**Discussion ideas for …**

**The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf**

* What do you think it would be like to have to join a new school in a different country and not know the language?
* The group of friends’ parents, along with some other members of the community, who we met later in the book, had different views on refugees. Why do you think this was so?
* Discuss the character Brendan-the-Bully. What do bullies get out of being nasty to others? Why do you think they are like that?
* How did you feel when you heard Ahmet’s story (pages 106-112)?
* Discuss the two children’s attempt to see the Queen and all the media attention afterwards.
* The story is told in the first person so we don’t know until nearly the end of the book, that the person is a girl. Did that make any difference to how you felt about the story? Did you wonder when you were reading it if the character was a boy or a girl?
* Discuss the ending of the book and how it made you feel. Were you aware of the vast number of refugees that there are around the world trying to escape war and other disasters?