First Opinions, Second Reactions (FOSR) fills a void in the fields of education and children's literature to meet the needs of K-12 teachers of Language Arts, parents and children, and public and school librarians. FOSR invites submissions, but also commissions particular scholars and writers to prepare articles for each issue.

Editors
Janet Alsup, Purdue University
Jill P. May, Purdue University

Advisory Board
Jacqueline Bach, Louisiana State University, USA
Steven Bickmore, Louisiana State University, USA
Christopher Cheng, Author, Australia
Judith Lysaker, Purdue University, USA
Michelle H. Martin, University of South Carolina, USA
Eve Tal, Author, Israel

Editorial Assistant
Ann Koci, Editorial Assistant

Published by Purdue University Press
**Submission Guidelines**

*First Opinions, Second Reactions* is an open access online journal, published three times per year. *FOSR* provides a dynamic format that is continually revisited and updated by the editors. Unlike a blog, *FOSR* does not allow spontaneous additions to the site. Rather, first opinions based on careful analysis of books as contemporary literature published for a youthful audience are sought by the journal editors and edited to fit within a larger discussion concerning exemplary literature for young people. An individual asked to prepare a second reaction is usually given the initial expert’s review and is expected to share the book with an appropriate audience and describe their response.

*FOSR* actively seeks the opinions of experts in children’s literature who teach at the college level, work in educational institutions, and are writers themselves for “first opinions” on new books. These reviews, in turn, are enriched by “reactions” from others who are engaged in teaching and learning activities and have used the resource in a real setting. *FOSR*’s editors, in consultation with the journal’s advisory board, review and accept all materials for publication.

Readers of the journal are encouraged to submit a “Final Word” that gives new insight concerning a particular book reviewed. These reviews are selected for publication by the board and are published as space allows. Submissions should be double-spaced, using 12-point font, and include the following information:

1. Why should this book be reconsidered after reading the first two reviews in *FOSR*? Who would be the best audience for this book? How does your opinion add to or conflict the earlier ones?
2. What led you to this book?
3. What are your qualifications? (Send a current resume and a line of introduction)

Manuscripts should be prepared according to the latest edition of the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing*. Please send via email attachment in Microsoft Word format (.doc) and supply author contact information such as email address, mailing address, and phone.

Submit your proposal and a title that reflects the spirit of your work through the journal Web site, [http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/fosr](http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/fosr).
## Contents

**Editorial**  
Discussing the Classics of Young Adult Literature  
*Steven T. Bickmore*  
4

**First Opinions, Second Reactions**

**Robert Cormier, I Am the Cheese**  
A First Opinion, *Crag Hill*  
A Second Reaction, *Mark A. Lewis*  
7

**S. E. Hinton, The Outsiders**  
A First Opinion, *Jennifer S. Dail*  
A Second Reaction, *Sophia Tatiana Sarigianides*  
10

**M. E. Kerr, Dinky Hocker Shoots Smack!**  
Words from the Author, *M. E. Kerr*  
A First Opinion, *Jeffrey Kaplan*  
A Second Reaction, *Barbara A. Ward*  
16

**Robert Lipsyte, The Contender**  
Words from the Author, *Robert Lipsyte*  
A First Opinion, *Chris Crowe*  
A Second Reaction, *Alan Brown*  
27

**Christopher Paul Curtis, The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963**  
A First Opinion, *KaaVonia Hinton*  
A Second Reaction, *E. Sybil Durand*  
35