

To the teacher.

Grammar Island provides mid-elementary students with a unique combination of challenge and access. Even though the concepts are advanced for elementary children, they are presented easily, and with fun, inviting students to the wonderful island where we discover how we make our own ideas. The pages often focus on a single concept, and the best approach is to read together with the kids, to turn to each page, which may be only a single sentence, and talk with the children, asking questions, referring back, and responding to student questions before looking at the next page. Having a conversation with excitement and fun is paramount.

Grammar Island is based on a profound conviction that the bad things sometimes said about grammar are not true—that grammar is fun, incredibly useful, and extraordinarily high level, perfectly appropriate for challenging even the brightest elementary children. *Grammar Island* is founded on very high expectations of children's ability to learn, and on a high opinion of the value and fun of grammar.

Grammar Island is not meant to take a whole year; on the contrary, it is intended to be studied quickly early in the school year, making it possible to use and apply the valuable knowledge for the remainder of the year. Many pages of *Grammar Island* contain only a single sentence, so a month or less should be plenty of time to move through the whole island! *Grammar Island* provides a compact approach to introducing grammar; rather than being a grammar unit, it is a grammar lunch.

For every teacher who has wanted a really strong grammar program for mid-elementary children, here it is. I hope you and your students love going to *Grammar Island*.

Michael Clay Thompson