

Illustrated WIDA Guiding Principles of Language Development

The Guiding Principles of Language Development exemplify the overarching foundational beliefs of WIDA and ever-present Can Do Philosophy.

Now, this illustrated booklet brings each of the guiding principles to life!

Use this resource with parents, families, and community members to guide conversations about the following ideas:

- Honoring and amplifying the importance of home languages and cultures
- Understanding multilingual learners' language development and learning
- Advocating for the unique opportunities and perspectives that multilingual learners bring to our K-12 schools
- Leveraging multilingual learners' diverse backgrounds to enrich educational programs, classrooms, communities, and beyond

Guiding Principle #1

Multilingual learners' languages and cultures are valuable resources to be leveraged for schooling and classroom life; leveraging these assets and challenging biases help develop multilingual learners' independence and encourage their agency in learning.



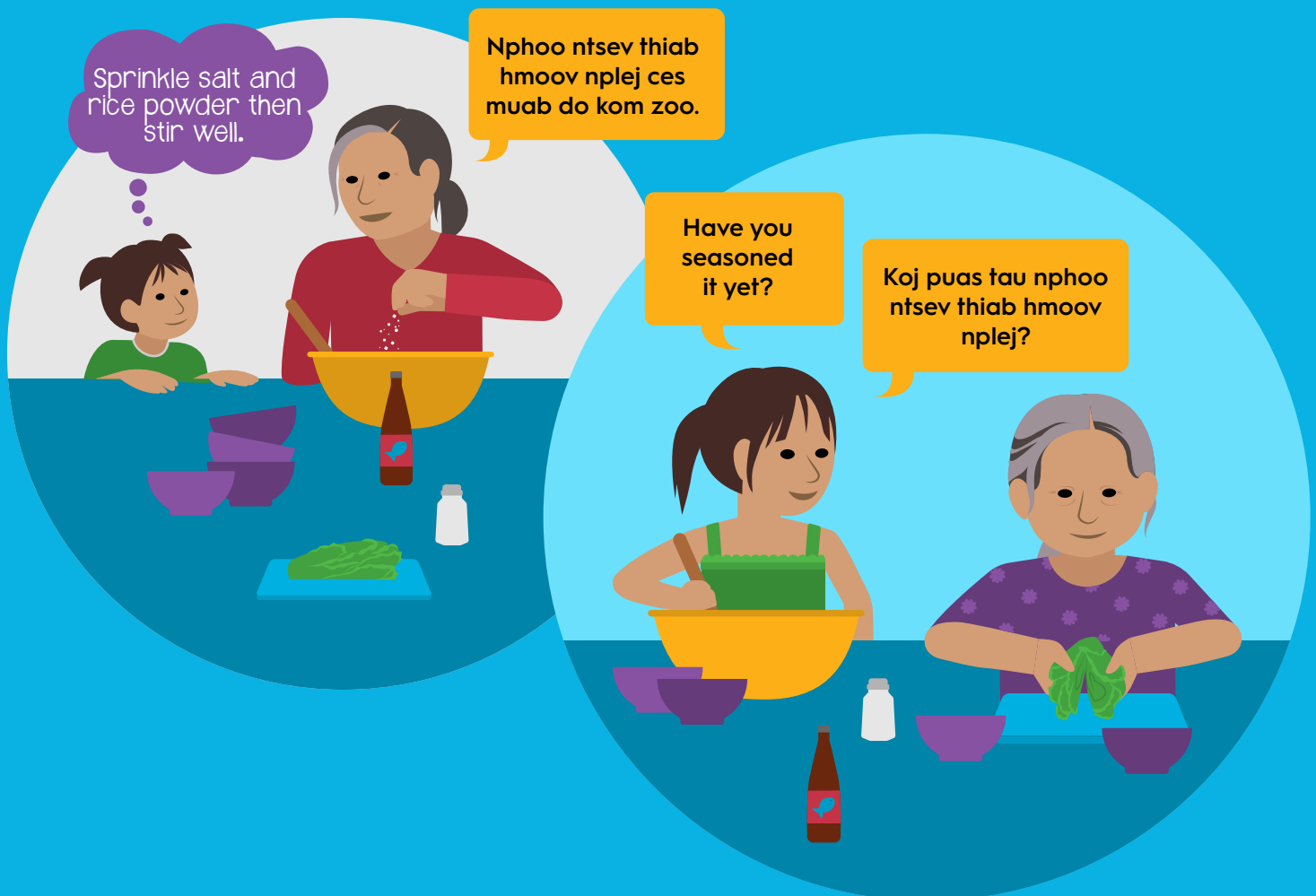
Guiding Principle #2

Multilingual learners' development of multiple languages enhances their knowledge and cultural bases, their intellectual capacities, and their flexibility in language use.



Guiding Principle #3

Multilingual learners' language development and learning occur over time through meaningful engagement in activities that are valued in their homes, schools, and communities.



Guiding Principle #4

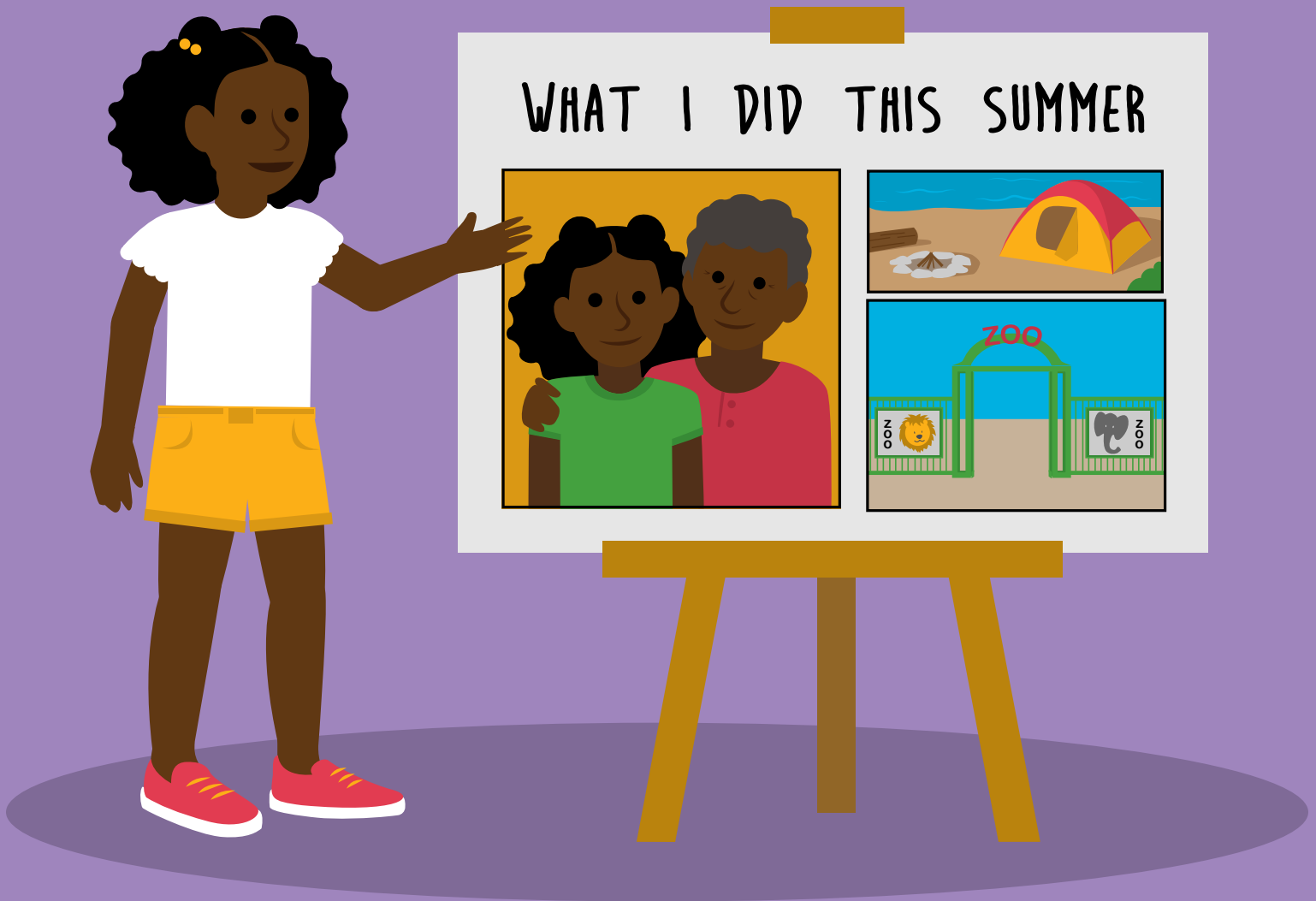
Multilingual learners' language, social-emotional, and cognitive development are inter-related processes that contribute to their success in school and beyond.



(Aldana & Mayer, 2014; Barac & Bialystok, 2012; Gándara, 2015; Sánchez-López & Young, 2018)

Guiding Principle #5

Multilingual learners use and develop language when opportunities for learning take into account their individual experiences, characteristics, abilities, and levels of language proficiency.



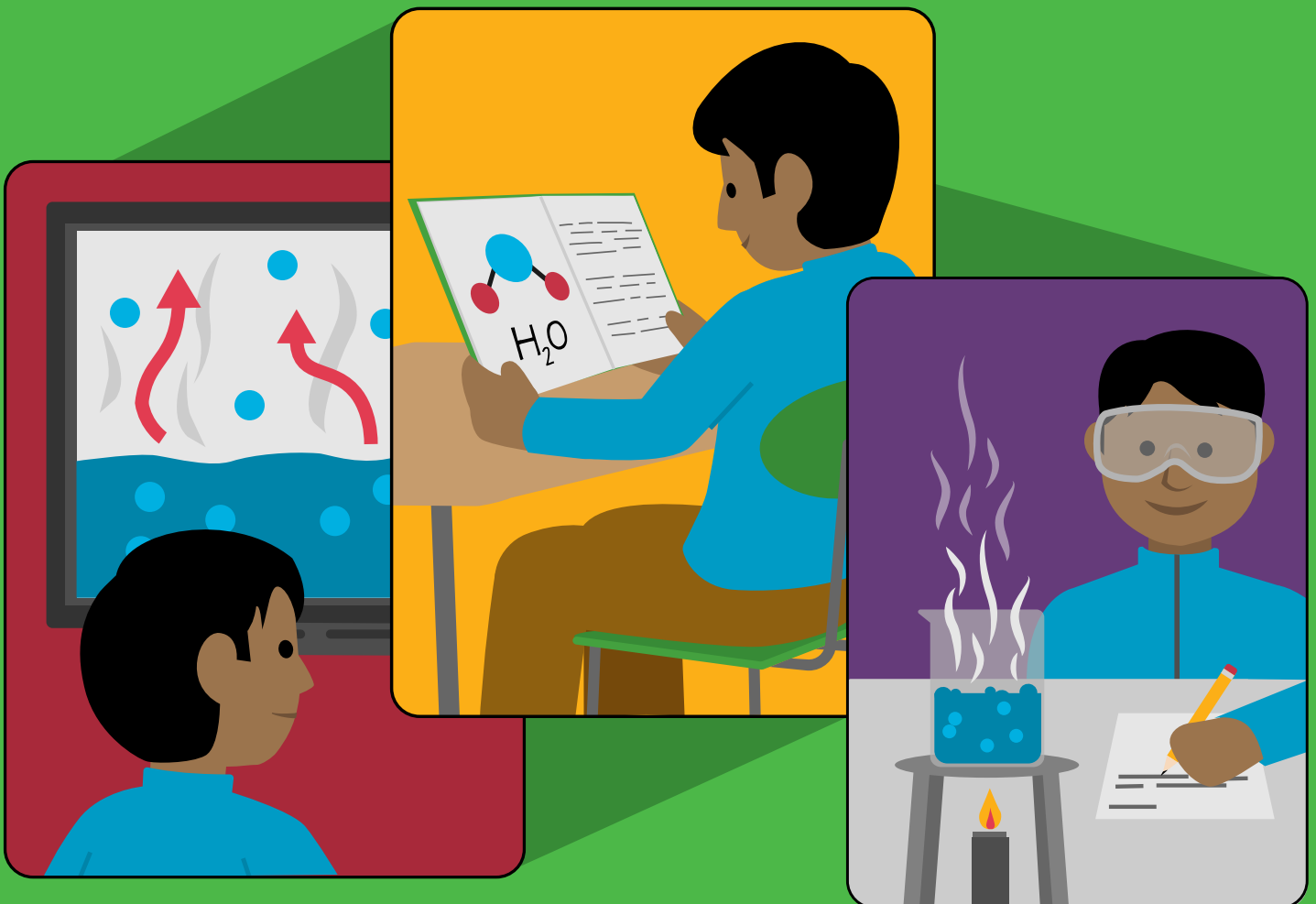
Guiding Principle #6

Multilingual learners use and develop language through activities which intentionally integrate multiple modalities, including oral, written, visual, and kinesthetic modes of communication.



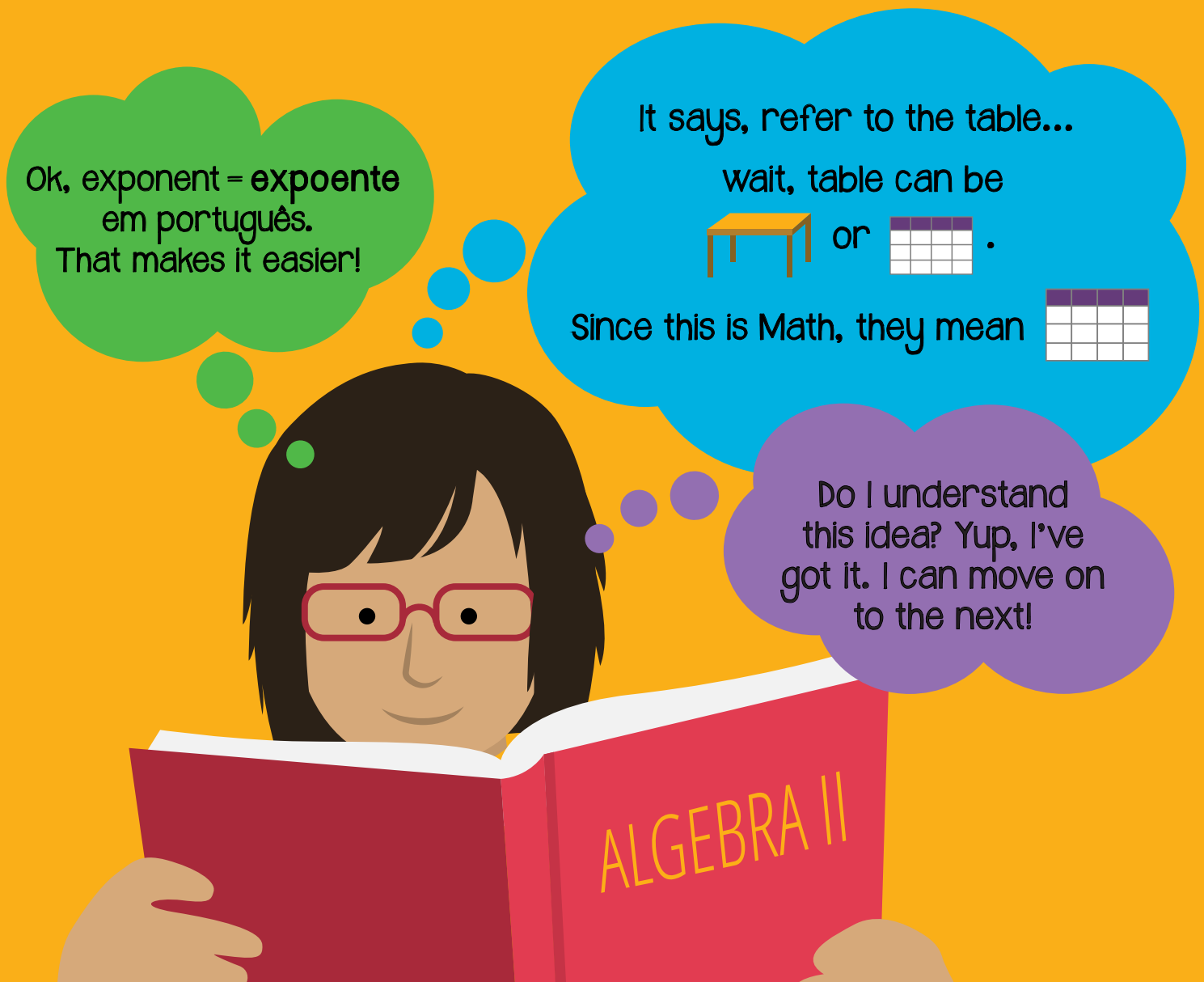
Guiding Principle #7

Multilingual learners use and develop language to interpret and access information, ideas, and concepts from a variety of sources, including real-life objects, models, representations, and multimodal texts.



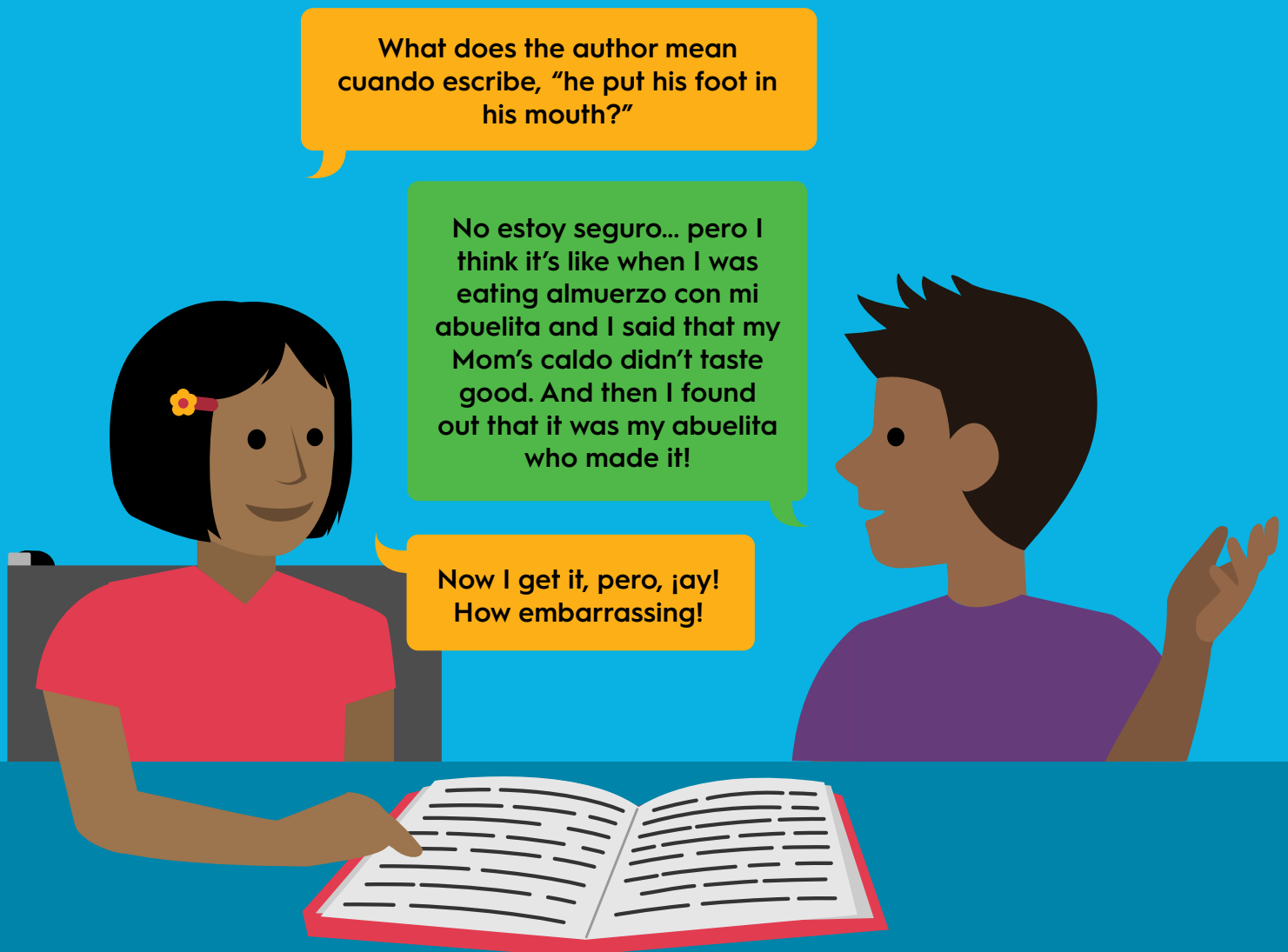
Guiding Principle #8

Multilingual learners draw on their metacognitive, metalinguistic, and metacultural awareness to develop effectiveness in language use.



Guiding Principle #9

Multilingual learners use their full linguistic repertoire, including translinguaging practices, to enrich their language development and learning.



Guiding Principle #10

Multilingual learners use and develop language to interpret and present different perspectives, build awareness of relationships, and affirm their identities.



(Cummins, 2001; Esteban-Guitart & Moll, 2014; May, 2013, Nieto, 2010)



Learn more about the WIDA Guiding Principles of Language Development on the WIDA website **wida.wisc.edu**.