**Discussion ideas for …**

**Dark Summer by Ali Sparkes**

* Eddie’s mum is in hospital. His Auntie Kath and his cousins Damon, Kayleigh and Chanelle have nothing in common with him and Eddie’s favourite relative, Uncle Wilf, is heading for an old person’s home. And yet, Eddie’s life seems to be full of adventure. Do you think that Eddie has a hard life?
* Cartraethia is described as a beautiful, bright and wondrous town, ‘lit with every colour of the rainbow’. In fact, ‘it was almost like being under the sun’. Normally, you would expect an underground realm to be a lot gloomier than the world above ground, but this book turns these assumptions on their head. Would you rather live in the light of Cartraethia or in the normal world? Do you think Eddie is just escaping his everyday problems by travelling underground?
* Auntie Kath has taken all of Uncle Wilf’s savings and tries to claim that he’s going senile. Do you think that Auntie Kath is a really nasty woman for doing this? Or do you think there could be any other reason for her actions? Is Eddie’s cousin, Damon, just plain nasty, or can you see any redeeming features in him?