

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Charlotte the Scientist is Squished (picture book)

Written by Camille Andros, Illustrated by Brianne Farley, Copyright 2017

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>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.)</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" pronouns are used.</p> <p>Charlotte writes "my brothers and sisters" instead of "my siblings" and puts brothers first. Automatically putting boy children first is stereotypical.</p>
<p>Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?</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 is one way to do this that is less</p>	0	<p>Charlotte is wearing a shirt-like dress. One of her parents is wearing a 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. It's great that both parents are shown carrying and taking care of baby rabbits.</p> <p>While the illustrator does a great job using a variety of clothing items and combinations to show the individuality of each rabbit,</p>

	<p>loaded with negative stereotyping.)</p>		<p>the book would be even better if more of the females were wearing shorts or pants. It's also positive that such a wide variety of colors are worn.</p> <p>Seeing no exaggerated eyelashes, bows, ribbons, or ball caps on the rabbits is excellent. Hair/fur is not shown in different lengths, so clothing becomes a device to show differences between characters. 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.</p>
<p>Is there counterstereotyping? (Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</p>	<p>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.</p>	1	<p>Charlotte is featured as a dedicated, ambitious scientist. She prioritizes a problem she's facing, conducts experiments, builds a sophisticated machine (rocket ship), and goes on a big adventure (flying into outer space and onto the moon).</p> <p>She has a variety of emotions and is not portrayed as a smiling, always-deferring-to-others nurturer.</p>
<p>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?)</p>	<p>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</p>	0	<p>While there is a great variety of siblings and behaviors shown, the book's focus is on Charlotte.</p>

	<i>inferior or superior)?</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 you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</i>	1	<p><i>Charlotte recognizes a problem and starts working on a solution. She conducts experiments (in one, creating smoke), observes results, builds a rocketship, zooms to the moon and back, and continues her efforts until she finds the answer. She carries tools, wire, and scientific equipment.</i></p> <p><i>The book would be even better showing her using her tools to build the rocketship and straining her muscles with effort.</i></p>
<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		1	<p>Authenticity: <i>she knows she values being scientific and is looking for ways to express that.</i></p> <p>Resiliency: <i>she continues to seek out new solutions to her goal and doesn't give up.</i></p> <p>Joy: <i>she is extremely happy while running on the moon and her first day in her "moon lab."</i></p> <p>Critical Thinking: <i>she continues to evaluate her surroundings and her own experience. She is open to making changes for a better result.</i></p>
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>Charlotte is the main character.</i>

<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	
--	--	---	--



Authentic You
www.authenticyou.co