

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

*Happy* (picture book)

Written and illustrated by Emma Todd, Copyright 2014

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
<b>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.)</b>	<b>No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>No gendered words used.</b>
<b>Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?</b>	<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 this that is less loaded with negative stereotyping.)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>No gendered accessories.</b>

<b>Is there counterstereotyping?</b> <i>(Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</i>	<b>Are stereotypes challenged by showing the opposite?</b> <i>Examples are showing a boy happily cuddling a baby or a girl swinging a bat with expert skill.</i>	1	<i>If we make the small owl a girl and the big owl her dad, yes.</i>
<b>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect, skill, and admiration?</b> <i>(Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</i>	<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>	0	<i>The small owl doesn't interact with other young owls.</i>
<b>Does the girl character have agency?</b>	<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>	1	<i>If we make the small owl a girl, yes. The small owl climbs along a branch, learns how to fly, and tells a story that the adult owl is riveted by. She is using her body and impacting others.</i>
<b>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</b>		1	Joy

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



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