**Questions for discussion on ‘Lost in Translation’**

What is lost in translation from one language to another? Why?

Do people think differently because they speak differently?

Or do people speak differently because they think differently? Or both?

Does the language we speak reflect the way we think?

Does the language we speak shape the way we think and know?

Is it possible to translate A to B if we A and B represent different ‘souls’, ‘values’, ‘thoughts’, concepts etc?

If people speak more than one language, is what they know different in each language?

Does each language provide a new framework for reality?

Are bilingual people more knowledgeable?

What happens if a language dies? Does a culture die?

To what degree might different languages shape in their speakers different concepts of themselves and the world? What are the implications of such differences for knowledge?

Can you find examples in your own language on the way in which language shapes thought?

What did Aldous Huxley mean when he observed that ‘Words form the thread on which we string our experiences’?

What is the role of language in sustaining relationships of authority?

What is the role of language in creating and reinforcing social distinctions, such as class, ethnicity and gender?

How can language be used to deliberately change thought in people?

What if we take away language? Can we still think the same way? Can we experience the world in the same way? Can we express our thoughts fully in another language if the word we need does not exist? Are we still as intelligent?

Is language a ‘uniquely human gift’?