

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

## Charlotte the Scientist Finds a Cure (picture book)

Written by Camille Andros, Illustrated by Brianne Farley, Copyright 2019

Rating: 5 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
<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. (A person's name is not counted as a gender reference in this criterion.)</p>	0	<p>"She" and "he" pronouns are used.</p> <p>Excellent that one of the characters says to Charlotte, "little one," instead of "little girl." The story and characters are developed without mentioning gender (such as "girls can do science, too"), which is great.</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>	0	<p>Charlotte is wearing a shirt-like dress. One of her parents is wearing a pink dress, the other a shirt and pants. This is in keeping with stereotypes. The lab coat on Charlotte helps us see her as someone with a job to do. While the illustrator does a great job using a variety of clothing items and combinations to show the individuality of each rabbit, the book would be even better if more of the females</p>

	<p><i>is one way to do this that is less loaded with negative stereotyping.)</i></p>		<p><i>were wearing shorts or pants. It's also positive that such a wide variety of colors are worn. Even better would be if more rabbits wearing pants were also wearing pink.</i></p> <p><i>It's great that all the non-rabbit animals (not including the doctors) are not wearing clothes. This provides opportunity to make them whatever gender mix we wish.</i></p> <p><i>Seeing no exaggerated eyelashes, bows, ribbons, or ball caps on the animals is excellent. Hair/fur is not shown in different lengths on the rabbits, so clothing becomes a device to show differences between them. We really don't know, too, how the rabbits identify even if they are wearing pants and dresses. We can make them any gender mix we want.</i></p>
<p><i>Is there counterstereotyping? (Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</i></p>	<p><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></p>	<p><i>1</i></p>	<p><i>Charlotte's dedication to science is a high priority. She has goals that are important to her. She is determined, innovative, and analytical. She uses science to work out a solution to a serious problem she's facing.</i></p> <p><i>She is also portrayed showing a variety of emotions, not always smiling.</i></p> <p><i>A male is shown valuing her brain and contributions.</i></p>
<p><i>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect,</i></p>	<p><i>Are girls and boys both shown using tools while</i></p>	<p><i>0</i></p>	<p><i>Grandpa's support is very important, yet he is not a peer. While many different</i></p>

<p><i>skill, and admiration? (Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</i></p>	<p><i>building something? Do they smile at each other? Do they treat each other like a peer (and not an/a inferior or superior)?</i></p>		<p><i>animals are shown, the book's focus is mostly on Charlotte.</i></p> <p><i>We can expand on her interactions with the other animals, particularly when she is interviewing and examining them, to create this. However, a disrespectful interaction, which Charlotte later overcomes, is when a grown-up (could be a female or male) doctor dismisses her.</i></p>
<p><i>Does the girl character have agency?</i></p>	<p><i>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</i></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>Excellent demonstration of agency. She hears of a serious problem and works to solve it. She conducts experiments, collects data, observes and analyzes results, organizes a quarantine, wants to share what she's learned with doctors, finds a solution, and shares it with her community.</i></p>
<p><i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i></p>		<p>1</p>	<p><b>Contribution:</b> Charlotte wanted to help heal the sick in her community. She wanted to share her results with the visiting doctors so they could figure out the solution together.</p> <p><b>Resilience:</b> She does not give up.</p> <p><b>Critical Thinking:</b> She looked at the information and problem from different perspectives.</p> <p><b>Equality:</b> Even though she is smaller (and younger), Charlotte realizes she still has something valuable to contribute. Her grandpa treats</p>

			<p>her as someone who can contribute. (It's also great that the author didn't add gender to the plot, such as "I can do this even though I'm a girl.")</p> <p><b>Emotional Wellness:</b> Even though Charlotte was disrespected by one of the grown-up doctors, she didn't take her difficult feelings out on someone else.</p> <p><b>Authenticity:</b> She continues to work on what matters to her.</p>
<p><b>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</b></p>		1	
<p><b>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</b></p>		1	



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