



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

Gretchen S. Bernabei

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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:

1. 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
2. Minilessons and Interactive Dialogues that model for students how to make grammatical choices
3. 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.

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