



***PRIM IMPROPER* BY DEIRDRE SULLIVAN**

Before You Read...

Look at the cover of the novel.

- Jot down three things you see or notice on the front and back cover.
 - Offer two thoughts based on what you see.
 - Identify one question you would like answered.
 - What does the cover tell you about the kind of book this is?
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Author biography – a note from the author

Your author bio is something you have to write when you have a book published. My one goes like this:

Deirdre Sullivan is many things: a riddle within a mystery within an enigma, a champion napper and the guardian of two ungrateful guinea pigs who keep vowing to destroy her. She would like to see them try, the little fools. They have NO IDEA who they're dealing with. She enjoys acting, reading, writing, crafting and day-dreaming about the viking who will one day rescue her from her life of drudgery. Also cake. She really, really does enjoy cake.

But I have another, slightly more professional one that goes like this:

Deirdre Sullivan is from Galway. She studied Legal Science and French at NUI Galway and completed an MA in Drama and Theatre Studies before going on to do a postgraduate course in Primary Education in Colaiste Mhuire Marino. She currently lives in Dublin, where she is teaching and working on her next book. *Prim Improper* is her first novel and was shortlisted for the Bisto Book of the Year Award 2010-11.

- Which one tells you more about the author?
- Which one tells you more about what the book is going to be like?



- Write your own author bio. What kind of information do you include? What do you leave out?

Themes

In the book, Prim defines a lot of words, and that's also what she is trying to do with her life and herself. Growing up is hard enough, but Prim also has to cope with the loss of her Mum and her new living situation with her Dad, who her Mum had a fraught relationship with.

So, the biggest themes are:

- Struggle to find meaning in things, family, friends, people, words and oneself.
- Support systems we build for ourselves and how they do and do not work (friends, diaries, counselling, pets, etc.)
- Loss.

As you go through each chapter, think about how each of these themes is shown. Can you find examples of each one?

Although the book is about loss and grief, it's also funny.

Why do you think the author uses humour in this story?

How does Primrose use humour in her own life?

Definitions

Pick a new word and write a definition for it yourself, using your own voice as opposed to the factual, dry language that is normally found in dictionaries.

Quick review

1. Give a summary of the novel in no more than ten sentences.
2. Complete the following statements.
 - When I was reading *Prim Improper* I was reminded of...
 - The one thing I really like about the novel is...
 - A question I'd like to have answered is...
 - I wonder why ...
 - I'm not sure about...
 - What I learned from reading *Prim Improper* is...