

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

*Josie's Lost Tooth* (picture book)

Written and illustrated by Jennifer K. Mann, 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>Gendered pronouns are 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 loaded with negative stereotyping.)</p>	0	<p>The attire of some background kids are stereotypical: pink on girls and a blue ball cap on a boy.</p> <p>Great, however, that Josie is wearing many different colors, and no pink, during the several days that the story takes place.</p> <p>Her friend, Richard, wears some blue on almost every page.</p> <p>Hair length and hair styles are not counted in this criterion.</p>

			<p><i>It's great that there are people with different skin colors.</i></p>
<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>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>A girl and a boy being close friends and doing fun things together counters stereotypes.</i></p> <p><i>Josie is not wearing a skirt or a dress during the several days that the story covers.</i></p> <p><i>Josie is daring and determined, trying different ways to dislodge her own tooth.</i></p> <p><i>Great that Josie is shown reading a book about dinosaurs, would consider chomping on a giant squid, likes sharks, and is a fast runner.</i></p> <p><i>Richard is helpful and kind, offering her carrot sticks to loosen her tooth, listening to her when she is describing her next plan for loosening her tooth, helping her look for her lost tooth, going with her to the nurse's office, sharing his shark's tooth, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Richard is shown watching Josie on the monkey bars, reading a book, and looking at her at the nurse's office.</i></p> <p><i>Great that in the class photo, a short-haired kid (potentially a boy) is wearing a pink shirt.</i></p>
<p><b>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect,</b></p>	<p><b>Are girls and boys both shown using tools while</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><i>Yes, there is mutual respect. The emphasis in this book is definitely on Josie however.</i></p>

<i>skill, and admiration? (Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</i>	<i>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>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>	1	<i>Yes. Josie is shown chomping on a squid, running fast, hanging upside down, trying to pull out her tooth with a string, etc. She also has agency in her words. She directs some of her play, "Ok. You can be the shark and I'll be the squid."</i>
<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		1	<i>Equality Community Joy Resiliency</i>
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>Josie has the spotlight on her.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	

