**Discussion ideas for …**

**The Skylarks’ War by Hilary McKay**

* In chapter 10, Clarry begins to take steps to change her future. Discuss the main points in this chapter and the significance to the rest of the story.
* Rupert going to war changes many things about the story and the characters. Discuss how you think Rupert going to war changes the characters. Think about how their views of the war changed as the war continued.
* In chapters 17–19, the story focusses on saving Lucy, Rupert’s horse, from going to the war. Why do you think this is such an important event in the story?
* In chapter 23, there is a big difference in the letter Simon sends to Rupert and the one he would actually like to send. From this point the book drops hints to Simon’s true feelings towards Rupert. What do you think those feelings were? And why was this an issue in the early 20th century?
* At the start of chapter 27, the author takes less than two pages to describe The Western Front. Discuss this and think about the atmosphere, imagery and emotions that the author evokes for the reader.
* Why do you think the book is called “The Skylarks’ War”? What is the significance of skylarks to the story? Do you think they symbolise anything? Chapters 27 and 35 hold important clues to help you discuss these questions.