**Discussion ideas for …**

**The Garbage King by Elizabeth Laird**

* Discuss the background of both Mamo and Dani - how they came to be in the situation they are in and about how their paths crossed.
* Talk about the plight of children living on the streets.
* The boys joined a street gang. In what ways did this help them? Or didn’t it?
* Elizabeth Laird, the author, has worked in Ethiopia. In what ways do you think this helped her write the book? Do you think she was highlighting the plight of street children in doing so?
* Mamo was sold to a farmer as a slave. Discuss his treatment and escape back to Addis Ababa.
* Dani ran away because of his father. How could this have been prevented?
* Freedom is a theme in the book for both Dani and Mamo. How important is your freedom to you and what would you do and how would you feel if it was taken away from you?