Grammar for Middle School: A Sentence-Composing Approach

By Don Killgallon

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Don and Jenny Killgallon’s 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 Voigt’s Homecoming, popular favorites like J. K. Rowling’s Harry Potter, and curricular staples such as John Steinbeck’s 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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After reviewing the sentence-composing tools, you will use those same tools and punctuation to write a new episode for Lord of the Flies, written in Golding’s style. 152. viii. Imitating the Grammar of the Greats. Why are the sentences of great authors more interesting, more memorable than the sentences of most people? One big reason is that their sentences are not monotonously alike. A huge difference is the ways those authors build their sentences. The purpose of this worktext is to teach those ways by focusing on the grammatical tools of great authors to build better sentences.