

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

**Green Eggs and Ham** (picture book)

Written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss, Copyright 1960

Rating: 1 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
<b>Did the author tell the entire story without mentioning gender?</b> (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 terms are used. Names do not count with this criterion.
<b>Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?</b>	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	The focus is on male characters, which is stereotypical. If we really wanted to, we could make the two main characters any gender we want because "he" is never used and "Sam" can be short for Samantha. However, the illustrations do lead us to make them both male. In contrast to their appearance, one passenger on a train is wearing a flowered hat. This guides us to think she is likely the first female character. She is not a driver of any of the vehicles, merely a passenger. She is the only character who waves a handkerchief.

<p><b>Is there counterstereotyping?</b> (Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</p>	<p><b>Are stereotypes challenged by showing the opposite?</b> Examples are showing a boy happily cuddling a baby or a girl swinging a bat with expert skill.</p>	0	<p><b>Gender stereotypes are not countered enough.</b></p> <p><i>It's good that pink is used on other characters besides the one female character.</i></p>
<p><b>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect, skill, and admiration?</b> (Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</p>	<p><b>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)?</b></p>	0	<p><b>Girls and women are not represented enough to demonstrate this.</b></p>
<p><b>Does the girl character have agency?</b></p>	<p><b>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</b></p>	0	<p><b>The one female character does not show agency.</b></p>
<p><b>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</b></p>		0	

<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		0	<i>Girls and women are not represented enough to demonstrate this.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		0	



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