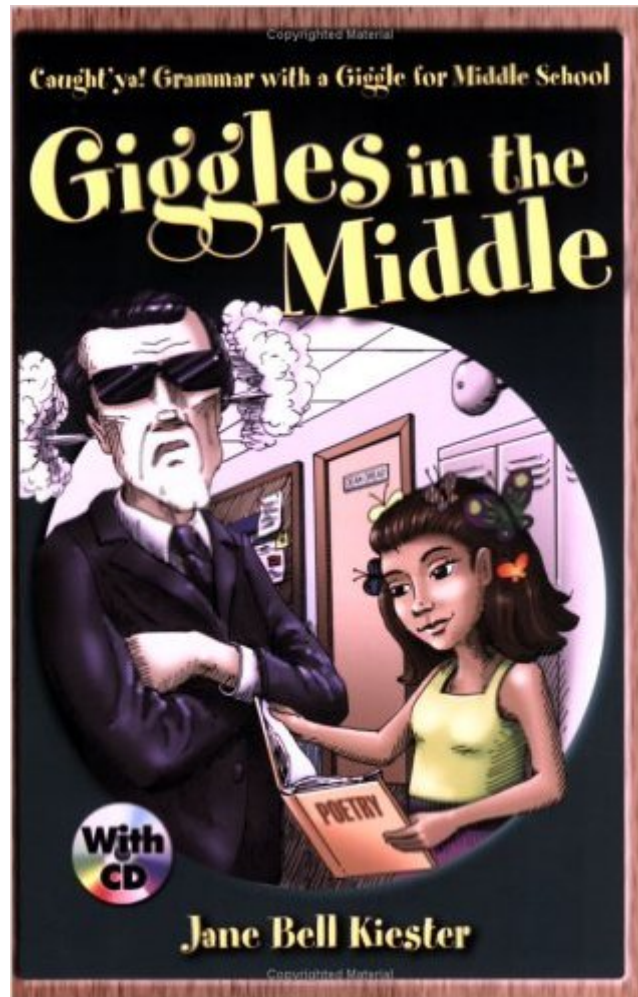


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# Caught'ya! Grammar With A Giggle For Middle School: Giggles In The Middle (Maupin House)



## Synopsis

Jane Bell Kiester, author of the popular Caught'ya! Grammar with a Giggle series, has adapted her effective and fun approach to meet the specific learning needs of middle-school students. Giggles in the Middle gives middle-school teachers the perfect alternative to boring grammar books and dry lectures. With this flexible, proven approach to teaching grammar, usage, and mechanics (GUM) skills and vocabulary, everyone has fun while they learn skills in context. You'll find: - One continuous story, "The Bizarre Mystery of Horribly Hard Middle School," divided into three parts, each with enough sentences for an entire school year. - Classroom-tested writing assignment suggestions, mini-lessons, and teaching tips. - "Almost midterm" 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 part of the story. - For easy reference and duplication, a CD with the Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Guide; the complete, uninterrupted story in narrative form; the midterm and final exam tests; and the Caught'ya sentences. Use Giggles in the Middle to improve writing and editing skills, raise test scores, engage students in learning, and create classrooms filled with giggles!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm using this with Honors 7th grade ELA students whose editing skills aren't quite up to where they need to be for our state assessment (with a dreaded editing passage!). The kids love the story & the vocabulary is fantastic. These little activities have given my students countless new ways to insult

younger siblings--odious, puerile, martinet--what great words! I love this book, and the accompanying CD is worth its weight in gold! Do not hesitate to buy! Keister provides step-by-step instructions on how to do these & how she grades them. However, rather than having students copying down the incorrect Caught'yas and then fixing them, I made up worksheets (by copying and pasting from the CD) with the incorrect Caught'yas that students then use editing marks to fix--essentially paralleling our state assessment.

I am "testing" this out with my class of gifted fourth-graders, and they love it! They enjoy getting to know a little bit more each day about the kids at Horribly Hard Middle School as well as dream about going to Magic Middle School. What surprised me most was the vocabulary piece. The words are well chosen and well placed. Often I find "challenging" vocabulary to just be wacky- words that we don't hear in our everyday lives. This book, however, keeps the students' interest regarding strong, usable vocabulary. They WANT to look the words up in the dictionary so they have a better understanding of the story, the puns involved, or just to be the one to get to read from the dictionary. We are only on day 16 of the program and I can already see results in the students' own writing. Teacher's Request to Publisher: Please print a version of this in a binder or spiral format! The little paperback book is a bit hard to hold for reference while writing on the board and teaching the kids (but worth it!). I would pay for it again! :)

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.

The format of Giggles in the Middle is unique to any other book I have used so far. The whole curriculum revolves around the story of group of students and Horribly Hard Middle School. It is split up into three middle school years, but instructions include how to implement it if you are starting in

7th or 8th grade. Each year includes 125 Caught'ya's. What's a Caught'ya exactly? The Caught'ya method is an integrated way to teach language skills in context. It allows you to teach grammar, usage, mechanics, vocabulary, paragraphing, sentence structure, homophones, misspelled words and more all within the context of a story. After the introduction of the story is read, each Caught'ya is a 2 to 4 sentence paragraph continuing the story. The hitch? They are full of errors that the student needs to correct. The neat thing is the teacher can change them according to what they feel is appropriate for the level of the students. Interspersed between the Caught'ya's are writing ideas related to the story. These are fun and make the student think a bit. They encompass many different writing topics such as narratives and persuasive writing. There is also a great deal of rich vocabulary introduced. With most middle school material, I tend to find both the activities and vocabulary weak for accelerated students. There is none of that in Giggles in the Middle.

I am a first year teacher and just accepted a job for next year teaching both math and language arts in the 7th grade. I have never taught language arts before and was looking for motivating ideas when I came across this book. I bought it 3 days ago and have read the whole book already. Kiester does a great job of breaking down the activities and explaining exactly how to use "Caught-Ya" in your classroom. The book includes all of the corrections for each "Caught-Ya", as well as some explanations for why the corrections need to be made. The CD which is included allows you to print out the daily sentences and easily put them on transparencies. The CD also includes a great grammar review resource for those new teachers, like myself, who could use a refresher on some of the terminology as well as suggestions for introducing and reviewing the parts of grammar without boring your students with all the terminology. I am excited about using this technique in teaching my class next year. Wish me luck!!

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