Teacher: The instructional materials that I'm using are the springboard book and thinking maps. In addition to that students can use references like dictionaries, the thesaurus, and even going to the books behind me to get examples for the lesson.

The springboard book is a required curriculum for all grade levels, so I didn't really have a choice. We need to do it with fidelity. The thinking maps are something that the students have been using since maybe first grade. Our complex adopted the use of thinking maps so all the feeder schools, the high school, the middle school, they use thinking maps. The students are familiar with using thinking maps.

What I like about the springboard is it's planned out. It leads up to the embedded assessment at the end of the unit. It's kind of easy to follow. The thinking maps, like I said before, the kids have used it since elementary school and so they're familiar with it. They know which ones to use in which situations. [00:02:00]

What I notice that in the springboard book, it doesn't have enough practice time for the kids to master whatever skill I'm doing. We're doing dialogue and there wasn't enough practice for the kids to be proficient so I had to add in additional grammar worksheets. We went and got another source and we looked in another book on dialogue. I also noticed that the pacing in that springboard book, it doesn't work for me. It's a little bit too fast so I had to like backtrack and then do a little bit of reteaching and then I adjusted the pacing. It's taking longer than what's expected, or what is suggested, in the springboard book, but I'm going at the student's pace as opposed to what the books says.

I don't how relevant this book is but kids have to understand that sometimes you're given something and you have to do what you're required to do. Following along with a book but also adding in your own insights... It's something you're going to go through daily in your everyday life. I think we just adjust and the kids have to learn to adjust; to do what is required of them.