

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Goodnight Moon (picture book)

Written by Margaret Wise Brown, Illustrated by Clement Hurd, Copyright 1947

Rating: 2 out of 8 stars



Met criterion = 1

Did not meet criterion = 0

Egregiously did not meet criterion = - 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.	0	"Lady" is 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 so that is less loaded with negative stereotyping.)	0	Among many "classics," there is a strong precedent of having stories featuring a female parent with a boy child. This book doesn't counter that assumption. The small bunny wearing blue and white striped pajamas will then be considered a boy. The big bunny wearing a dress and apron (even when they are blue) will be considered female (mother, grandmother, aunt, or nanny).

<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>	0	<p>Not enough.</p> <p>Having a playhouse in a boy's bedroom, however, does 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 small bunny does not interact with other small bunnies.</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>Knitting and whispering "hush" is not enough agency to warrant a 1.</p>
<p>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</p>		0	<p>The book has a very simple theme, which is likely what helps kids drift off to sleep.</p>

<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>The female (big) rabbit feels equally important to the story.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	



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