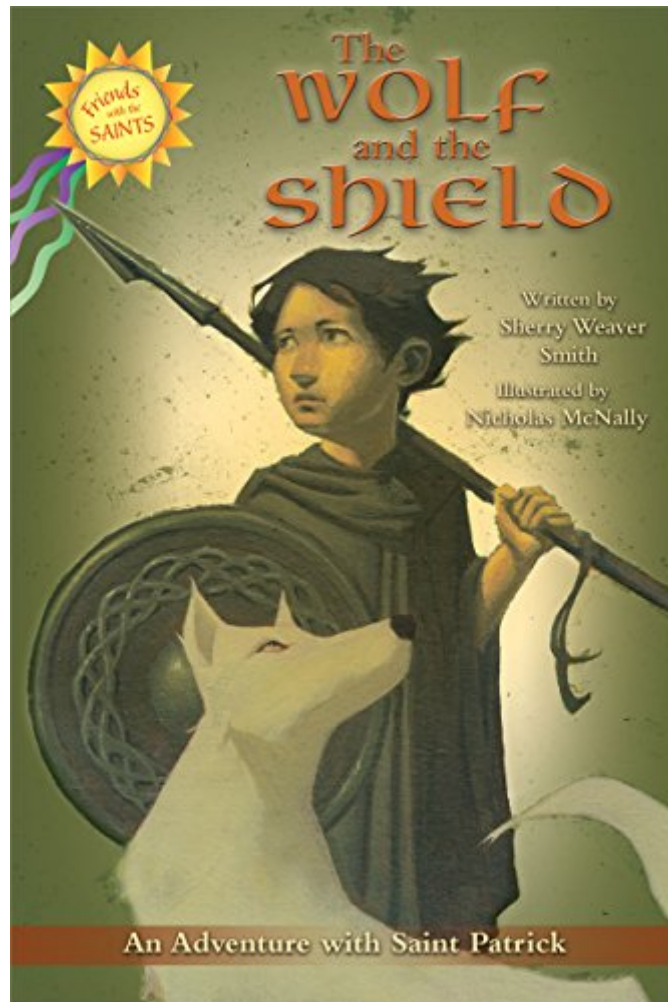


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# The Wolf And The Shield



## Synopsis

Kieran is braver and stronger than most eleven-year-old boys. And ever since his father's death, he's been doing his best to take care of his mother and little brother. In fifth-century Ireland, though, there aren't many options. When Kieran rescues a wolf pup and meets Saint Patrick, his choices become even more difficult. Ideal for ages 7-10.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Sherry Weaver Smith has given us a delightful and inspirational story that will help any child understand how Jesus loves, guides and protects us. Using the shield as a metaphor she contrasts the physical protection provided by a warrior's shield with the spiritual protection provided by the shield of prayer and faith. Set in 5th century Ireland, the story follows 11 year old Kieran whose father has been killed in battle with a rival clan. He keeps his father's broken shield under his bed and longs to be a brave warrior with a sharp spear and strong shield of his own. He excels at spear throwing and running and is a favorite of the clan's chief warrior. But a chance encounter with the holy man Patrick leads him to find and care for an orphaned wolf pup, an experience that changes his heart and his life. Patrick asks Kieran what he is hunting for. Kieran says he is hunting a wolf, as

a brave warrior should be. "But what does your heart hunt for?" asks Patrick. Patrick directs him to a place in the forest where he finds the orphaned pup, her mother just killed by clan hunters. As Kieran hides the pup Aisling, feeds her and teaches her to hunt on her own he comes to love her. He is her shield. She is what his heart has been hunting for. With the help of Patrick, his mother, and his friend Ida, Kieran is able to understand how the love of Jesus shields him like he shields Aisling. Beautifully written, full of color, imagery and adventure, this book will enthrall young readers and their parents. Hats off to Pauline Books and Media for the Friends with Saints series. We look forward to more encounters with the saints. Pauline Books and Media provided me with a free copy of *The Wolf and the Shield* in exchange for an honest review.

An absolute delight! Beautiful imagery and heart-pounding suspense. Perfect for grades 3 and above. Exquisite vocabulary readily defined. I could not read quickly enough to satisfy my curiosity. Definitely will re-read and pass this book on. Smith weaves a intriguing story of a child that could be each of us. I would LOVE to read sequels to discover what becomes of these characters.

• *The Wolf and the Shield: An Adventure with Saint Patrick* • by Sherry Weaver Smith, reads like a heartwarming parable. Although it is ostensibly a children's story, ideal for ages seven through twelve, this lovely book hit all the requisite high notes to hold my rapt attention: that it is set in pre-Christian, fifth century Ireland; that its language walks the fine line between lyricism and economy; that the page turning story is creative and unpredictable; that the fulcrum of action concerns an orphaned wolf pup. Give me a dog story in any variation, and you have my full attention. In this particular story, author Sherry Weaver Smith had me at • "Yip." • *The Wolf and the Shield* • is a masterfully crafted tale. In the beginning, we meet Kieran, an eleven year old boy burdened with a philosophical quandary on the brink of his maturity. In the wake of his father's death, it falls to him to provide for his family, and the seeming means to do so arrives in the form of a tempting offer to join his clan chieftain's ranks as a warrior, assigned to protect and defend the clan, albeit it by dubious means. It is a den of predatory wolves that holds the biggest threat to this particular region of agrarian, Northern Ireland. When Kieran sets out to prove his worthiness in his own wolf hunt, he meets Saint Patrick, in a forest, who poses the question, • "What does your heart hunt for?" • and guides him to a clearing, where an orphaned wolf pup awaits, to which Kieran quickly becomes attached. This is a story with integrity and moral. It is laced with Christian theology and rife with the lagniappe of accompanying illustrations. • *The Wolf and the Shield* • will pull at the heartstrings of all age groups. It has the power to edify the young and

the ability to reaffirm anyone's faith, as it begs the timeless question, "Of what is your shield comprised?"

As a classroom teacher, I am always looking for great books to read aloud to my fourth graders. I found one in "The Wolf and the Shield," written by author Sherry Weaver Smith. Throughout the duration of the book, my students were highly interested, engaged, and totally engrossed in the setting, events, and imagery of the story. Set in fifth-century Ireland, the book is a well-written historical fiction piece centering around a young boy named Kieran, his love for his wolf pup, Aisling, and his encounter with Saint Patrick. As we read the text together, we took note of the many themes that arose and encouraged conversation about important values such as forgiveness, peace, friendship, and holiness. Sherry Weaver Smith captured perfectly the essence of Saint Patrick and portrayed his life and impact on history accurately and beautifully. From the very beginning of the story, framed by the question, "What does your heart hunt for?" to the remarkable ending, the book captivates and appeals to readers of any age. We look forward to many more books in the "Friends with the Saints" series published by Pauline Books & Media. Pauline Books & Media provided me with a free copy of the Wolf and the Shield in exchange for an honest review.

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