

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

*Peekity Boo What You Can Do!* (picture book)

Written by Heidi Bee Roemer, Illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka, 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
<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.)	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.)	1	No gendered pronouns or terms used.
<b>Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?</b>	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	0	<b>The child is wearing blue pajamas, which is a color linked to baby boys.</b>  <i>It's good that the pajamas have a moon design, rather than cars or dinosaurs, as moons don't have stereotypes attached to them.</i>  <i>The book would be even better if the child's pajamas were in a color other than blue (or pink), and if the child's hair was pre-haircut</i>

	<i>loaded with negative stereotyping.)</i>		<i>(the child's hair looks cut intentionally short).</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>Great teamwork between the parents in caring for their child.  Also, we can counter more stereotypes by not using gendered pronouns in our explanations about the "child." We can also make the main character a girl. (If kids have been told about gender, however, they will think the main character is a boy. Blue and short hair are strongly associated with boy babies. If kids have been taught to think of every child as a "baby," "child," or "kid," gender won't need to come up when referring to the baby.)</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>Although the child does not interact with any other children, the great teamwork shown by the parents earns a 1 rating.</i>
<i>Does the girl character have agency?</i>	<i>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through</i>	0	<i>Even if we make the child a girl, she does not demonstrate enough agency. Taking a shirt and socks off is not enough for this criterion.</i>

	<i>her efforts? Can you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</i>		<i>The mom's agency is expressed only through caretaking. This criterion is looking for less stereotypical agency in females.</i>
<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		1	<i>Equality: Parents sharing the responsibilities and joys of caring for their child.</i>
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>Yes, if we make the child a girl. (Though the blue pajamas and short haircut make this more challenging.)</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	



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