**Discussion ideas for …**

**Al Capone does my Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko**

* Natalie is autistic. What is it about Natalie’s behaviour that makes life difficult for the family?
* Imagine you had a brother or sister who lived with a disability or condition like autism. How would your life be different? How would you cope?
* As Moose obediently helps his sister off the boat and they head to school, he thinks to himself, “Good Moose, obedient Moose. I always do what I’m supposed to do” (p. 28). Is this true?
* What do you think of Piper and how Moose reacts to her? He is both attracted to Piper and very suspicious of her. If you could give Moose some advice about how to handle Piper, what would you say? How do you think Moose ought to respond to her?
* Is Mrs. Flanagan a good mother to Moose? Is she a good mother to Natalie? Why does she treat her children so differently?