

Text: Watkin Tench: 1788, Text Classics, Text Publishing Company, pp. 38 - 42

This is a list of possible questions to include in a close reading or shared reading session. Different questions could be selected to differentiate the task for the students.

- Is Watkin Tench writing about a direct, or indirect recount?
- What are the nouns and adjectives Tench uses in his account to refer to the Eora people and the English? What does his language tell us about his viewpoint?
- Is there any reported direct speech in the text?
- What themes or main ideas do you identify in the passage?
- Whose views are represented in the text?
- Are there any viewpoints not represented?

Discuss these passages. What might they suggest?

“The Governor immediately proceeded to land on that side in order to take possession of his new territory and bring about an intercourse between its old and new masters.” P. 40

“As on the event of this meeting might depend so much of our future tranquillity, every delicacy on our side was requisite.” p. 41

“Our first object was to win their affections and our next to convince them of the superiority we possessed.” P. 42

“To cultivation of the ground they are utter strangers, and wholly depend for food on the few fruits they gather, the roots they dig up and fish..” p. 52