



Pam Cole, *co-Editor*
Middle Grades Education
Kennesaw State University
1000 Chastain Road, #0122
Kennesaw, GA 30144-5591
(770) 423-6351
(770) 420-4334 fax
pcole@kennesaw.edu

Jim Cope, *co-Editor*
English Department
Kennesaw State University
1000 Chastain Road, #2701
Kennesaw, GA 30144-5591
770/499-3626
770/423-6524 fax
jcope@kennesaw.edu

May 24, 2004

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed is a book that I would like you to review for *SIGNAL Journal*. As you review, evaluate both the literary quality and the potential usefulness and appeal, including summarizing material vital to an understanding of your assessment. Your honest judgment provides the quality we wish to maintain in *SIGNAL Journal* book reviews. Be sure to double check all publication information prior to emailing your review.

We generally do not print completely negative reviews. Our intention is to provide our readers the very best of young adult literature. If for any reason you think this book is either not suitable or not worthy of review, please let us know. Remember we are reviewing for readers ages 12 and up, in grades 6-12.

Email your completed review by *September 15, 2004* to Carol Harrell charrell@kennesaw.edu.

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING FORMAT when writing your review (please single space, do not indent, do not skip lines, and use Times New Roman 10pt. font):

1) In the left-hand corner, give the following info:

Title of the book
Author's name
Publisher, Year, Number of pages, Price
Topic (e.g., relationships, sports, baseball, social issues, fantasy, civil war, violence, drugs, etc.)
ISBN Number

2) The body of the review goes next:

The body of the review should be approximately 150 words, double-spaced. Use paragraphs (two may suffice) to make the review reader friendly.

3) The review should end with the following information:

Reviewer's Name
School (if applicable), City and State

See sample review on the next page:

The book is yours to keep!

Sincerely,

Carroll Harrell
YA Book Review Editor, The *SIGNAL JOURNAL*

Sample Book Review

Kissing the Rain

By Kevin Brooks

Chicken House-Scholastic, 2004, 320 pp, \$16.95

Realistic Fiction/Mystery/Relationships

0-439-57742-X

The rain. That is what Michael “Moo” Nelson calls the constant stream of torment poured on him by classmates and teachers. The only place he finds peace is on the highway overpass watching the traffic stream past—until he witnesses a murder take place on the highway. Caught between a tough detective who pressures him to “lie” for the right reasons and a murderer who pushes him even harder to tell the “truth” for all the wrong ones, Moo learns there are worse things than the rain.

Brooks tells the story in a staccato style that mirrors his protagonist’s stumbling, battered life. His use of British slang is a bit daunting at first, but the power of Moo’s voice propels the reader along to the violent conclusion. This a strong effort that will engage older adolescents and make them search for his other works. Good read.

Jim Cope

Kennesaw State University; Kennesaw, GA