**Discussion ideas for …**

**Where the World Ends by Geraldine McCaughrean**

* Why do you think they sent 3 men and 9 boys out to the stac when it was such a dangerous thing to do? Remember to give reasons for your answers.
* How do you think the impact of feeling abandoned and the feeling that the world had ended affected the different members of the group? You could discuss the characters individually or look at how the adults reacted compared to the children. You may also want to discuss how you think you would have coped and felt if this had happened to you.
* This story is based on actual events. If you were the author of this book, do you think this makes it easier or harder to recreate as a work of fiction? What do you think you would have to do to deliver an honest representation of the historical events?
* On page 153, Quill ponders over using stories to “come to the rescue one last time”. Discuss Quill’s use of stories and why the “Minister” seemed to be so against them.
* Discuss the events in the chapter “Witch Hunt” and the group’s actions towards the Garefowl. You may also want to discuss why this bird was so important throughout the story.
* Think about the different people in this story, who had the opportunity to rescue the group and help the people of the Hirta. Discuss the actions of “the Owner”, who we never meet, the Reverend Buchan, the Steward, Jamie Gilmour and Murdina Galloway. What impact did this have on you, as a reader, in your understanding of the story and historical events of when the book is set?