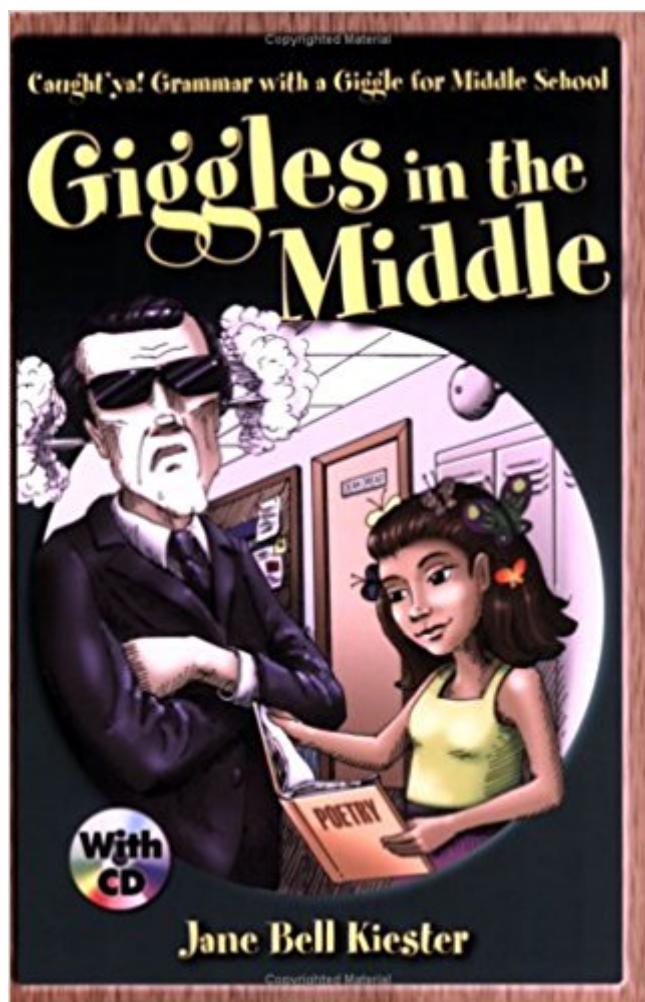


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# Caught'ya! Grammar With A Giggle For Middle School: Giggles In The Middle (Maupin House)



## Synopsis

Jane Bell Kiester, author of the popular Caughtâ™ya! Grammar with a Giggle series, has adapted her effective and fun approach to meet the specific learning needs of middle-school students. This resource improves writing and editing skills, raises test scores, engages students, and creates classrooms filled with giggles! Giggles in the Middle offers middle-school teachers all the benefits of the previous Caughtâ™ya! books, plus some helpful âœextrasâ• created especially for the middle-school student. Youâ™ll find: One continuous story, âœThe Bizarre Mystery of Horribly Hard Middle School,â• divided into three parts, each with enough sentences for an entire school year; Classroom-tested writing assignment suggestions, mini-lessons, and teaching tips; âœAlmost-midtermâ• and final exam tests for each grade, with teacher keys; Easy-to-follow, step-by-step instructions; Complete vocabulary lists for words used in each story; and A CD with the Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Guide for easy reference and duplication; the complete, uninterrupted story in narrative form; and the Caughtâ™ya! sentences. Giggles in the Middle gives middle-school teachers the perfect alternative to boring grammar books and dry lectures. With this flexible, proven approach to developing grammar, usage, and mechanics (GUM) skills, as well as vocabulary, everyone has fun while they learn!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jane Kiester is the author of the popular Caught'ya books: Caught'ya! Grammar with a Giggle; Caught'ya Again! More Grammar with a Giggle; The Chortling Bard! Grammar with a Giggle for High

School; Giggles in the Middle: Caught'ya! Grammar with a Giggle for Middle School; Eggbert, the Ball, Bounces by Himself: Caught'ya! Grammar with a Giggle for First Grade; Putrescent Petra Finds Friends: Caught'ya! Grammar with a Giggle for Second Grade; and Juan and Marie Join the Class: Caught'ya! Grammar with a Giggle for Third Grade (these last three were formerly Elementary, My Dear! Caught'ya! Grammar with a Giggle for Grades 1, 2, and 3), all published by Maupin House. Teachers all over the country also use the new edition of her third book, Blowing Away the State Writing Assessment Test, to help improve their students' scores on state writing assessment tests. Jane's most recent book is Teach Spelling So It Sticks. She is currently writing three new books. In addition to writing books, Jane has given hundreds of workshops to fellow teachers around the country for the past ten years. Her subject? The same as in her classroom, where she happily taught elementary or middle school for more than 30 years -- teaching students to write well. In her three decades as a classroom teacher, Jane has served many years as various department chairpersons and grade-level chairperson. She is also a past president of the Alachua County Teachers of English. Jane has been recognized three times by "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." In 2002 she won Teacher of the Year for her school and Middle School Teacher of the Year for her county. Problem-solving Workshops for Teachers Jane's energy is contagious! Her workshops, seminars and invited presentations delight and rejuvenate teachers at all grade levels. Jane delivers practical, classroom-proven ideas to solve those yucky "must-do" situations all teachers face. Each presentation sparkles with Jane's insightful humor. Her seminars and symposium speaking topics are shaped to fit the specific needs of schools and districts.

Best practices in teaching say that we should teach grammar in context so that kids understand how it fits into the bigger picture. This is the only grammar program I have seen that actually does that. There are three stories in this book: one for sixth grade, one for seventh and one for eighth. The story is broken up into small chunks (enough for each school day of the year), and students are asked to proofread and correct the errors. After they are done, the teacher goes over the errors with students and teaches minilessons on topics such as capitalizing proper nouns, appositives etc...Each day also has a variety of vocabulary words that could be used for old-fashioned spelling tests if desired. I post them on my word wall, and students earn extra credit for using them in speech and writings in the classroom. The stories, themselves, are such that a middle school student could relate to. They poke fun humorously at teachers and imply that they are robots (what middle school student wouldn't love that?) The characters (middle school students) deal with the same things my students do: teasing, laziness, nerdiness, etc... and appear very real. If the day's

work is too challenging for your student, you can decrease the challenge by editing the passage because everything comes on a CD that comes with the book. Kiester also includes a grammar guide to help you with the minilessons. The book is easy and quick to read; it took me only a couple of days. Most of the text is actually the stories and corrections which is why the book is so fat. However, in the little bit of reading there is to do, Kiester shows you how she grades the grammar lessons and gives examples of what to expect. After using this book for a few weeks, I have not heard any complaints about grammar from my students, (In fact, they are begging for the end of the story!) and I have been able to talk intelligently about what we are learning when I review their own original writings.

We homeschool and hate dry textbooks or worksheets. We avoid them at all costs. I was searching for something to help my two oldest sons (8 & 11) improve their grammar. I found this book and, based on reviews, decided to try it. I have not been disappointed. We only do two lessons a week and I am amazed at my sons' progress. They used to have trouble with quotations and comma placement. Doing just two very short lessons a week and they no longer have issues. They have also increased their vocabulary. I love this book because the lessons are short and the kids don't mind them. On Monday and Wednesdays I write the paragraph on a dry-erase board and they know to go in and edit it. They also write the vocab words in their notebook and look them up. At the end of the day we all go in together to check it and see how they did. We started this in August and already I'm not having to make many corrections because they catch them all.

This was recommended to me for my middle school kid, so I grabbed a copy - just be aware, this is not a workbook you can give to a kid, this is a curriculum you have to teach. If that is what you want, it looks fairly good - but I am not in a position to run a grammar class for my daughter, I wanted a workbook I could give her to keep her in shape over the summer. I will be passing this along to a homeschooling parent.

ELA teachers juggle a lot in their curriculum: reading, writing, revision, critical thinking, public speaking, rhetoric, spelling, vocabulary...managing it all can be challenging. I've found grammar particularly tricky. I try to make time for it, but often can only do so in fits and starts. We'll work on some concepts, switch to some other area of the curriculum, and then loop back, only to find that some of the skills or knowledge has been lost and needs review. The dilemma: how do you give your kids the consistent practice they need, without resorting to the standard, drool-inducing drill

and kill textbook exercises, which often don't even provide enough material for true mastery? Giggles in the Middle provided a solution. Each day the class gets a new bit of the story and tries to catch and correct all the errors in the text, which is rife with them. The story's cute; a group of friends tries to solve the bizarre mystery of Horribly Hard Middle School (HHMS). I won't give away the plot, but it's a bit like the Wayside School meets The Terminator, with a G rating. The Caught Ya's work well as a warm up; you can work through an entry in under 10 minutes. My kids genuinely seem to enjoy the work, and after students are comfortable with the format, you can hand over the reins and have them lead the correction and review at the board. Grading is quick and easy; you can finish an entire set during a typical period while students work on something else. Other pluses include some short writing prompts, a handy grammar reference, and lots and lots of new vocabulary, from "odious" to "bibliophile". You can also tailor the story to your liking. If you want to tweak it to target homophones, or apostrophes, or compound sentences for example, and hit them until the cows come home, have at it. I like to toss in errors based on trends I find in my students' writing. I've noticed an improvement in my students' proofreading skills, and what really sold me was when they started using dialogue in their writing, correctly punctuated, no less. They also became much better at paragraphing. The daily workout keeps me on my toes as well; I've often had to double check my own corrections alongside the kids. Overall, Giggles in the Middle makes a solid addition to a teacher's toolbox.

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