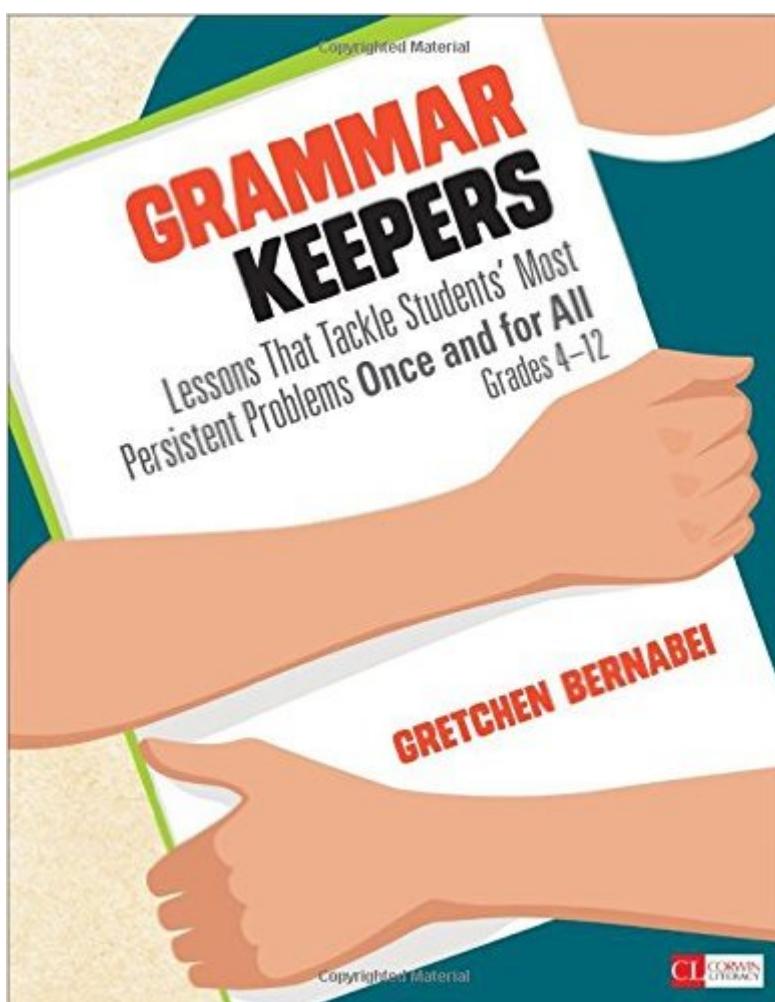


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# Grammar Keepers: Lessons That Tackle Students' Most Persistent Problems Once And For All, Grades 4-12 (Corwin Literacy)



## Synopsis

Students and teachers need accessible ways to talk about and use grammar. In Gretchen's trademark style, she gets these ever-important conversations started and keeps them going. This book is a keeper. • -Jeff Anderson, Author of *Revision Decisions* and *Everyday Editing* Almost everyone could benefit from a grammar check every once in a while "even we teachers." But our students desperately need something much more systematic, and they need it right way. No matter what state you teach in, you can be certain that grammar is being tested . . . frequently and across the grades! Meanwhile our students entering middle and high school are still making the same errors they made back in third grade. Luckily, Gretchen Bernabei, author of *Fun-Size Academic Writing for Serious Learning*, comes to the rescue with *Grammar Keepers*: a kid-friendly cache of 101 lessons and practice pages to help your students internalize the conventions of correctness once and for all. Gretchen's secret? Embed the lessons in ten minutes of daily journal writing, then use students' own writing as models for discussion and practice. Students are much more interested in learning from one another than from stodgy sentences in a dusty primer, and these ultra-relevant examples more easily transfer into students' talking, thinking, reading, and writing. Here are the three ingredients of Gretchen's approach: Daily journal writing, which increases writing practice and allows students to implement and master the lessons on punctuation, usage, and sentence structure in an authentic context Minilessons and Interactive Dialogues that model for students how to make grammatical choices A "Keepers 101" tracking sheet for teachers to monitor teaching and a "Parts of Speech Sheet" for students to use as a reference tool We have known for years that traditional grammar instruction falls short for a great many students, but until now we didn't know how to replace it. With *Grammar Keepers*, we have the right tool for today's students. Think of it as the *Warriner's English Grammar and Composition* for the spell- and grammar-check generation. Â

## Book Information

Series: Corwin Literacy

Paperback: 280 pages

Publisher: Corwin (January 21, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1483375463

ISBN-13: 978-1483375465

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.8 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #20,999 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 inÂ  Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Instruction Methods > Language Arts #340 inÂ  Books > Textbooks > Education #426 inÂ  Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar

## **Customer Reviews**

Grammar Keepers should be in every classroom! I am a language arts teacher with a master's degree who has taught public school for 30 years. This book is a perfect resource for teaching writing. I have read the entire book. It explains clearly how to teach grammar in a meaningful way. The chart is a valuable tool for students to use while they are writing their essays. The lessons are explained clearly and will be easy to implement in the classroom. It has lessons about how to write better sentences. Writing could improve quickly using the ideas in this book.. I recently went to a writing teacher's conference and told everyone to purchase this book. Grammar Keepers is truly outstanding!

Gretchen Bernabei does it again! This book is a keeper for sure. I have used some of the lessons with students recently. Practicing the academic language in the conversations is engaging for the students. They really enjoy proving their answers. As they go through the conversations, proofs and reasoning, the ideas are solidified. I really like how she uses mentor text to show how the different rules are applied in authentic writing. The students apply their understanding of the grammar by analyzing other student produced writing. Finally, these young writers are nudged along to apply it in their own writing. The students then go back and reread their writing and prove it. The Keepers 101 chart is very helpful and students can track their learning as they go. This is a book that is great for ELLs and all student populations. The ideas presented in her book can be easily adapted in Spanish as well. Gretchen's books are always based on research (Vygotsky and Bruner) and the research of her own classroom experiences. When it comes to her books and ideas, you cannot go wrong. This is must for all teachers of Language Arts and English!

This book is a game-changer for my classroom. It has easy-to-follow, student-centered lessons that work perfectly with a writers' workshop model as well as a classroom that is required to use a basal text series. The lessons are short, sweet, and to the point. It does NOT require tons of copies, unlike other programs/systems. I do wish the book had digital copies of page that are better than what's in

the book or the author's web site. I was able to find what some other teachers have created from this book.

Gretchen Bernabei has done it once again! GRAMMAR KEEPERS is pure genius! Teaching grammar is always a difficult task for language arts teachers at all levels, but Bernabei has given us strategies to use that work--strategies that she uses daily with her own kids in her own classroom. I work with high school and middle school teachers, and when I present them with the ideas in GRAMMAR KEEPERS, they are amazed at the ease of implementation and the positive reactions from kids. If you are frustrated with worksheets and traditional ways of teaching grammar or if teaching grammar is something that you shy away from, buy this book immediately and implement the strategies immediately! The way you teach grammar will forever be changed. Love, love, love this book!

I can't take this book ANYWHERE! It gets grabbed out of my hands....thumbed through...and the next thing I hear is, "Where did you get this and how can I get a copy?!?" I don't teach language arts, but I used to teach English--and I certainly wish I'd had this book then! A method of tracking which rules you've covered is brilliant concept; the methods of reinforcing the mini-lessons so the students actually internalize the rules is flat-out genius! Grammar Keepers is indeed a keeper!

I teach 10th grade English (Title I, inner city with a large refugee/ESL population). With all the changes in education and an already packed curriculum, grammar at the high school level sadly takes a backseat more often than not. I've been looking at various grammar resources and wanted something that could become a staple. Grammar Keepers seems to be what I was looking for. Since it's currently the end of the school year, I plan to make slideshows of each of the "Keepers" and utilize these as bellringer/warm-up activities. Pros: 1. Functions as a complete unit with the Grammar Keeper chart. This is a great organizer to help students curate their proofs to assure correct usage. 2. Mini-lesson leads directly into writing practice (which is customizable). I elected to have the mini lesson lead into a choice journal, where students apply the grammar lesson in a response to a student-selected prompt (either an image/political cartoon, quote, passage of text, or essential question.) 3. Simple: easily adaptable to various grade levels. Cons: There really aren't any cons. If I was forced to find one, it would be that Bernabei gave me more to do than is temporally possible given our schedule. I wish I could do it all. It is needed.

I wish I had this book when I was in school. I ordered it for my youngest child who prefers homeschooling. It is the best book in language arts we have found. The book is intended for grades 4-12. It can be used on younger students and is a great reminder of common grammatical errors for older students or someone working towards a GED. The lessons are short and the exercises are to the point and not busy work.

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