

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating.

*Life Without Nico* (picture book)

Written by Andrea Maturana, Illustrated by Francisco Javier Olea, Copyright 2016

Rating: 5 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
<p><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.)</p>	<p>No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc.</p>	0	<p>"Father," "he" and "she" pronouns are used.</p> <p>Moving the whole family because of the father's goals is stereotypical. It is a positive variation, however, that they're moving for "his studies" rather than "his job."</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 so that is less loaded with</p>	0	<p>The girl main character, Maia, wears a skirt and a nightgown.</p> <p>The two other females in the book are also wearing skirts or dresses.</p> <p>The piano teacher looks like an old-fashioned, authoritarian male.</p> <p>Good that different skin colors are shown.</p>

	<i>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>	1	<i>Having a girl and a boy be close friends counters stereotypes. Showing their friendship without arguing over “girl” things or “boy” things also counters stereotypes. They are purely friends who like playing together.</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>	1	<i>Definitely. Great to watch Maia and Nico together.</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 you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</i>	0	<i>Maia jumps and plays piano. What is shown is not enough to warrant a 1.</i>
<i>Does the book’s story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		1	<i>Emotional Wellness Equality Joy</i>

<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	



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