

Discussion Guide: *Forsooth*

1. What do Calvin's most embarrassing moments tell you about Calvin as a person? What hidden strengths do these seemingly disastrous incidents reveal about him?
2. Why is Calvin so upset about Kennedy moving away? Why is Jonah less upset?
3. How does Calvin's movie—both his writing of the screenplay and the attempts to film it—reflect the drama that's going on in his real life?
4. Calvin's mom and dad each seem a certain way on the surface but gradually reveal more about themselves through their actions. How does each parent's behavior compare to Calvin's beliefs about them?
5. Blake tells Calvin, "I've got stuff too, and sometimes I'm not sure you care." What is Blake's stuff? How do you think Calvin can be a better friend to him?
6. Why is Maia frustrated by her experience in church choir? How does Calvin make amends for letting her down?
7. Calvin isn't sure how to approach the subject of race with Jonah, and he gradually realizes he hasn't given it as much thought as he should. What do you think Calvin still has to learn and work on if he's going to be someone Jonah can depend on?
8. Describe Calvin's relationship with Sarah. How does Sarah support Calvin throughout the story?
9. Toward the end of the story, Jonah acknowledges that Calvin isn't perfect and has made a lot of mistakes. Why does Jonah love Calvin anyway?
10. Calvin longs to be a star. What do you think has been holding him back from shining as brightly as he wants to? What helps him gain confidence?
11. What plot lines are resolved at the end of the story? What loose ends are left for Calvin to sort out in the future? What do you think he will do?
12. Calvin is able to calm his anxiety by repeating Blake's mantra of "Breathe" and, later, "Be not afraid." Why do you think he finds these words so steadying?