

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of Smart by Kim Slater

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.

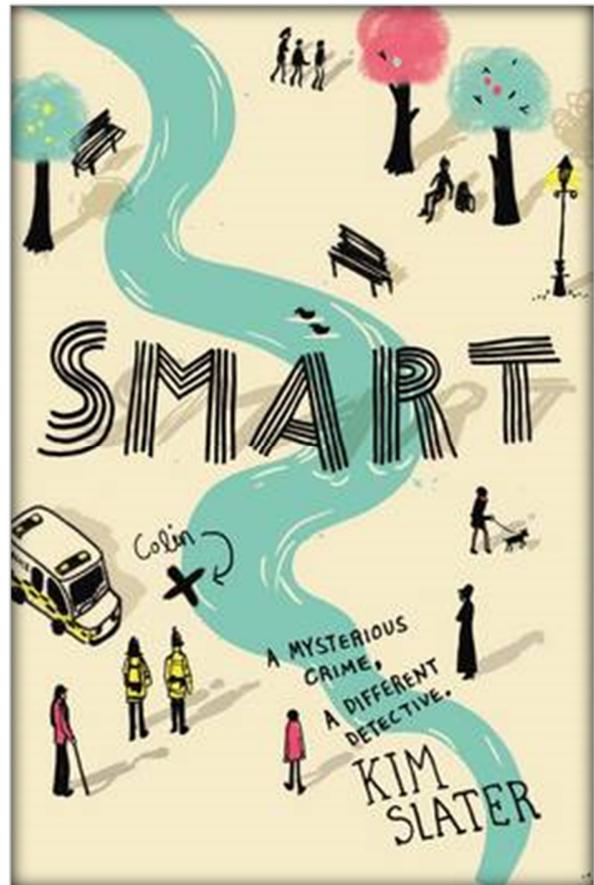
Sam Harper, age 10

A very different mystery with a very different detective trying to solve it. Kieran believes that Colin was murdered but he needs to prove it and that's not easy when everyone thinks you're stupid.

Kieran is very clever but in a different sort of way. He is brilliant at drawing, notices things which other people don't even see (a bit like Sherlock Holmes) and he writes everything down in his notebook which he keeps under his bed. However, he has trouble making friends and fitting in and most people seem to think he's a bit weird. The school bullies pick on him and his mum's new boyfriend, Tony, and his son, Ryan, treat him terribly at home. Kieran does have some friends though, like Jean who lives down on the embankment. When

Kieran discovers the body of Colin, a homeless man, in the river and tries to tell the police that he was murdered, only Jean believes him. Kieran must use his skills of observation to prove what happened to Colin but it's not easy when everyone thinks you're stupid and nobody believes what you saw. Can Jean, Kieran's new friend Karwana or even his missing grandmother help? He'll need to find her first.

'Smart' is a very different mystery with a very different detective trying to solve it. I liked the way that everything came together in the end. Kieran had a really tough life but he kept doing what he believed in and eventually it paid off. I really enjoyed it!



Adiella Norridge, age 10

When Kieran finds a homeless man's dead body in the water, he knows there is only one possibility of how he got there: murder! Kieran is determined to get to the bottom of this mystery and catch the villain. The police won't help so this time Kieran's got to rise to the occasion and find the murderer, but it is not as easy as it looks: oh no, this crime will plunge him in to a whole world of danger!

I loved this book. It was so exciting and really gripping. Once I had got in to it I couldn't put it down. I liked all its contemporary references and twists and turns. Kieran is a interesting character who has a lot of problems in his life (his mum's husband, bullying, Down's Syndrome...) but the author portrays him really positively.

This book is amazing and definitely a favourite on my bookshelf!

Amie Coffman, age 10

I loved this book and so will you if you like a good mystery. The clues are all there in front of your eyes - how will the mystery be solved?

*Mysterious things are happening, only Kieran and Jean really care. A homeless man found dead in the river. This leads to unraveling secrets, everything is a mystery in Kieran Woods' world. From death to missing items the only way he can solve the mystery is with his notebook and pencils. All his evenings are spent drawing and recording the clues of his Stepdad's strange visitors and listening to his brother's blasting xbox game. **An exciting and thrilling read!***

Alice East, age 9

'Smart' is a great book about a clever boy called Keiran, who is fabulous at drawing and detective work. A homeless person is dead the police don't care but at least Keiran cares.

Should Kieran believe the police who think the man was drunk and fell? Or should he investigate and find out if he was murdered?

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes books with mystery and adventure. This is probably one of the best books I have read in a while. I would rate this 10/10, it was great!

Annie Graham, age 11

I absolutely loved this book!

A boy finds a body in the river and sets about trying to find the murderer. At the same time he is struggling with his own family and looking for his grandma.

Will he be able to solve the mystery of who killed Colin?

I also liked the design of the front cover very much – it really made me want to read the book.

I hope that Kim Starter writes more books as I loved her writing style.

Jemma Rubens, age 10

A fantastic novel full of suspense! *Although some of the questions and mysteries remained unanswered, this was an interesting concept; it made you think more deeply. The story was about a child who didn't always fit in; however, he used his drawing and observation skills to solve a crime. It proved that, just because you're different, it doesn't mean you're not clever or talented! Even if I thought for weeks about it, I wouldn't be able to find fault with any context in this book!*

Lola Frary, age 10

A murder mystery where no one cares about whodunnit.

This remarkable book is about a boy called Kieran who wants to solve a mystery about Colin, who drowned in a river. Yet no one seems to want to find out whodunnit.

Its genre is crime and mystery and people who liked Anthony Horowitz and Sophie Mckenzie would love this book.

Kieran has a tricky home life. His mother works extensive hours while his stepfather and brother park themselves in front of the TV. Most of the time Kieran doesn't stay at home. Instead he goes to the riverside, which is where he finds the body of Colin Kirk.

It makes you feel like you are him and his thoughts; you feel his pain and knowledge.

I would definitely recommend this book to my friends and I hope that

there is a sequel.

Ben Brown, age 10

Highly recommended for 9-11 year olds who like great characters and an exciting plot.

The Characters are great especially Kieran, the main character, who is an ordinary boy who solves the mystery of the murder. Karwanna is cool especially when he hit the murderer on the back of the head with a saucepan!

The plot of the story is good as I like mystery and murder stories. The book starts with a man being murdered and Kieran tries to find out who did it and he finds out that the murderer is stealing stuff off his victims including a ladies ring and Colins medal.

The story was well written as it was exciting and I didn't guess the murderer until it was revealed at the end.

Ellen Faulkner, age 12

'Smart' was the sort of book which pulls you in and grips you and when it lets go you think: wow. I loved it and it made me see the world in a different way.

'Smart' gripped me and showed me the world in a new light. The abuse in it is different to many other children's books. The way Tony and Ryan treat Kieran in it is real to a lot of kids, but unreal to children's storybooks. It also touches on adolescent issues, such as seeing rude pictures, bullying, death and autism.

It seemed more real than other children's murder books.

Beth Honeyman, age 11

A fantastic mystery novel for the tween to teen reader. It has some dark themes which stay with you. The artwork on the cover is amazing ! Loved this book.

'Smart' is fabulous. It is part of the genre of books that share the main character Kieran's difficulties. I am sure it will be compared to 'The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night'. I feel this book will however appeal to the younger reader though. It deals head on with the issue of not fitting in.

At the start we meet Kieran a fantastic school artist with a difficult home life. It seems initially to be about his desire to solve the mystery of homeless man's death. Kieran dreams of working at Sky News as a crime correspondent. It becomes obvious the book is about so much more. He is unaccepted by classmates, bullied and abused by his step father and brother. The book is sad and uplifting at the same time.

Kieran's voice, innocence and skills draw you into this story. Read this book, it is amazing; it teaches the reader compassion and acceptance.

I love this book it is about loss, family and reconciliation.

Kim Slater please write more!

Jasmine Harris-Hart, age 12 – www.jasminesblogonbooks.blogspot.co.uk

An exciting murder mystery story about an artistic , clever and observant young lad in Nottingham.

When Jeans friend Colin , a homeless man , was found dead in a river the police thought that he was drunk and had fallen in. Kieran believed he had been murdered. It's up to Kieran to find out what happened.

Kieran is a master of observation ,a good drawer and wants to work for Sky News when he is older. He likes to watch TV programmes such as CSI.

Kieran's dad died when he was younger and his step dad Tony is mean to him. At home some suspicious stuff is going on too.

A new boy in school called Karwana from Uganda becomes friends with Kieran and helps him to solve the mysteries.

This book is about finding out what happened to Colin and other local criminal activity.

I recognised a lot of the places mentioned as I live in Nottinghamshire too e.g the river Trent, Sherwood forest, lace making etc.

It also mentions the artist Lowry a lot as Kieran likes his drawings. Kieran has a sketch book and is able to draw really well, even winning competitions at school.

This book is a deceptive type of book. I got the hardback book and really liked the illustrations on the dust cover and on the inside of the book. This made me think it was going to be a bit more cheerful than it was. The author described the characters and the area very well. I think this book would appeal to older

children in their teens because it was serious, about murder, misery and violence to do with drug dealing.

I would rate this book 6/10 it wasn't really 'my cup of tea' but it was good to read .

Isabel Kardos-Stowe, age 10

'Smart' is a mystery but much, much more than that. It tells you about Kieran's home life as well. Dealing with real situations makes it even more moving and exciting. Amazing.

Kieran, a boy with Down's syndrome, has a homeless friend called Jean. When Kieran and Jean find a homeless man's dead body in the river the police don't seem that bothered, but Kieran is, and tries to find who or what has done this.

'Smart' is a mystery but much, much more than that. It tells you about Kieran's home life as well. Dealing with real situations makes it even more moving and exciting.

I really liked this book. I never wanted to put it down. My favourite character is Karwana, a Ugandan boy that joined Kieran's school, because he is friendly to Kieran and is brave. He has a funny way of saying Kieran's name: Kee-Ron.

I think 'Smart' is a great book suitable for both boys and girls, 10 or over.

James Harrison, age 10

'Smart' was a pretty decent read because it was written well and the idea was good.

Smart! What age level is this book? I can't imagine a 3rd Classer knowing anything about what is written in this book. Kieron is Ten but the reader would have to be older to understand. The author doesn't tell you what disability Keiron has. This book leaves a lot of unanswered questions such as who is Colin's enemy? Apart from that, it was a pretty decent read because it was written well and the idea was good.

Elizabeth Tomlin, age 8

'Smart' is about a boy who wants to be a detective. There has been a murder down by the lake. Kieran draws everything he has seen in a notebook and he and his friends find out about the murder. Jean, his homeless friend, has a fight with

scarface. Tony and Ryan get arrested for being drug dealers and their dog, Tyson, gets taken to the RSPCA.

I really enjoyed this story - in fact I read it over two nights. I really like the bit where Tony and Ryan go to prison because I knew that the story ended well. I like how the author made it look like Kieran is the one writing the story.

Daniel Pender, age 10

This book was slow to get going but once I got into it, I really enjoyed it.

Main characters:

Kieran, Mum, Tony, Jean, Ryan, Colin

Scarface, Ms Crane

Score: 8/10

Kieran was walking down the embankment when suddenly he saw a dead body in the river. He ran to the police station and told them to come to the police station but they didn't listen. He decided to do some finding out about the body.

At the start, I found it a bit slow but once I got halfway through, every chapter was exciting.

I liked it because at some points, it was funny. For example, when Karwana and Kieran went to Scarface's flat. He strangled Kieran but then Karwana whacked Scarface on the head with a frying pan.

I would recommend this book to boys and girls aged 9 and above!!!!!!!

Chloe, age 10

I loved this book and all the suspense and mystery it had. It made me feel like I was watching it happen. It is about a boy called Kieran who is trying to solve a murder mystery.

I found this book amazing and I couldn't put it down. Kieran's friend Jean is sitting on a bench crying because her friend Colin is dead in the river. When the police don't seem to care, Kieran decides to solve the mystery himself but then he starts having problems of his own. He starts having problems with his stepdad and is confused. Why doesn't his Grandma come round anymore? Why has she

suddenly stopped coming round? It kept me gripped and I wanted to read on to find out all the answers.