**Discussion ideas for …**

**Tom Gates Excellent Excuses (and other good stuff) by Liz Pichon**

* This book is written like a journal with lots of doodles. Why do you think the author, Liz Pichon, writes her books in this way? Do you like reading books in this style?
* Can you remember some of Tom’s ‘excellent excuses’? What were they? Do you think they were truly “excellent”?
* In the end, when Mr. Keen asked Tom, Normal and Derek to perform in the school band, Tom didn’t have an excuse. Instead he told the truth. Why was this more effective? Where else in the story did Tom tell the truth, instead of making up an excuse?