

Content Guide
The King's Prey: Saint Dymphna of Ireland
By Susan Peek

Themes: Purity, self-sacrifice, brotherly love, compassion, mental illness, emotional pain, forgiveness, healing from trauma, trusting Providence, loving God above all things.

Educational Value: Question and Answer guide available on author's website.

Positive Messages: Total self-sacrifice in the face of very difficult circumstances, safeguarding one's purity, never giving up, obeying God's Commandments no matter what, loving and forgiving family members.

Spiritual Messages: Saint Dymphna is the Patron Saint of mental illnesses, emotional instability, every kind of mental affliction, and victims of trauma. She is certainly a saint the world needs right now.

Positive Role Models: Not only Saint Dymphna, but also Saint Gerebran are subjects of this novel. The two brothers in the story also serve as role models, each in their own way: one as the victim of severe trauma, and the other demonstrating brotherly love to a heroic degree. All the main characters are models of forgiveness and self-sacrifice.

Violence/Gore: Some scenes may be frightening or disturbing to young readers. Also, several fight scenes with mild to moderate violence.

Sexuality: Saint Dymphna's insane father desired to marry her. The novel doesn't expound upon what this would actually mean sexually, and nothing inappropriate happens in the story, so it is perfectly safe for readers who don't grasp the implications of what her father wants. Also, one minor character is a womanizer, but again, nothing actually happens in the story.

Language: None.

Drinking, Drugs & Smoking: One character drinks on several occasions.

WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW

Because of the themes of mental illness and emotional trauma, and the fact that Saint Dymphna's father wanted to marry her, parents should exercise caution when letting young or sensitive teens read this. The suggested age is 16 and up, although many parents have said their younger teens were fine with it.

Rating Scale: ADVANCED

Light- For all readers.

Moderate - Story includes subject matter for teens 13 plus

Advanced - Although not graphic in description, the subject matter is recommended for teens older than 15.