**Discussion ideas for …**

**What to do about Holly by Joan Lingard**

* What do you think of Holly’s Mum and the way she behaves? Is it appropriate for your Mum to leave you in the care of a stranger? Do you think she was doing her best for Holly or just trying to get rid of her for a while? What could have happened to Holly if it hadn’t been Nina Nightingale on the platform? Why do you think Holly’s Mum did what she did? Do you really think that her Mum would leave her in danger? Discuss your thoughts with others in the group.
* Holly is a shy girl and gets embarrassed easily when she is in the company of others. She has to overcome this in order to cope with her new situation. How would you cope if you were Holly? How would you feel if your Mum had put you on a train to Glasgow with someone you didn’t know well? Do you think you are street-wise like Holly thinks she is?
* Communication is a key theme in this story, usually a lack of it! How important is communication in everyday life to you and do you always think about how you communicate with others, including your parents and your family? What are the consequences of poor communication? If Holly, her Mum and her Dad had been able to communicate more effectively what do you think the outcome may have been? What ending could Holly have had?