

From Ant to Eagle

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Calvin and Sammy are brothers; Sammy adores the older Calvin and does whatever he wants and while Calvin often finds Sammy annoying, he still loves him. When Aleta arrives in town, Calvin starts ignoring Sammy and when Sammy is diagnosed with cancer and struggles with it (and eventually passes from it) Calvin struggles with the guilt that he neglects his brother and the sadness he feels when he realizes that Sammy is dying. This highly engaging Canadian novel deals with complex conflicts, including loss, family, relationships, and sibling rivalry, in a gentle way. Suitable for read-aloud, novel study or independent reading for grades 4-7.

Subjects: English Language Arts
Grades 4-7

Evaluation Date: Dec 2020




Social Considerations

Resource Evaluation

CURRICULUM FIT

Does the resource support BC curriculum?

 Extensively

From Ant to Eagle is an outstanding resource that has ties to Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social Competencies. It is a realistic work of fiction that can support students exploring stories to help understand themselves and to make connections to the world. The characters, events, and themes of friendship, loss, and family within the book allow for exploring and sharing multiple perspectives to extend student thinking.

SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE

From Ant to Eagle is a great resource that could be used as a class read-aloud or novel study. Students could also use the book as an independent reading book. Character growth and analysis can be studied extensively in this book. Additionally, writing exercises that compare the characters' relationships and experiences can be used throughout various stages of the book. Throughout the book, there are references to journal writing as a therapeutic way to deal with trauma, loss, and personal feelings that could be explored by the teacher in a classroom setting.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Belief System

The mother dies from cancer before the events of the book, but later is found to be a zombie. Zombie characters have 'died' yet remain in zombie form.

Humour

Some teasing happens in the book when boys in the church call Sammy "pudge" and make fun of his weight. While this may be portrayed in a humorous way, it may also be hurtful to kids who are sensitive to weight issues.

Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning?



Extensively

There are no significant social considerations to note. There are a few instances of teasing and ribbing that happens between the brothers and their acquaintances, however, the occurrences do not detract from student learning. In fact, the event that followed the taunting serves to highlight the strong bond that the brothers have with one another.

GENERAL CONTENT

Content

Is the resource engaging?



Extensively

Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?



Extensively

Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?



Extensively

Is the content relevant and important for student broad understandings?



Extensively

Audience

Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level

Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?



Moderately

Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?



Extensively

Is the level of detail appropriate?



Extensively

Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?



Extensively

From Ant to Eagle takes place in Canada. The author is a Canadian paediatrician. This book would be a highly engaging read for Upper Elementary to Early Middle School. The reading level and maturity level would fit in nicely in a grade 4-7 setting. The book deals with the sad reality of losing a loved one to cancer. The sibling relationship before, during, and after cancer is very relatable to similar-aged students. The themes of family, friendship, and loss will allow students many opportunities to broaden their understanding of themselves and others in their world.

TECHNICAL DESIGN

Does the resource make effective use of the medium?



Extensively

Is the resource easy to use?



Extensively

Is the location of illustrations appropriate?



Extensively

Is the use of font, text size and presentation suitable?



Extensively

Are extraneous elements/illustrations kept to a minimum?



Extensively

From Ant to Eagle is well designed and accessible to the targeted audience of upper elementary school students. It is broken up into 41 chapters, each chapter roughly 3-6 pages. There are no illustrations other than the cover design, with simple illustrations that depict events in the narrative.

Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?



Extensively

Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?



Extensively

To what degree is this text stylistically rich?



Extensively

Plot description

From Ant to Eagle immediately engages the reader with the main character asserting in the first few lines that he killed his brother. Calvin and Sammy are brothers. Calvin is often annoyed with Sammy but loves him nonetheless. Sammy adores Calvin and does his bidding to level up in a point system that Calvin has devised to get Sammy to do his bidding. The arrival of Aleta in their town, along with Sammy's diagnosis of cancer, tests Calvin's relationship with both. Through Calvin's retelling we experience his joy at finding a close friendship, his guilt as he discovers that he has neglected his brother for a new friend, and the sadness he endures as he realizes that Sammy is dying.

Genre

- Contemporary

Literary Highlights

- Well-developed themes

Type

- Novel

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Reading Level

- At intended grade level(s)

This book is also available in e-book format. It is a Red Cedar Book Award Nominee (2019), a Rocky Mountain Book Winner (2019), and OLA Forest of Reading Silver Birch Award Winner (2018). There are discussion questions and an interview with the author provided in the back of the book.

GRADES AND SUBJECTS

Subjects

- English Language Arts: 4-7

ADDITIONAL INFO

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