**Discussion ideas for …**

**Help! I Smell A Monster by Justin Davies**

* On page 70, Magnus says that “Sometimes all you have to do to get over a phobia is face up to it”. What do you think about this? Do you think this is a good idea? Did it work for Alice in the book? Have you ever faced up to any of your phobias? Or perhaps a family member has a tale to tell about this? Discuss this as a group and remember to be kind and considerate to others who may or may not want to share information like this about themselves.
* Why do you think the author waited until chapter 7 (nearly halfway through the book) and the very last chapter to reveal the secret about Magnus and Alice? Did you spot the clues along the way? If you did, discuss them and see if you all spotted the same ones. Perhaps you could talk about if you guessed before the secrets were revealed…
* There are many amazing creatures in this book but are there any others that you would have included in the story, if you were writing it? This could be a made-up monster from your imagination or one you have read about from myths and legends. Discuss why you would add this monster to the book and what they would add to the story.
* Alice had a lot of phobias at the beginning of the story. Discuss if you think they were real, remember and give reasons for your answers. Perhaps you could also discuss why you think Alice thought she had so many phobias…
* On page 220, Medusa says, “Our success depends on how we chose to confront danger”. Think about this sentence and discuss what you think it means to the story and individual characters in the book. For example, were more characters than Alice facing up to their fears?