

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

## Busy People: Astronaut (picture book)

Written by Lucy M. George, Illustrated by Ando Twin, Copyright 2016

Rating: 6 out of 8 stars



Met criterion = 1

Did not meet criterion = 0

Egregiously did not meet criterion = - 1

What to look for in picture books	Example(s)	Rating	Explanation of rating and recommendations
<p><b>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.)</b></p>	<p>No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>The robot is referred to as a "he."</p> <p>"She" and "her" are also used.</p> <p>The book would be better if the robot was an "it," as it's a machine. Its name (Robo-bot) could also be used instead of a pronoun.</p>
<p><b>Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?</b></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>This book is outstanding for not contributing to gender stereotypes in so many ways. Yet there is a female scientist wearing a pink shirt and hair band in the "other busy people" section of the book.</p> <p>It's great that different skin colors are shown.</p>

	<p><i>is one way to do so that is less loaded with negative stereotyping.)</i></p>		
<p><b><i>Is there counterstereotyping?</i></b> <i>(Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</i></p>	<p><b><i>Are stereotypes challenged by showing the opposite?</i></b> <i>Examples are showing a boy happily cuddling a baby or a girl swinging a bat with expert skill.</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><b><i>This book is phenomenal for showing a young woman of color as an astronaut and the lead character. There is also a second woman of color astronaut and a man of color astronaut. They work well together. Jenny is depicted as a leader, being the main character, and when another astronaut relies on her to fix the robot. Jenny uses tools, has mathematical and scientific knowledge, etc.</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect, skill, and admiration?</i></b> <i>(Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</i></p>	<p><b><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></b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><b><i>They work well together. Everyone has valued skills.</i></b></p>
<p><b><i>Does the girl character have agency?</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can you see her straining her</i></b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><b><i>Jenny shows agency in numerous ways.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>The book would be even better, however, if it showed the female characters straining their muscles and their facial expressions showed the effort being exerted.</i></b></p>

	<i>muscles in active movement?</i>		
<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		1	<b>Equality Community Resiliency</b>
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	



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