**Discussion ideas for …**

Owen and the Soldier by Lisa Thompson

* Discuss Owen’s home life. Owen has to help his mum quite a bit. How do you think he feels about it? Does he do it well? Why do you think Owen struggles to ask for help?
* What did you think of Mr Jennings, the English teacher? Why do you think he picked Owen to read aloud? Did he have good intentions or not by doing this?
* In what ways did talking to the stone soldier help Owen? How does the soldier relate to Owen’s life?
* What are your thoughts on the Council planning to remove the statue of the soldier from the park?
* How did reading his poem at the opening of the school library change Owen’s life?
* Did you like Owen’s poem (page 69)? How did the poem make you feel? What are the meanings in the poem?