

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Bird Alphabet, Mrs. Peanuckels series (picture book)

I think Mrs. Peanuckle is a pseudonym, so the actual author's name is unknown.

Illustrated by Jessie Ford, Copyright 2018

Rating: 6 out of 8 stars



Met criteria = 1

Did not meet criteria = 0

Egregiously did not meet criteria = -1

What to look for	Example(s)	Rating	Explanation of rating and recommendations
Did the author tell the entire story without mentioning gender? (Just by mentioning gender we communicate that it's someone's most important quality and activate stereotypes.)	No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc.	0	"Mrs." is on the cover, page 16, and page 22. No gender is tied to the birds, which is great.
Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?	No pink, bows, or exaggerated eyelashes, etc. on girls. No blue, ball caps, etc. on boys, (Length of hair alone is not enough to exclude a book from this criterion. Authors often want/need to differentiate between characters. Hair is one way to do this that is less loaded with	1	Animals are illustrated realistically.

	<i>negative stereotyping.)</i>		
<i>Is there counterstereotyping? (Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</i>	<i>Are stereotypes challenged by showing the opposite? Examples are showing a boy happily cuddling a baby or a girl swinging a bat with expert skill.</i>	1	<i>If we make half of the animals females (without using stereotypes or demeaning reasons to explain why), yes. This is also an ideal time to share information about animals that counters stereotypes. One example is that the female bald eagle is larger than the male.</i>
<i>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect, skill, and admiration? (Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</i>	<i>Are girls and boys both shown using tools while building something? Do they smile at each other? Do they treat each other like a peer (and not an/a inferior or superior)?</i>	1	<i>We can create this dynamic on many of the pages (the Robin, Flamingo, and Magpie pages, in particular).</i>
<i>Does the girl character have agency?</i>	<i>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can we see her straining her muscles in active movement?</i>	0	<i>There is not enough agency demonstrated by the birds to warrant a 1.</i>
<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		1	<i>Equality. Gender is not mentioned so we're focused on how interesting and important</i>

			<i>all the birds are. Even when we mention gender, we can continue the message of equal importance and interest.</i>
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>If we make half of the animals females (without using stereotypes or demeaning reasons to explain why), yes.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	<i>The illustrator is a woman. The author's name is a pseudonym so gender is unknown.</i>



Authentic You
www.authenticyou.co