

# 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 early childhood programs and 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.



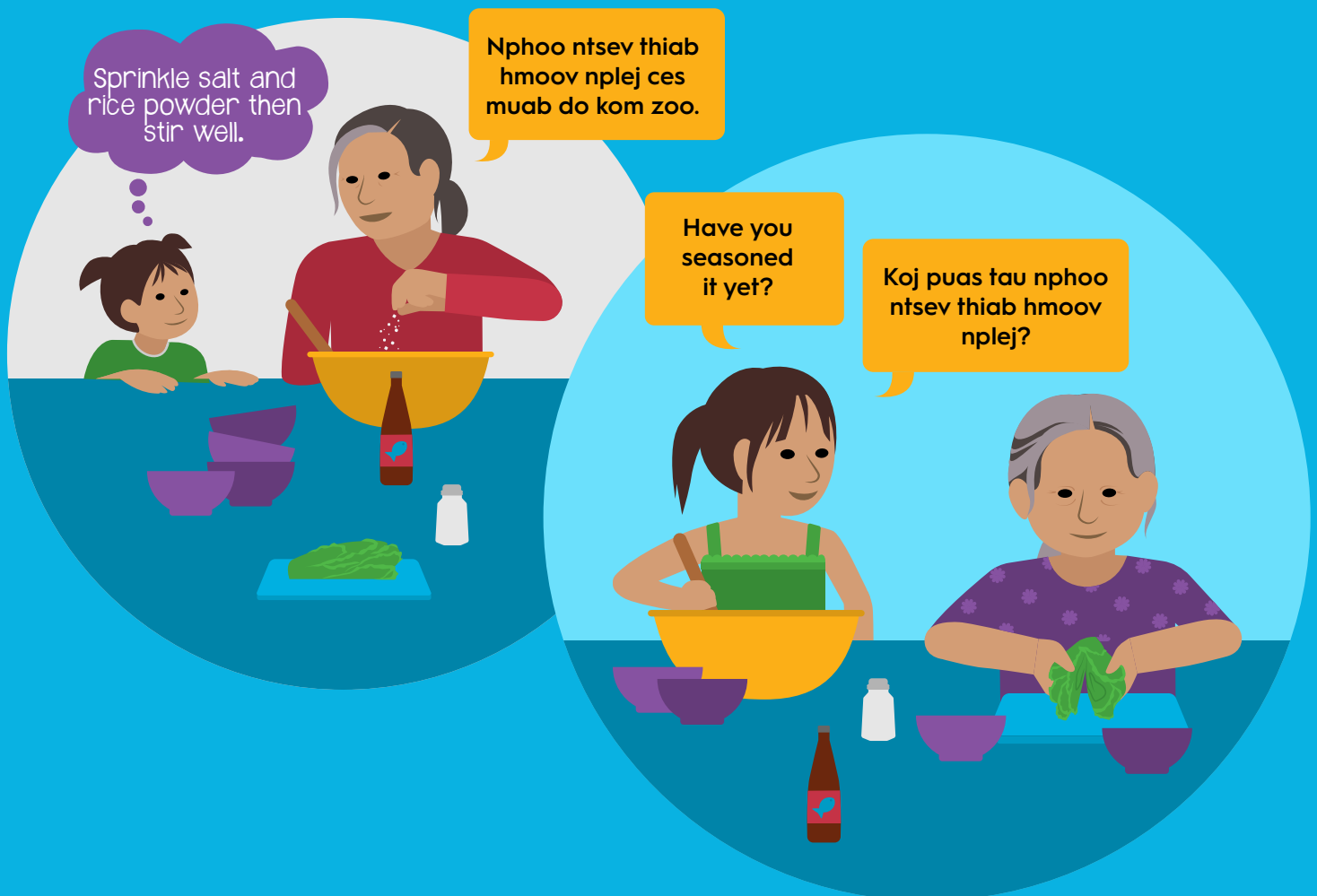
# Guiding Principle #2

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

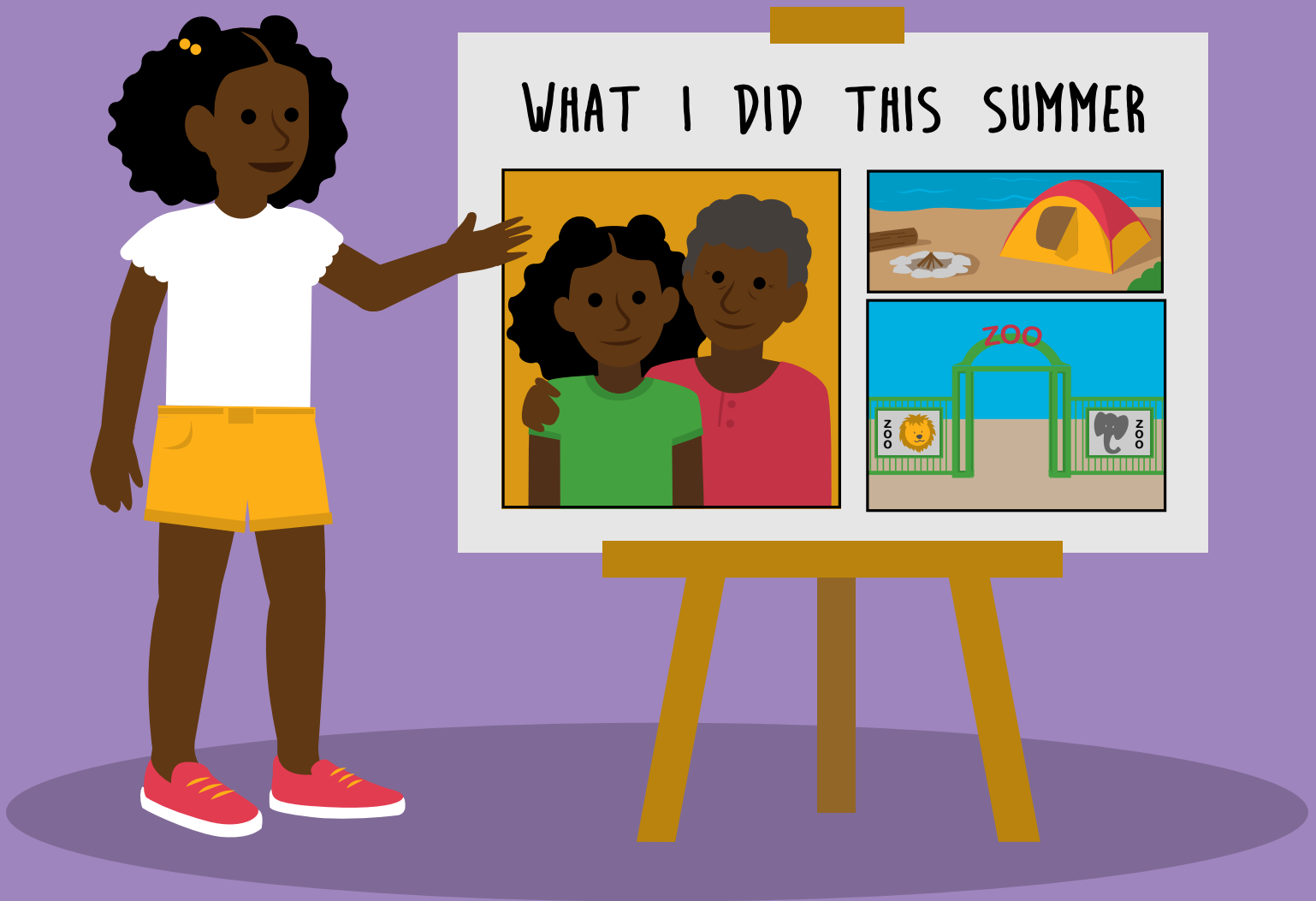
Multilingual learners' language, social-emotional, and cognitive development are inter-related processes that contribute to their success in school and beyond.



(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

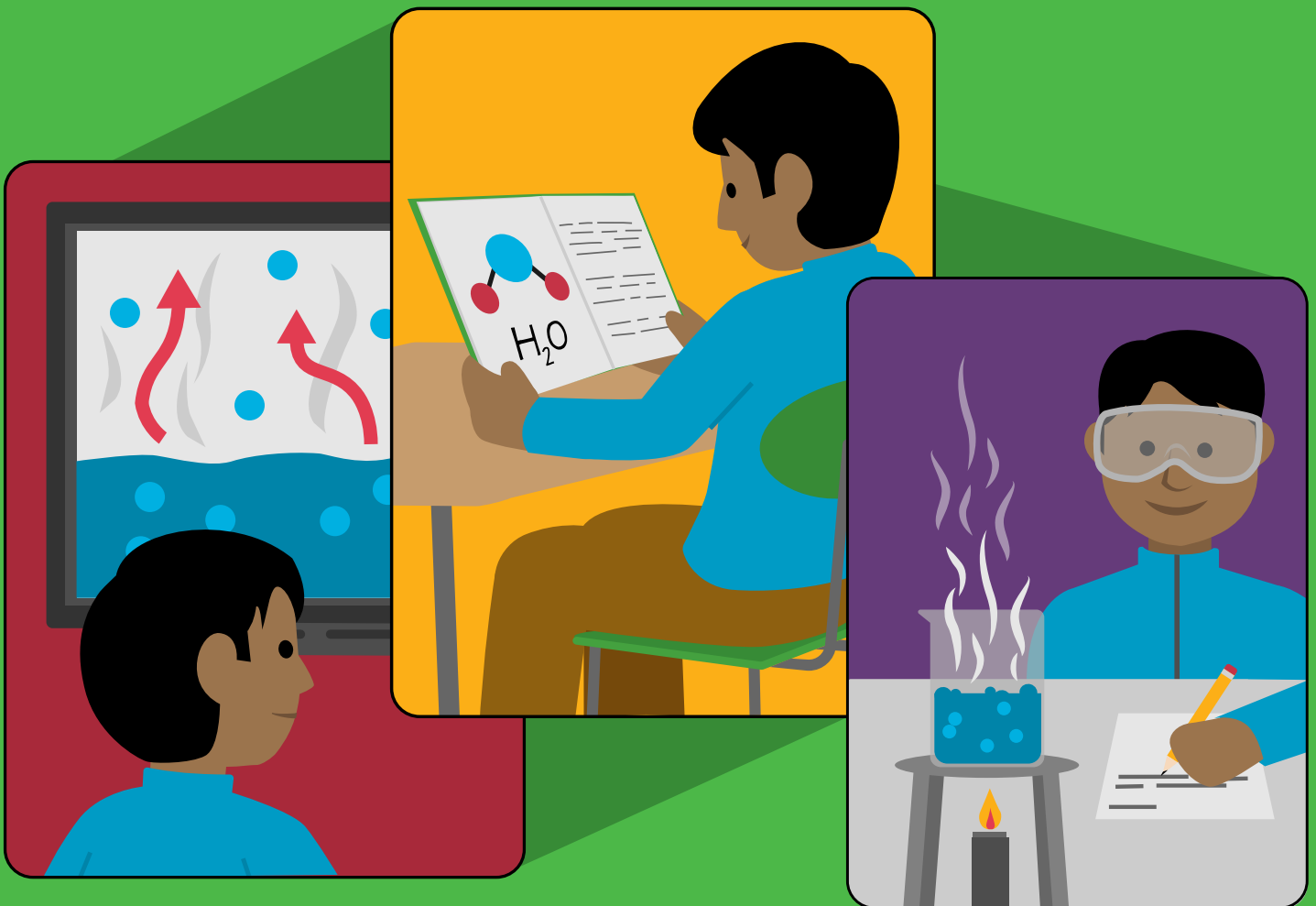
Multilingual learners use and develop language through activities which intentionally integrate multiple modalities, including oral, written, visual, and kinesthetic modes of communication.



(Choi & Yi, 2015; Jewitt, 2008; van Lier, 2006; Zwiers & Crawford, 2011)

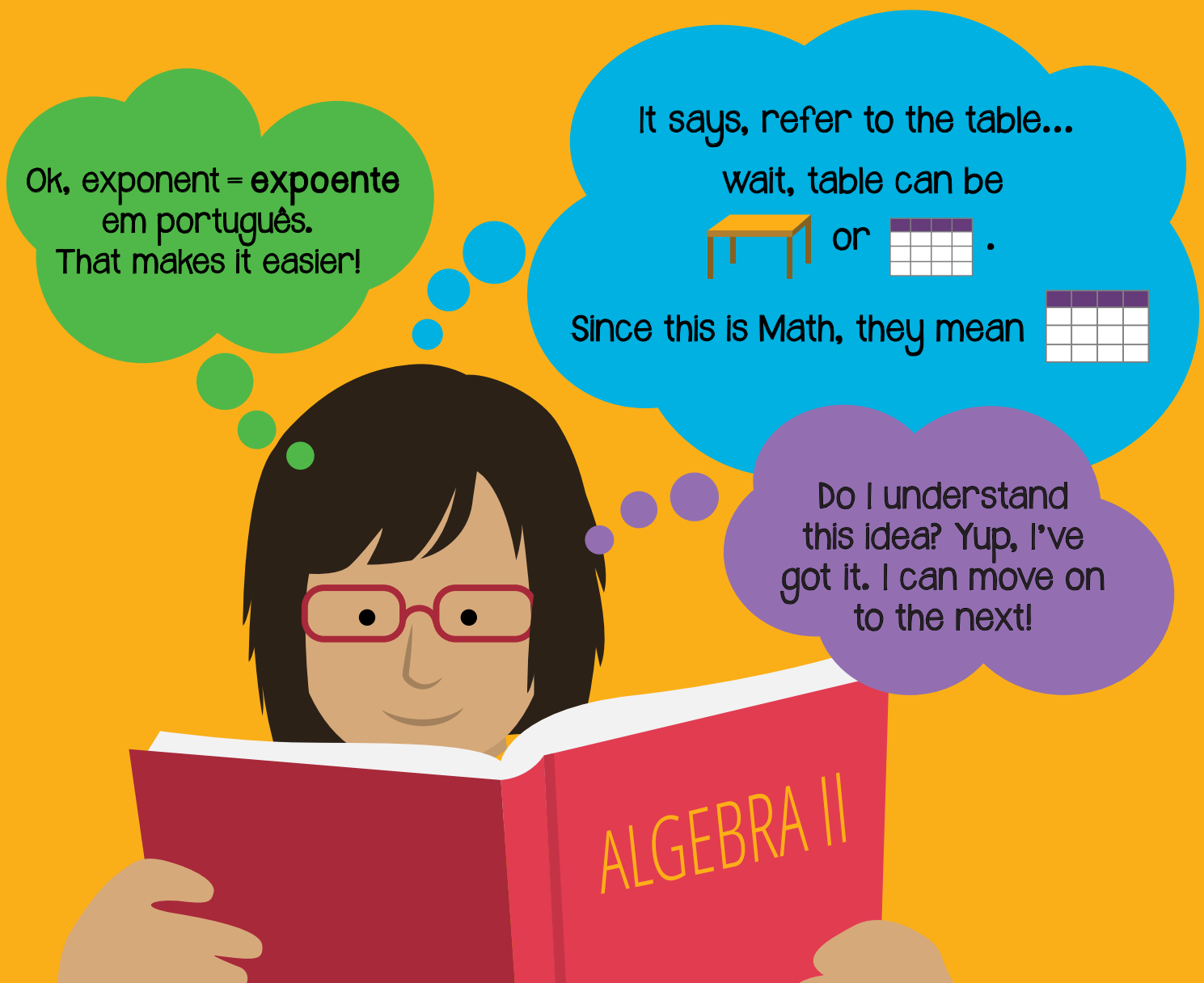
# Guiding Principle #7

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.



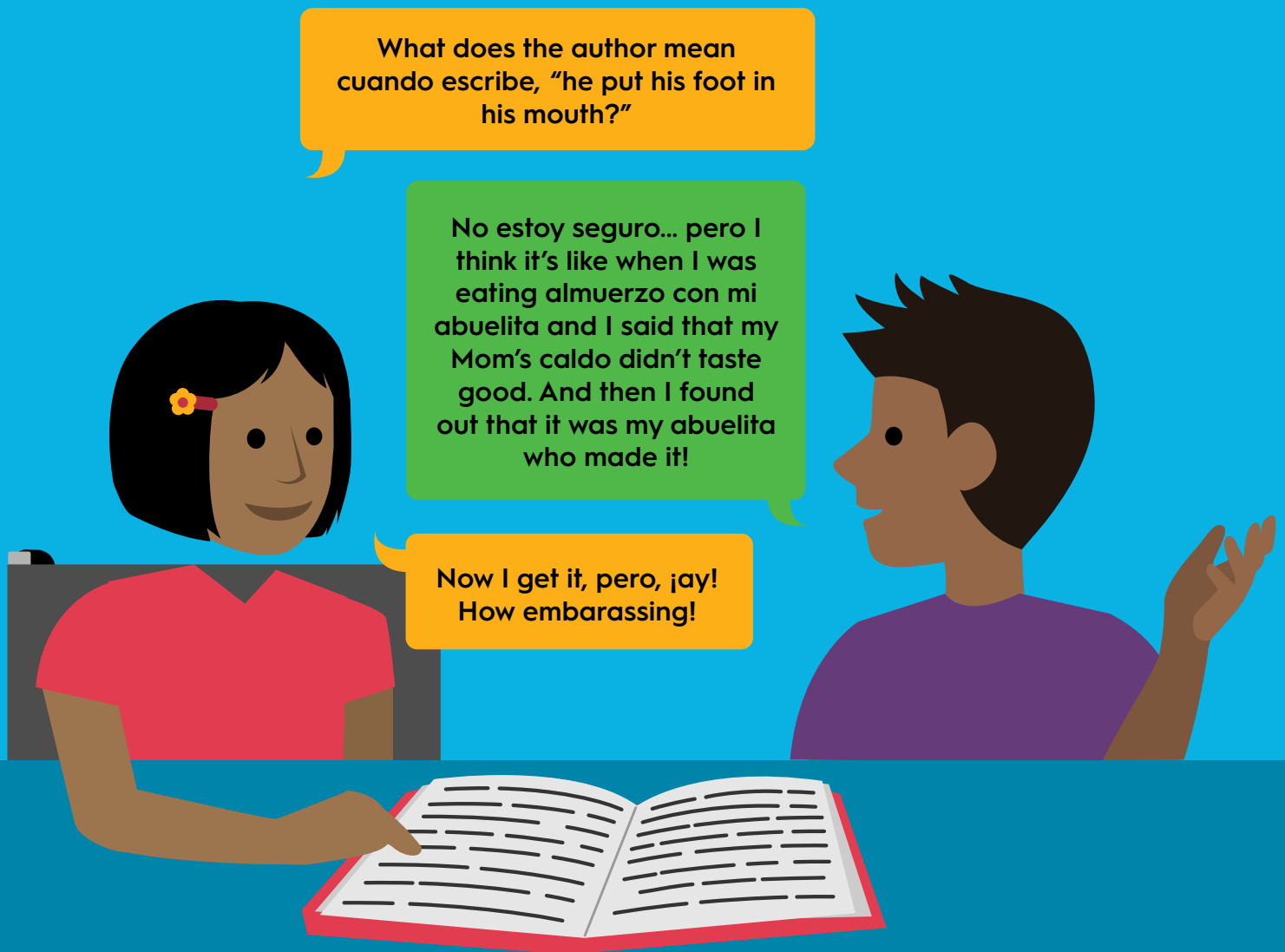
# Guiding Principle #8

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.

