

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Two Little Monkeys (picture book)

Written by Mem Fox, Illustrated by Jill Barton, Copyright 2012

Rating: 8 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
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.)	No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc.	1	No gendered words are used.
Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?	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.)	1	No accessories are added to the monkeys.

<p>Is there counterstereotyping? (Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</p>	<p>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.</p>	1	<p>Yes, if we make at least one of the monkeys a girl. Having girl and boy characters both being silly and enjoying each other's company is countering stereotypes. If we make both monkeys girls, we would counter other stereotypes, including girls aren't much fun or have to wear pink.</p>
<p>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?)</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>Yes, if we make one of the monkeys a girl (without using stereotypes or demeaning reasons to explain why).</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 straining her muscles in active movement?</p>	1	<p>Yes, if we make one of the monkeys a girl. Both monkeys display agency.</p>
<p>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</p>		1	<p>Equality: if we make one monkey a girl and one monkey a boy (without using stereotypes or demeaning reasons to explain why).</p>

<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>Yes, if we make one of the monkeys a girl.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		<i>1</i>	



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