.com/help. But if you still have questions, feel free to ask in the Grammar Guardians Facebook group: [Facebook.com/groups/grammarguardians](https://www.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	Nova – 7 th grade	Supernova – 8 th grade
Literature	Literature	Literature	Literature	Literature	Literature	Literature
Importance of Reading	Book Reports	Graphic Novels	Theme	Lit Unit Study	Literary Genres	Satire & Censorship
Reading from Context	Classics	Drawing Conclusions	Supporting Evidence	Tone & Mood	Figurative Language	Fact-Checking
Reading Comprehension	Myths	Character Traits	Author Study	Short Stories	Greek Mythology	Science Reading
Identifying Fiction & Nonfiction	Fables	Point of View	Symbolism	Allusions	Story Arcs	Theme
Story Elements	Autobiographies	Personification	Foreshadowing	Narrative Poems	Character Arcs	Symbolism
Tall Tales	Alliteration	Similes & Metaphors	Flashback	Nonfiction Comprehension	Readers Theatre	Tone & Mood
Rhyming Words	Story Action	World Literature	Hyperbole	Urban Legends	Reading-Comp Tests	Point of View
Vocabulary	Drama Terms	Spelling & Vocabulary	Humor	Shakespeare	Propaganda	Foreshadowing & Flashback
Synonyms & Antonyms	Spelling & Vocabulary	Prefixes, Suffixes & Root Words	Spelling & Vocabulary	Satire	Book Reviews	Movies as Literature
Vocabulary	Homophones	Verb Confusion	Overused Words	Spelling & Vocabulary	Spelling & Vocabulary	Spelling & Vocabulary
Fix the Prefixes	Acronyms	Strong Vocabulary	Slang & Jargon	Science vocabulary	Strong Vocabulary	Phonetic Spelling
Fix the Suffixes	Root Words	Unusual Spellings	Word Analogies	Oxymoron	Prefixes, Suffixes & Root Words	Foreign Words
Superlatives	Idioms	Strategies for Commonly Misspelled	Prefixes, Suffixes & Root Words	Onomatopoeia	Comparatives	Writing with Numbers
Spelling	Dictionary Skills	Foreign Words	Apostrophes	British spelling	Synonyms/Antonyms	Hyphens
Alphabetizing	Spelling Rules	Tricky Capitalization	Hyphens	British vocabulary	Acronyms	Confused Vocabulary
Syllables	Grammar	Grammar	Tricky Homophones	Confused vocabulary	Spelling Rules	Slang & Jargon
Phonics	Possessive Nouns & Pronouns	Abstract Nouns	Shades of Meaning	Vocabulary mnemonics	Homophones	Idioms
Spelling with Phonics	Helping Verbs	Appositives	Writing Numbers	Prefixes/Suffixes/Root	Commonly Misspelled Words	Shades of Meaning
Compound Words	Verb Tenses	Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement	Grammar	High frequency words	Tricky Capitalization	Word Analogies
Contractions	Irregular Verbs	Direct Objects	Participles	Grammar	Grammar	
Abbreviations	Linking Verbs	Subject-Verb Agreement	Objects of Prepositions	Diagramming	Plural Nouns	Subject vs. Object Pronouns
Grammar	Prepositions	Perfect Tense	Subject vs. Object Pronouns	Grammatical Mood	Verbs	Indefinite & Other Pronouns
Nouns	Parts of Speech	Adjective-Adverb Confusion	Interrogative Pronouns	Infinitives	Prepositions	Progressive Tense
Common & Proper Nouns	Subjects	Comparative Confusion	Demonstrative Pronouns & Adjectives	Progressive Tense	Compound Subjects & Predicates	Grammatical Mood
Singular & Plural Nouns	Predicates	Double Negatives	Reflexive Pronouns	Adverbial Clauses	Irregular Verbs	Participles & Infinitives
Pronouns	Compound Subjects & Predicates	Indirect Objects	Indefinite Pronouns	Relative Pronouns	Adjectives/Adverbs	Clauses & Phrases
Articles	Commas	Coordinating Conjunctions	Independent vs. Dependent Clauses	Misplaced Modifiers	Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement	Misplaced Modifiers
Adjectives	Composition & Speaking	Interjections	Colons & Semi-Colons	Dashes, Parentheses	Possessive Nouns & Pronouns	Colons, Semicolons, Dashes & Parentheses
Verbs	Copywork	Composition & Speaking	Composition & Speaking	Parallel Structure	Commas, End Marks & Quotation Marks	Parallel Structure
Adverbs	Combining Short Sentences	Dictation	Business Letter	Composition & Speaking	Composition & Speaking	Composition & Speaking
End Marks	Sentences & Fragments	Proofreading	Descriptive Writing	Morning Pages	Handwriting, Key-boarding & Dictation	Creative Exercises
Quotation Marks	Paragraphs	Run-On Sentences	Sentence Starters	Passive Voice	Proofreading	Sentence Starters
Composition & Speaking	Word Order	Transition Words	Working with a Writing Partner	Profile Essays	Reading Fluency	Passive Voice
Handwriting	Story Completion	Possibility Thinking	Creating Titles	Writing Summaries	Sentences	Concise Writing
Forms	Encyclopedias	Audience	Advice Column	Persuasive Speech	Paragraphs & Essay Exams	Writing Business Email
Thank-You Notes	Shape Poems	Titles	Choosing a Research Paper Topic	News Article	Keywords & After-Dinner Speeches	Writing Blog Posts
Directions	Friendly Letters	Writing Realistic Fiction	Note-Taking & Outlining	Compare/Contrast	Storytelling	Interview Essays
Introductions	Keyboarding	Ad Copy	Citing References	Slogans	Audience & Movie Reviews	Podcasting
Reading Aloud	Keywords	Lipograms	Informative Speaking	Gift Poem	Writing Poetry	Persuasive Speaking
Storytelling						



SUPERNOVA
VOLUME 7

GRAMMAR GALAXY

*Adventures in
Language Arts*



Melanie Wilson, Ph.D.
Illustrated by Rebecca Mueller

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A Note to Teachers

I'm passionate about language arts. I love to read, write, and speak. As a homeschooling mom, I wanted my 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 and middle school 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

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

Grammar Galaxy: Supernova is for students who have mastered the concepts taught in *Grammar Galaxy: Nova*. It is intended for both independent reading and as a read-aloud for a family or classroom.

When reading aloud, share the synonyms for vocabulary words given in the text. Following each story, there are questions to ask students to check for comprehension. The answers are given in the Appendix.

Students should complete the corresponding mission in the *Mission Manual* before moving on to the next story. Classroom teachers may wish to create customized missions.

I hope your students will accept the call to be guardians of Grammar Galaxy.

Melanie Wilson

P.S. I call typos Gremlins. If you or your student finds one, check the list at FunToLearnBooks.com/Gremlins. If it is not listed, contact me at grammargalaxybooks@gmail.com so I can make the correction.

A Note to Students

I need your help. Grammar Galaxy is in trouble. The Gremlin is working hard to keep kids from reading, learning new words, and spelling correctly. He also wants to keep them from writing and public speaking. He knows that if he succeeds, the English language will be weak, and life will be miserable.

Here is how you can help defeat the Gremlin. First, read each chapter in the text, paying attention to the vocabulary words that are in **bold text**. Note the synonym (word with similar meaning) that is given for each. Then make sure you can answer the discussion questions at the end of each chapter. If you can't, review the text, and if you still need help, check the Appendix at the back of the book. Finally, complete the mission in your mission manual with the same number as the chapter in this book.

I'm proud to have you join us as a guardian of the galaxy!

Melanie Wilson

Prologue

The king of Grammar Galaxy tried not to worry. He had made his three children, Kirk, Luke, and Ellen English, guardians of the galaxy. Together with the other young guardians on planet English, they had defeated the Gremlin and saved the English language many, many times. Words and punctuation marks were returned to their planetary homes, destructive laws were changed, and the kids had learned a lot about literature, grammar, and writing.

But would the Gremlin's schemes finally get the best of them? Would they eventually face a crisis they couldn't overcome with the help of *The Guide to Grammar Galaxy*? He didn't know. He asked Screen for a status report on the galaxy. All seemed well for the moment.

Unit I: Adventures in Literature

The Groaner

King Issues Law Requiring Kids to Read His Biography Daily



Chapter I

The king was reading his paper at the breakfast table and smiled. "I can't believe it!" he cried.

"There is actually good news, or there are no grammar errors?" the queen quipped in response to the king's positive reaction.

"No. Better. *The Groaner* has been **deemed** misinformation. It's been shut down."

"Shut down by whom?" the queen asked.

"I don't know. Some truth-in-journalism nonprofit."

"And you're happy about this?" the queen asked disparagingly.

"Of course I am!" the king said, raising his voice. "Why, it's as though you want those people to keep printing lies about me."

"Lies?" the queen said, frowning.

"Lies," the king insisted. "**Egregious** lies."

"Are they printing lies when it's funny?" she asked, smirking.

"Funny? You can't possibly think what they've written about me is funny," the king **carped**.

The queen walked away and returned with a copy of *The Groaner*. The king was pictured on the front page of the paper, handing a book to a child. The headline read "King Issues Law Requiring Kids to Read His Biography Daily."

"This is funny," she said, giggling.

"There are people who still think I made that law," the king grumbled.

The queen paged through the paper. "Look at this headline. 'Poll: Majority of Citizens Support Sending Gremlin to Planet Recycling.' You aren't the only one *The Groaner* makes fun of."

"Let me see that," the king said, reaching for the paper. He paged through and read another headline that made him belly laugh: "In Threat to the Guardians, Gremlin Reveals He Has Obtained the Darksaber."

"I don't understand that one," the queen said after he read it to her.

"The Darksaber is a powerful weapon in the space movies the kids and I watch," the king explained.

"Oh," the queen said, still not understanding the humor.

The royal children arrived in the dining room while they were talking.

"Listen to this one," the king said. "'King Is Building Another Castle to House Princess Ellen's Wardrobe.'" He laughed heartily, but Ellen didn't join him.

"What? Are you really building another castle?" Ellen asked.

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deemed – *regarded*

egregious – *outrageous*

carped – *complained*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

“No, of course I’m not. They’re just saying you have a lot of clothes,” he explained, still chuckling.

“I don’t have that many clothes,” Ellen objected.

When the king didn’t agree with her, she asked for the paper. She began paging through it and declared it misinformation. “They shouldn’t be able to print lies about me. Can we sue them?”

“Don’t worry, Ellen. The paper has been shut down, right, dear?” the queen said to prompt the king to reconsider.

“Yes, that is true,” he admitted with a sigh. “Let’s have breakfast and then we’ll talk about what we should do.”

After breakfast, the king led his children to the castle library. “*The Groaner* is satire,” he said. “I want to remind you about satire by reading from *The Guide to Grammar Galaxy*.”

Satire
<p>Satire is the use of humor, irony, or exaggeration to poke fun in a good-natured way. It can also be used to criticize policies, leaders, or organizations. Satire is used by websites, cartoonists, and some talk show hosts. Sometimes satire is not recognized as such, causing the spread of misinformation and sometimes outrage. Less confusion results when social-media sites label articles as satire.</p> <p>A parody is satire in the form of imitation. For example, the book <i>Goodnight iPad</i> by Ann Droyd is a parody of <i>Goodnight Moon</i> by Margaret Wise Brown. It pokes fun at our love of modern technology.</p> <p>Diminution is satire that makes something seem smaller than it is in size or importance. Describing political leaders as children fighting is an example of diminution.</p> <p>Inflation is exaggerating or enlarging something so that it seems ridiculous. A politician who has a noticeable nose will have an enormous nose in a satirical cartoon.</p> <p>Juxtaposition is placing items together as though they are of equal importance when they are not. For example: <i>What I look for as a movie critic is believable character development, a unique plot, and well-buttered popcorn.</i></p>

“Even the guidebook says that satire can lead to the spread of misinformation. I’m glad *The Groaner* is being discontinued,” Ellen said with a humph.

“Hm,” the king said, stroking his beard.

“What are you thinking?” Luke asked him.

“I was glad the paper was being shut down, too,” the king said slowly.

“But now you’re not?” Kirk asked.

Before he could reply, Ellen reminded him that the paper printed misinformation about him, too.

“Yes, it did, Ellen. I don’t like being made fun of any more than you do. But what I really dislike is censorship,” the king said. He looked up another article in the guidebook and read it aloud to them.

Censorship
<p>Censorship is when an authority eliminates, punishes, or hides communication it does not approve of. Censorship may be undertaken to protect an audience from exposure to misinformation, hate speech, mature content, violence, and immorality.</p> <p>But censorship may also be used to protect the agency doing the censoring. Governments may censor to protect national security; corporations may censor to protect profits; and individuals may censor to protect reputations.</p> <p>Book banning and social-media restrictions are examples of controversial censorship. Despite laws protecting speech, citizens’ desire for both freedom and safety will continue to come into conflict over censorship.</p>

“If you don’t like misinformation or censorship, what are you going to do about *The Groaner*?” Ellen asked her father.

“*The Groaner* is satire, not misinformation. I have a feeling the Gremlin had something to do with shutting it down. I think you three can fix it.”

“What do you mean?” Kirk asked.

“I would like you three to send out a mission on satire and censorship. Our young people can demand that *The Groaner* resume publishing.”

“Hm. Before we do that, can I ask them not to make fun of me anymore?” Ellen said.

“Isn’t that censorship, though?” Luke asked.

“It is indeed,” the king replied. “Ellen, being a public figure means you’ll be teased. The good thing is it keeps us humble.”

Ellen sighed. “Okay. We’ll send out a mission. But then I’m going to declutter my clothes. Can’t have you building a whole new castle for them, Father.”

They all laughed.



What does *egregious* mean?

What is censorship?

Why would the Gremlin want to shut down *The Groaner*?

OFFICIAL GUARDIAN MAIL



Mission 31: Concise Writing

Dear guardians,

Did you hear about the shortage of rare metals that will mean we have to write less? Our mother has a better idea. She said we should write more concisely. We weren't sure what that meant, so we read about it in the guidebook. We are including the information below.

Please practice concise writing in the mission that follows.

Sincerely,

Kirk, Luke, and Ellen English

Guardians of Grammar Galaxy

Concise Writing

Concise writing uses the fewest words needed to communicate effectively. To write concisely:

1) Replace several weak words with one stronger word.

A number of these books have been checked out. – wordy

Many of these books have been checked out. – more concise

2) Eliminate unnecessary introductions like *it is; there is/are; I think/believe; the fact of the matter is*.

The fact of the matter is our library books are overdue. – wordy

Our library books are overdue. – more concise

3) Eliminate redundant words (with the same meaning).

The reason why I stayed up late is to finish my book. – wordy

The reason I stayed up late is to finish my book. – more concise

Comedies and mysteries are both my favorites. – wordy

Comedies and mysteries are my favorites. – more concise.

See the chart below for more concise alternatives to common wordy phrases.

Wordy Phrase	More Concise
a number of	some, many
at that point in time	then
basic fundamentals	basics
concerning the matter of	about
connected together	connected
for the simple reason that	because
have many traits in common	share many traits
I made contact with	I called, wrote
in close proximity	nearby
in the event that	if
in the process of	during, while
is of the opinion that	thinks that
it is often the case that	often
regardless of the fact that	although
round in shape	round
tall in stature	tall
true fact	true



Step 1: On Guard & Identify Redundant Words

On Guard. Highlight TRUE or FALSE for each statement.

1. Passive voice is when a form of the word *be* is paired with the past participle. TRUE FALSE
2. The word *whether* is a subordinating conjunction that can be used as a sentence starter. TRUE FALSE
3. Journal writing does not help with writer's block. TRUE FALSE
4. Parallel structure requires using the same grammatical composition in a sentence. TRUE FALSE
5. Hyphens are used to separate groups of words. TRUE FALSE

Write each of these words in a sentence. Examples are given.

coax – persuade	I tried to coax my cat out of the tree.
forestall – prevent	My mother wants to forestall a shortage of milk by shopping frequently.
evenly – calmly	The nurse spoke evenly to my crying brother.

Identify redundant words. For each example below, highlight a word or phrase with the same meaning as another in the sentence that could be deleted. **Note:** Some words are not listed in the chart we sent.

1. The king considered the true fact that his former programmer betrayed him.
2. Prefix and Suffix are both brothers who caused chaos in the galaxy.
3. Prefix was taller in stature than Suffix.
4. Suffix's face was rounder in shape than Prefix's.
5. But the brothers were connected together to many galaxy crises.
6. They had a past history of working with the Gremlin.
7. Then the current programmer broke from his regular routine to talk with the king.
8. This change is another reason why the king was suspicious.
9. The king wanted to avoid another unexpected surprise from a programmer.
10. The end result was the king was wrong; the programmer was loyal.



Step 2: Replace Wordy Phrases with Strong Vocabulary Words

Read the sentence. Write a concise replacement for the underlined phrase in the space below. **Note:** Use the chart we sent you.

1. When the galaxy ran out of rare metals, the king planned to handle it at that point in time.
2. The king wanted the programmer to explain the basic fundamentals about rare metals.
3. He hoped to ignore the crisis for the simple reason that he didn't understand it.
4. In the event that there was no more space for books, he would have to limit writing.
5. The king knew that it is often the case that crises resolve themselves.
6. The king is of the opinion that you can never have too many books.

Vocabulary Vision. Write a wordy phrase to the left that the vocabulary word could replace.

coax – persuade	
forestall – prevent	
evenly – calmly	



Step 3: Rewrite Sentences Concisely

Read the sentence. Write a more concise version of the sentence in the space below it.

1. The fact of the matter is the galaxy is running out of room for compositions.

2. The crisis has occurred for the simple reason that there is a shortage of rare metals.

3. In the event that we run out of rare metals, at the point in time, the galaxy would have to stop book production.

4. Regardless of the fact that the king is trying to increase production of these metals, we still face a crisis.

5. Every writer should be educated concerning the matter of using fewer words in writing.

Vocabulary Victory! Do you remember what these words mean? Write the meaning of the word in **bold** to the right of each sentence.

And you also want me to coax more companies to mine rare minerals?	
That's a good long-term plan, but it won't forestall the capacity crisis we're facing now.	
"But it's what we have to do as a galaxy to prevent a capacity catastrophe," the programmer said evenly .	



Advanced Guardians Only

Review one of the writing projects you did in Units I-III. Edit it to make it more concise.

OFFICIAL GUARDIAN MAIL



Mission 31: Update

Dear guardian friends,

You did a great job! But there is still a shortage of rare metals, so we will have to continue writing concisely. Our mother says that's better anyway!

Please review the solutions to your mission that follow.

Sincerely,

Kirk, Luke, and Ellen English

Guardians of Grammar Galaxy

Step 1 Solutions**On Guard.**

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Passive voice is when a form of the word <i>be</i> is paired with the past participle. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 2. The word <i>whether</i> is a subordinating conjunction that can be used as a sentence starter. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 3. Journal writing does <u>not</u> help with writer's block. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 4. Parallel structure requires using the same grammatical composition in a sentence. | TRUE | FALSE |
| 5. Hyphens are used to separate groups of words. | TRUE | FALSE |

Identify redundant words.

- The king considered the true fact that his former programmer betrayed him.
- Prefix and Suffix are both brothers who caused chaos in the galaxy.
- Prefix was taller in stature than Suffix.
- Suffix's face was rounder in shape than Prefix's.
- But the brothers were connected together to many galaxy crises.
- They had a past history of working with the Gremlin.
- Then the current programmer broke from his regular routine to talk with the king.
- This change is another reason why the king was suspicious.
- The king wanted to avoid another unexpected surprise from a programmer.
- The end result was the king was wrong; the programmer was loyal.

Step 2 Solutions

- When the galaxy ran out of rare metals, the king planned to handle it at that point in time.**
then
- The king wanted the programmer to explain the basic fundamentals about rare metals.**
fundamentals
- He hoped to ignore the crisis for the simple reason that he didn't understand it.**
because
- In the event that there was no more space for books, he would have to limit writing.**
If
- The king knew that it is often the case that crises resolve themselves.**
often
- The king is of the opinion that you can never have too many books.**
believes

Step 3 Solutions – answers may vary

- The fact of the matter is the galaxy is running out of room for compositions.**
The galaxy is running out of room for compositions.
- The crisis has occurred for the simple reason that there is a shortage of rare metals.**
The crisis has occurred because there is a shortage of rare metals.
- In the event that we run out of rare metals, at the point in time, the galaxy would have to stop book production.**
If we run out of rare metals, then the galaxy would have to stop book production.
- Regardless of the fact that the king is trying to increase production of these metals, we still face a crisis.**
Although the king is trying to increase production of these metals, we still face a crisis.
- Every writer should be educated concerning the matter of using fewer words in writing.**
Every writer should be educated about concise writing.

Vocabulary Victory!

And you also want me to coax more companies to mine rare minerals?	persuade
That's a good long-term plan, but it won't forestall the capacity crisis we're facing now.	prevent
"But it's what we have to do as a galaxy to prevent a capacity catastrophe," the programmer said evenly .	calmly