

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

The Little Fire Truck (picture book)

Written by Margery Cuyler, Illustrated by Bob Kolar, Copyright 2017

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
<p>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.)</p>	<p>No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc. (A person's name is not counted as a gender reference in this criterion.)</p>	1	<p>No gendered pronouns or terms are used.</p>
<p>Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?</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>	0	<p>This book does an outstanding job of spotlighting a female firefighter and avoiding stereotypes with all the primary characters.</p> <p>This book would be even better if all the secondary and background characters were also illustrated without stereotypes. On page 4, a boy is wearing a ball cap. On page 19, a woman has her mouth open and hand up in alarm while the man next to her, after hearing the same</p>

	<p><i>loaded with negative stereotyping.)</i></p>		<p><i>news, is looking less alarmed and ready to act. The police officer is a male as is the news camera operator. The news reporter is a female. Both females in this background scene are wearing skirts, pink, and higher heels.</i></p> <p><i>Great that characters in the book have a variety of skin colors.</i></p>
<p>Is there counterstereotyping? <i>(Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</i></p>	<p>Are stereotypes challenged by showing the opposite? <i>Examples are showing a boy happily cuddling a baby or a girl swinging a bat with expert skill.</i></p>	1	<p><i>A female firefighter is the main character of the book. She is shown actively doing various parts of her job, including driving the firetruck. A second female firefighter and an Emergency Medical Technician (with longer hair) are also in the story.</i></p>
<p>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect, skill, and admiration? <i>(Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</i></p>	<p>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)?</p>	1	<p><i>The firefighters are each shown doing their part, such as holding a ladder for another, carrying tools, monitoring controls, unlocking the hydrant, communicating by radio, etc.</i></p>
<p>Does the girl character have agency?</p>	<p>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can you see her</p>	1	<p><i>Jill drives the fire truck, climbs a ladder, and runs with determination. She is shown moving fast while putting on her helmet, a gas mask in her other hand. Jill monitors the controls, and runs with a sense of purpose</i></p>

	<i>straining her muscles in active movement?</i>		<i>holding an axe. She lunges and prepares to crawl through a burning building with her axe ready. Sweating, Jill carries an axe and pike back to the fire truck. On one page, another female firefighter is shown authoritatively yelling commands into a radio while standing on a fire truck. An Emergency Medical Technician with longer hair (who could another female) arrives ready to help.</i>
<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		1	Equality. All the firefighters are completing important tasks. There is mutual respect. Contribution. The firefighters help keep the neighborhood safer from fires and other emergencies.
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>A female firefighter is the main character. There is a second female firefighter shown, as well as a medical professional with longer hair who could also be female. Male firefighters are also represented.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	

