

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

*Hide and Seek* (picture book)

Written and illustrated by Polly Noakes, Copyright 2018

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
<p><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></p>	<p>No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc.</p>	0	<p>"She" is used.</p> <p>(In the front-inside-cover flap, the main character is described as a "little girl." The book would be better with "child" in the description and no gendered pronouns used.)</p>
<p><b>Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?</b></p>	<p>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</p>	1	<p>The child is dressed in an orange shirt, which is great. Pants in a different color besides blue would be even better (as blue is linked to stereotypes). The child is drawn without gendered accessories like bows and ball caps.</p> <p>No gendered accessories on the animals.</p> <p>Great that the main character is a person of color.</p>

	<i>loaded with negative stereotyping.)</i>		
<i>Is there counterstereotyping? (Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</i>	<i>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.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>The child is wearing practical clothes for exploring outdoors. While this is typical for boy characters, it is less common for girl characters. Girl characters are often dressed to look “cute” for the adults in their lives (such as in a colorful spaghetti-strap dress) rather than what is truly comfortable and safe for them.</i>
<i>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?)</i>	<i>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)?</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>The main character doesn't interact with other children.  However, we can create a mix of genders among the animals to provide some of this dynamic.</i>
<i>Does the girl character have agency?</i>	<i>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can we see her straining her muscles in active movement?</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>The main character thinks of surprising her friends by climbing the tree and hanging from a branch. She also changes the direction of the game by telling her animal friends to find her.</i>

<p><i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i></p>		<p>1</p>	<p><b>Equality.</b> Having a girl as the main character, dressed in practical clothes, and showing agency contributes to more equality in children's books (as there has historically been an overabundance of books with a boy as the main character).</p>
<p><i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i></p>		<p>1</p>	
<p><i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i></p>		<p>1</p>	



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