

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Dinosaur Dig! (picture book)

Written and illustrated by Penny Dale, Copyright 2011

Rating: 8 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.	1	No gendered words used.
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 negative stereotyping.)	1	No exaggerated eyelashes or gendered accessories, The dinosaurs are many different colors. This book would be even better by either (1) avoiding blue and pink dinosaurs altogether or (2) showing lots of dinosaurs in pink. (Some readers may be tempted to make the pink one the only girl. This would make girls 10% of the characters in the book. Instead, we need books with characters that reflect the actual female population: 50%.*).

<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>Yes, if we make half the dinosaurs girls. We can show:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) girls as dinosaurs 2) girls working with construction equipment 3) girl and boy characters playing and working together with mutual respect.
<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 inferior or superior)?</p>	1	<p>Yes, if we make the dinosaurs an equal mix of genders who work well together.</p>
<p>Does the girl character have agency?</p>	<p>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can we see her straining her muscles in active movement?</p>	1	<p>Yes, if we make half of the dinosaurs girls and choose dinosaurs demonstrating their agency, skill, and strength. (Examples are driving a machine, carrying heavy loads, and using tools.)</p>
<p>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</p>		1	<p>Equality (if we make half the dinosaurs girls) Physical Ownership Contribution Community Joy</p>

<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>Yes, if we make half of the dinosaurs girls.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		<i>1</i>	

** According to the U.S. Census Bureau, females were 50.8% of the United States' population as of April, 2010.*



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