Dear Parents,

My name is Alex Lyttle and I am the author of *From Ant to Eagle*, a middle grade novel nominated for the 2018 Silver Birch award*.* If you are reading this letter, it is because your child’s class is reading my book and I wish to inform you of its content.

*From Ant to Eagle* is told from the perspective of an eleven-year-old boy whose younger brother is diagnosed with and ultimately succumbs to cancer. While the novel delves into difficult topics such as death, dying and grief, it is largely about the love between two brothers.

As a father and pediatrician, I believe this book is appropriate for the age of your child. That said, I appreciate that not all parents will feel the same way and I encourage you to read the book first if you have any reservations. I recall reading similar books such as *Charlotte’s Web* and *Bridge to Terabithia* as a child and being profoundly affected. They are stories I have carried with me to this day. It is my hope that *From Ant to Eagle* will have a similar effect on your child and lead to important questions. They may ask, “What happens when we die?” or “Why do children get sick?” and I encourage you to answer these questions candidly. Children will understand your answers at their own developmental level and medical literature supports these discussions as being beneficial. Should you have any concerns or questions on how to lead these discussions, there are many helpful resources both online and at your local library.

Should you have any specific questions for me, I am available for contact through my website ([www.alexlyttle.com)](http://www.alexlyttle.com)) and I will do my best to respond as quickly as possible.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my book and I hope that you and your child find reading it to be a positive experience.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alex Lyttle