

### Figure 1.3 Middle School Goal-Setting Conversation

- Coach: I'm looking forward to working with you during our upcoming coaching cycle. What goal for student learning would you like to focus on?
- Teacher: Well, it's my kids. They are so low. They can't read the novel I'm planning to teach. Other than reading it to them, I'm not sure what to do.
- Coach: Okay, so it sounds like you'd like to focus on reading. *(Pulls out the reading standards)*
- Teacher: I guess . . . but it's really just the novel.
- Coach: Got it. How about if we look at the standards for eighth grade and see where they fit with the literature you've selected. If we know what you'd like the students to do as readers, then we will be able to figure out what our work will look like.
- Teacher: We are reading historical fiction in the next unit. So we could look at that standard.
- Coach: *(Refers to standards)* They need to understand the structure of the plot, how the characters influenced the story, and different points of view. Which of these parts of the standard stand out to you?
- Teacher: Well, I like the idea of thinking about the characters.

*(Continued)*

### Figure 1.3 (Continued)

Coach: Ok . . . so how about going after a goal focusing on how the characters' qualities influenced the theme of the book? And we could even include different points of view.

Teacher: I guess, as long as you can also help me with what to do about the lower readers.

Coach: Definitely, we will work on how to scaffold and differentiate. We can even try using small groups and include some other short texts. There are a lot of instructional practices that we can use to support your struggling readers. Sound okay?

Teacher: (*Sighs*) Okay. But that sounds like a lot.

Coach: For now, we just have to envision our goal. We'll do the rest one day at a time. Can I just make sure I got this down correctly? Our goal is "Students will understand how fictional characters influence the theme of the book." What do you think?

Teacher: That will work. Hopefully we can meet again to plan for my lower readers.

Coach: Absolutely. How about if we meet on Friday to create a short reading assessment that will surface some of their needs? Then we can plan what to do next.