

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

*Nuts!* (picture book)

Written by Lou Peacock, Illustrated by Yasmeen Ismail, Copyright 2019

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?</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>"Her" and "his" 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 girl squirrel is wearing a dress, and a short one at that. It's good that the dress is not pink. The boy squirrel is wearing blue.</p> <p>It's great that the girl has expressions besides smiling in much of the book. At the end, she is shown open-mouthed, with her front teeth visible, about to take a big bite out of an apple. The boy is next to her smiling. In most books, their roles would have been reversed.</p> <p>Good also that the girl squirrel does not have</p>

			<p><i>exaggerated eyelashes (nor do any of the other animals).</i></p> <p><i>The book would be better if the girl squirrel was featured on the first few pages.</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><b>There are multiple counters to stereotypes.</b></p> <p><i>The girl squirrel holds firm to her conviction that the nuts are hers when questioned by the boy squirrel.</i></p> <p><i>Having a girl and a boy quarrell as peers is great. Often boys are told to take it easy on girls, or to not want the same things a girl would want. Girls are told to cave into others (especially the “boy bullies” they’ve been warned about). Neither squirrel is shown overpowering the other and taking the nut away. They are both struggling.</i></p> <p><i>The girl squirrel is shown getting just as angry and frustrated as the boy squirrel, and no one is shamed for their emotions.</i></p> <p><i>The other animals who arrive have different kinds of bags and are wearing different color combinations.</i></p> <p><i>The boy squirrel suggests sharing to the girl squirrel first. This is great as the stereotype is that girls are better at sharing.</i></p>

<p><b>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?)</b></p>	<p><b>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)?</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><b>The girl and boy squirrels have a conflict and learn to work it out.</b></p> <p><b>We can make the other animals pictured a mixture of girls and boys to add to this dynamic. The bee, however, needs to be a “she,” as female bees are the ones who collect nectar from flowers.</b></p>
<p><b>Does the girl character have agency?</b></p>	<p><b>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p><b>The girl squirrel confidently expresses her opinions. She does not cave in just because another squirrel wants the same thing.</b></p> <p><b>The book would be better with more focus on the girl squirrel successfully exerting herself to push a wheelbarrow full of nuts or pulling a wagon loaded with nuts. She is smiling and showing very little effort while holding the wagon handle.</b></p>
<p><b>Does the book’s story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</b></p>		<p>1</p>	<p><b>Equality Reciprocity Verbal Conflict Resolution Community Joy Advocacy Emotional Wellness</b></p>
<p><b>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</b></p>		<p>1</p>	
<p><b>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</b></p>		<p>1</p>	



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