Grammar Alive!

NCTE Editorial Board: Gwen Alexander, Elizabeth Close, Cora Lee Five, Joe Janangelo, Ray Levi, Shuaib Meacham, Jaime Armin Mejía, Carolyn Phipps, Kyoko Sato, Zarina Hock, Chair, ex officio, Kent Williamson, ex officio

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following members of the NCTE Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar:

Paul E. Doniger Helene Krauthamer Johanna E. Rubba Wanda Van Goor Edith Wollin

ATEG

The NCTE Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar aims to improve the teaching of grammar at all levels, from elementary school through college; to promote communication and cooperation among teachers, researchers, administrators, and others interested in the teaching of grammar; to provide an open forum in which advocates of all grammar theories, representing the broad spectrum of views of grammar and its teaching, can interact. Through its listserv, its conference, and its journal, *Syntax in the Schools*, ATEG offers educators information about grammar and suggestions for better ways to teach it. (For more information, visit ATEG's Web site at www.ateg.org.)

Grammar Alive!

A Guide for Teachers

Brock Haussamen

with Amy Benjamin, Martha Kolln, Rebecca S. Wheeler, and members of NCTE's Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar

National Council of Teachers of English 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, Illinois 61801-1096 Chapter 5, "Non-Native Speakers in the English Classroom," was adapted from the book *Differentiated Instruction: A Guide for Middle and High School* by Amy Benjamin. This material is used with the permission of Eye on Education, Larchmont, New York, www.eyeoneducation.com.

Staff Editor: Bonny Graham Interior Design: Doug Burnett Cover Design: Barbara Yale-Read

NCTE Stock Number: 18720-3050

©2003 by the National Council of Teachers of English.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission from the copyright holder. Printed in the United States of America.

It is the policy of NCTE in its journals and other publications to provide a forum for the open discussion of ideas concerning the content and the teaching of English and the language arts. Publicity accorded to any particular point of view does not imply endorsement by the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, or the membership at large, except in announcements of policy, where such endorsement is clearly specified.

Although every attempt is made to ensure accuracy at the time of publication, NCTE cannot guarantee that all published addresses for electronic mail or Web sites are current.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Haussamen, Brock.

Grammar alive! : a guide for teachers / Brock Haussamen, with Amy Benjamin, Martha Kolln, and Rebecca Wheeler and members of NCTE's Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-8141-1872-0

1. English language—Grammar—Study and teaching. 2. English language —Study and teaching. 3. Language arts. I. Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar. II. Title.

LB1576.H3235 2003 372.61—dc22

2003015117

Contents

Preface Vignette: Language about Language: A Middle School Grammar Class Introduction		vii
		ix
		xi
I.	Grammar in the Classroom	
1.	Three Goals for Teaching Grammar	3
2.	Discovering Grammar	10
	<i>Vignette:</i> Flossie and the Fox: <i>Code-Switching between</i> <i>the Languages of Home and School</i>	14
	Vignette: Helping High School Juniors Get Comfortable with Shakespeare's English	20
3.	Teaching the Language of Grammar	23
	Vignette: Teaching the Passive Voice	29
	Vignette: Teaching Pronouns with LEGOs	31
	Vignette: Teaching the Absolute Phrase	33
	Vignette: Subject-Verb Agreement: Slicing the Apple	34
4.	Flexing the Students' Sentence Sense	37
	Vignette: Grammatical Choices, Sentence Boundaries, and Rhetorical Effects	38
	Vignette: Sentence Imitation	42
	Vignette: Teaching English Language Learners the Known-New Pattern	47
5.	Non-Native Speakers in the English Classroom	50
	Vignette: Teaching English Language Learners in Elementary Grades	61
	Vignette: Helping a Ninth-Grade Student Use the	64

II. On Grammar

6. Grammar Superstitions: The Never-Never Rules	71
7. Diagramming Sentences	75
8. An Overview of Linguistic Grammar	80
Conclusion	
A Grammar Glossary	
Sources and Resources	
Index	113
Author and Contributors	119