Grammar for Middle School: A Sentence-Composing Approach

By Don Killgallon

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Don and Jenny Killgallons sentence-composing approach has transformed how writing is taught in thousands of language arts classes, helping students all across America become more proficient, sophisticated writers. Now the Killgallons use their highly effective method for a unique, powerful textbook that links good writing to that perennially difficult-to-teach subject-grammar. Grammar for Middle School: A Sentence-Composing Approach gives your students the chance to absorb and replicate the grammatical structures used by some of the best writers of our times. Included among the over 150 authors, 200 titles, and 400 model sentences in Grammar for Middle School are award-winning young-adult literature such as Cynthia Voigts Homecoming, popular favorites like J. K. Rowlings Harry Potter, and curricular staples such as John Steinbecks The Red Pony and The Pearl. Fourteen grammatical structures are developed in the same predictable, understandable manner, using the sentence-composing approach. When students first encounter a tool, it is clearly defined and characterized. Then its practiced through five activities: matching, unscrambling, combining, imitating, and expanding. Finally, a creative writing activity immerses students in the composition or revision of a paragraph through independent use of the...

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This article is devoted to grammar which gains its prominence in language teaching, particularly in English as a foreign language (EFL) and English as a second language (ESL), in as much as without a good knowledge of grammar, learners’ language development will be severely constrained. Keywords: EFL, approaches, consciousness-raising, explicit knowledge, implicit knowledge, deductive approach, inductive approach. Traditionally grammar rules can be presented as rules with a focus on form. For example, in the present simple tense, regular verbs in English take an ‘s’ on the 3rd person singular Grammar for Middle School: A Sentence-Composing Approach By Don Killgallon and Jenny Killgallon (Heinemann, 2006 – Learn more). Reviewed by Jenny Ovadia. The authors of Grammar for Middle School describe the sentence-composing approach as “acrobatic training in sentence dexterity.” The book lives up to this dramatic description, guiding students to imitate and then create complex sentences with varied types of structure and syntax. While no one book can turn your class into The Flying Wallendas of sentences, this approach can give your students tools to be more daring in their writing. The fou