

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Dream Flights on Arctic Nights (picture book)

Written by Brooke Hartman, Illustrated by Evon Zerbetz, Copyright 2019

Rating: 7 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. "It" is used as the pronoun for all the animals.
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	With the main character's hair hidden under a hat, we can more easily make the character any gender we wish. The book would be even better if the main character wasn't wearing any blue (a color stereotypically connected with boys).

<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>If we make the main character a girl, yes.</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 inferior or superior)?</p>	0	<p>The child is not interacting with any other children. (However, we can make the animals any gender mix we wish to achieve some of this.)</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>If we make the main character a girl, yes. She rides a raven, flies through the air, rides a snowy owl, and dances. Her eyes are closed throughout the book, as she is dreaming, so her agency is limited.</p>
<p>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</p>		1	<p>Community. The child is escorted by a raven and shown the animals we share a planet with. At the end, the child says, "I say goodbye to my new friends," and pictures of the</p>

			<i>animals are now on the child's blanket.</i>
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>If we make the child a girl, yes.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		<i>1</i>	



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