

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Forever (picture book)

Written and illustrated by Emma Dodd, Copyright 2013

Rating: 6 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 gendered accessories on the animals.

<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 little bear a girl, we counter the message that girls are not the stars of stories (specifically those read by boys). If we also make the big bear a dad, we further counter stereotypes.</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 big bear doesn't interact with other big bears. The little bear doesn't interact with other little bears.</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 you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</p>	0	<p>The little bear does not have enough agency to warrant a 1.</p>
<p>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</p>		1	<p>Joy Emotional Wellness</p>

<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>If we make the little bear a girl, yes.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	



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