**Discussion ideas for …**

**Oranges in No Man’s Land by Elizabeth Laird**

* When Ayesha first meets Mrs. Zainab and her family, she tells us, ‘I don’t know why, but their kindness didn’t comfort me at all. It frightened me. It made me realise that something was seriously wrong’. Why does Ayesha appear so suspicious of their kindness? Are there many instances of kindness in the book? Can you find the one that the book is named after?
* All that divides the living space in Mrs. Zainab’s flat is a pair curtains. Would you feel comfortable living in such a public space? Do you like your privacy? A much stronger divide exists between one side of Beirut and the other (the Green Line) and nobody is allowed to cross it. Are you ever told where you can and cannot go? How do you feel when you are forbidden to go somewhere?
* When Ayesha crosses the green line, she ensures that she remains quiet: she knows that if her accent is heard, they’ll know where she’s from. Do you know anywhere else in the world (or at school) where people have been judged by their accent?