

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Per. \_\_\_\_\_ (fill out before turning in)

## WELCOME TO HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 11—American Literature

### SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

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

Use the questions below to guide you in a close reading of *Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks. I have informed the Barnes and Noble store in St. George about your summer reading assignment, so they should have the novel for you. (And there's always Amazon, of course.)

Answer the questions on this guide (you can type your answers if you wish) and be ready to take a reading quiz and discuss the novel when school starts in August. Your answers to these questions will be instead of a literary analysis essay, so be thorough in your answers.

#### **Some Big Questions:**

1. This novel also is a coming-of-age story. What are the main conflicts with the two main characters, Caleb and Bethia? What parallels can be seen between these main characters' coming of age and America's coming of age?

2. How might this novel have been different if the story had been told from Caleb's perspective?

## Questions About Bethia

1. What does Bethia regard as her great sin? What does she connect as the consequences of her sin? (text page references: \_\_\_\_\_)
2. Compared with those in her Puritan community, Bethia is remarkably unprejudiced in her view of the Wampanoag. What do you think accounts for her different perspective? (text page references: \_\_\_\_\_)
3. Bethia sees her mother's silence as a great strength and tool in dealing with society, particularly as a woman in a male-dominated culture. How might this be true? (text page references: \_\_\_\_\_)
4. How does Bethia feel about the Wampanoag religion? (See chapters 4 and 5, especially.) Why does she welcome "Satan's touch," as she describes it? (text page references: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_)

5. What are Bethia's feelings about Caleb: What does she tell herself, and what does she really feel? (text page references: \_\_\_\_\_)

### Questions About Caleb

1. What is Caleb's Wampanoag name and title? Why does Bethia call him "Caleb"? (text page references: \_\_\_\_\_)
2. Examine Caleb's view of the settlers in Ch. 10. Why does he say that the sound of their "boots, boots, and more boots" (p. 146) moved him to cross cultures and adopt Christianity? Contrast this with Tequamuck's reaction to the settlers' arrival (Ch. 6, p. 120). Placed in their situation, what would you have felt?
3. What are Caleb's feelings about Bethia? What does their relationship become and why? (text page references: \_\_\_\_\_)

4. Why do Caleb and the other Wampanoag reject Iacoomis and his family? (text page references: \_\_\_\_\_)

5. Although Caleb leaves his people to study at Harvard, what does he maintain of his own culture? How assimilated is he—and is this a good thing? Explain. (text page references: \_\_\_\_\_)

### **Questions About Your Summer Reading Experience**

1. How is your understanding changed or enhanced from reading *Caleb's Crossing*?

2. What reactions did you have while reading and at the end of the story?

3. What new information, new ideas, and/or new perspectives did the story leave you with?

4. What do you want to know more about as a result of reading this novel?

**Reading Enhancement:** To increase your understanding of the story, look up the following unfamiliar terms and/or figure them out from their use in context.

sonquem

Coatmen

opprobrium

flagitious

tegs

sumptuary

praying Indians

pawaaw

sennight

abstemious

bavins

aught

wetus

salvage

lappity

trenchers

bever

Historical connections to investigate (for your own interest and curiosity):

John Winthrop; Governor Bellingham (Ch. 15); Anne Hutchinson (Ch. 21); Massasoit  
[Metacomet](#) (King Philip) (1675—Ch. 3 of the last part of the novel)

► A good site with a brief account of the Pilgrims and King Philip's War:

[http://www.harpercollins.com/harperimages/ommovoverride/Calebs\\_Crossing\\_B\\_Format.pdf](http://www.harpercollins.com/harperimages/ommovoverride/Calebs_Crossing_B_Format.pdf)