**Debate & Argument**

Talking together about books using the 'Tell me' questions is a very powerful way to explore and reflect on emotional response to a story and what It means for us as individuals. In contrast, debating ideas calls for a more formal and objective response to the story and helps children begin to analyse how the writer has made us feel this way. Teachers can structure debates inviting 'for' and 'against' arguments around particular statements arising from a book.

Many of the teaching sequences use the drama technique Conscience Alley to prepare children for debate or persuasive writing. Conscience Alley is useful technique for exploring any kind of dilemma faced by a character, providing an opportunity to analyse a decisive moment in greater detail. The class forms two lines facing each other. One person (the teacher or a participant) takes the role of the protagonist and walks between the lines as each member of the group speaks their advice. It can be organised so that those on one side give opposing advice to those on the other. When the protagonist reaches the end of the alley, they make their decision.