**Discussion ideas for …**

**The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson**

* Matthew has OCD, which makes him very afraid of germs. Discuss in your group how this affects his life. How does a fear of anything impact on a person’s life?
* When Teddy went missing and the policeman asked Matthew questions, he was surprised at the detail Matthew knew as he wasn’t aware of his condition and this almost made him a bit suspicious of Matthew. How do you think this felt for Matthew?
* Matthew starts therapy. His parents have different opinions on Matthew and his OCD. They bicker a bit about each other’s faults (pages 163-168). Why do you think this happened?
* Matthew tells Melody about his condition. How brave do you think he was to do this (pages 198-199)?
* What did you think about Melody collecting the cards from the graveyard to stop them being thrown away? Was she doing anything wrong?
* What do you think Old Nina meant by “Don’t ever wait for the storm to pass. You’ve got to go out there and dance in the rain.” (page 365)?