**Discussion ideas for …**

**Swimming Against the Storm by Jess Butterworth**

* In chapter 2, Eliza begins to question her parents on the “by-catch”. Discuss why this is important to this story and the bigger significance of the term “by-catch”. Think about how the term may apply to more than the impact on the sea creatures caught in the shrimping nets.
* What do you think it would be like to live in a house on stilts surrounded by a wetland and swamp? Discuss how it would be different. Do you think it would be hard, fun or exciting, for example? Don’t forget to give reasons for your answers?
* In chapter 7, the plan to save the swamp is revealed. It entails finding the Loup-garou because if an endangered species is discovered then more will be done to save and protect a habitat. Discuss this and think about what else was endangered, for example not just the animals, (as important as they are).
* Eliza and her friends put themselves in a lot of dangerous situations to save the swamp and each other. Discuss why you think they did this when their way of life appeared so difficult.
* On page 130, the group witness the devastating effects of a sinkhole. Do you think Soileron acted responsibly throughout this story? Remember to give reasons for your answers.
* There are many strong themes in this book. Discuss what you think these are and give reasons for your answers.
* What do you think is the main message in this book? After reading it, what is your lasting impression of what the author is trying to tell us? Share your thoughts with the others in the group.