

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Maybe (picture book)

Written by Kobi Yamada, Illustrated by Gabriella Barouch, Copyright 2019

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
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 <i>she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc.</i>	1	No gendered words 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	<p>The way the main character is drawn makes it easier for us to choose the child's gender:</p> <p>The child's hair is hidden under a hat.</p> <p>The suit could be worn by any child.</p> <p>While the color blue is linked to boys, the child's shoes are likely linked to girls.</p>

<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>If we always refer to the main character as “the child,” yes.</p> <p>If we make the main character a girl, we also counter stereotypes. She would be the star of the book (which is less common in a book read by boys), and is doing active things, such as steering a boat.</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>	0	<p>Only one child is featured.</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>If we make the main character a girl, yes. She climbs a ladder, lifts a toy house onto another, and runs.</p> <p>Showing her muscles straining with effort would be even better.</p>
<p>Does the book’s story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</p>		1	<p>Authenticity Equality Contribution Advocacy Resiliency</p>

			<i>Full Personhood</i>
<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 the main character a girl.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		<i>1</i>	



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