

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating for kids' entertainment.

**Movie: Ralph Breaks the Internet (2018)**  
**Highest rating possible: 8 stars**  
**Ralph Breaks the Internet rating: 4 stars**

Met criteria = 1

Did not meet criteria = 0

Egregiously did not meet criteria = -1

What to look for in kids' entertainment	Rating	Explanation of rating
<p><b>Throughout story, no gender or biological sex is disrespected.</b></p>	<p><b>0</b></p>	<p><b>Having the lead female character as a tiny, young girl compared to the male character being an extra-large, seemingly grown man is unsettling. It too closely mirrors some of the unhealthy messages in our culture: (1) that adult men can view girls as sexually viable as “eye candy,” fantasies, or worse, (2) that adult women need to be thought of as “girls” (i.e. infantilized), keeping them less capable and powerful, and being treated as such, and (3) that older men belong with much younger women.</b></p> <p><b>Saying “guys” throughout movie puts a lopsided emphasis on everyone who identifies as a “guy” and alienates everyone who doesn’t identify as a “guy.”</b></p>
<p><b>Females are half the characters who drive the plot throughout the entire story.</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Vanellope (the lead girl character) and Shank (an adult female) drive some of the plot. There are also female characters sprinkled throughout the story, which is good. There could be more of them, however.</b></p> <p><b>Glad to see a woman of color, Yesss, as the head algorithm at BuzzzzTube. Great also is that she has a male</b></p>

		<p><i>assistant, as that counters stereotypes.</i></p> <p><i>Creating a movie title that doesn't focus solely on Ralph would demonstrate that at least one other character (such as Vanellope) is equally important.</i></p>
<p><i>Female and male bodies are clothed, filmed and/or drawn with equal respect.</i></p>	<p>0</p>	<p><i>While her head is very large, Vanellope is not drawn with a body that looks physically powerful especially compared to Ralph. This perpetuates the message that females are not physically very capable.</i></p> <p><i>A scene with Vanellope and Ralph discussing whether or not a male character (Zangief) waxes his body hair off strikes me as unnecessary, disrespectful, and mean-spirited. It also makes body hair a shaming issue. Showing Zangief almost naked in a kids' movie was uncomfortable. I know I wouldn't want a female character shown that way. Also, focusing so closely on the body of a male with exaggerated muscles feeds some of the messages in toxic masculinity: (1) more muscles is good, (2) muscles equal power, (3) power is good, and (4) men and boys are supposed to use their power to dominate and control others. Showing male characters with exaggerated muscles is sometimes called a "male power fantasy" because men and boys can feel more powerful in general after seeing these depictions and also in relation to girls and women (who are often not drawn with exaggerated muscles).</i></p>
<p><i>Female-male relationships demonstrate mutual respect throughout entire story.</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>Vanellope and Ralph often show mutual respect.</i></p>

<p><b>Female shows physical strength or agility without a male's assistance.</b></p>	<p><b>0</b></p>	<p><b>Doesn't happen.</b></p> <p><b>Granted, driving a car takes skill but that doesn't apply here.</b></p>
<p><b>A female's new idea (among a group with males in it) is enthusiastically validated and implemented.</b></p>	<p><b>0</b></p>	<p><b>Doesn't happen.</b></p> <p><b>Although Ralph goes along with Vanellope's idea for stealing Shank's car, we never see him get excited about it or say "yes." Plus, he is one person, not a group.</b></p> <p><b>Shank is a leader of a group, not in a group of peers. They have already accepted her as their leader; she directs them and they obey.</b></p>
<p><b>A male shows fear or sadness without shame.</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>Ralph shows fear while they're driving Shank's car. He also shows plenty of sadness in the movie.</b></p> <p><b>A positive scene is when Shank says to Ralph, "I do respect your wonderful display of vulnerability." As "toxic masculinity" men shame other men for vulnerability, it would be an even better scene if a man said that to Ralph.</b></p>
<p><b>A female shows aggressiveness without shame.</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>The Shank character does aggressively drive a car to catch Vanellope and Ralph. Great chase scene with both females driving cars.</b></p> <p><b>Shank is a leader to be feared. She, however, does not "flame" people herself. She has a male character do it for her which weakens her agency.</b></p>

