

Landfalls – Reading Group Questions

- In what ways do you think *Landfalls* differs from a traditional maritime historical novel? What impact did this have on your reading of the book?
- Which chapter/voice did you find most emotionally affecting and why?
- The stories of expeditions such as the Lapérouse voyage are usually passed down through history by the voices of those in charge (officials, captains of ships and so on). In *Landfalls*, the story is given to other people – to other members of the expedition, to natives they met, to the people they left at home and to women. Which perspective did you find most enlightening?
- Did you know about the expedition before you began the book, and if you did, how did it affect your reading?
- *Landfalls* has an unusual narrative structure, with each new voice taking up the story of the voyage in turn and narrating their own, very particular, experience. Did your interpretation of events or characters change as you read, as a result of this?
- Finally, did your experience of reading the book give you a new insight into the Enlightenment or give you the desire to learn more about this period?