

# Page Turners

Discussion questions for August 12, 2025

## **Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks**

- **When visiting Italy, Bethia writes of feeling overwhelmed by how different it was from her own home. Have you ever had a similar experience when traveling somewhere new?**
- **How do you think the novel portrays the possibility of overcoming cultural divides?**
- **Unlike Bethia, her son has no interest in traveling to older countries like Italy, saying that "everything there is done and built and finished. I like it here, where we can make and do for ourselves" (p. 274). Is this sense of independence and potential still true of the United States today?**
- **Both Bethia and Caleb struggle against the limits and expectations placed on them by society. How are their experiences similar? How are they different? Who faces the greater challenge?**

Questions adapted from: <https://georgetown-mi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3423/Calebs-Crossing-rev3-Book-Discussion-Guide?bidId=>