

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Roaring Rockets (picture book)

Written by Tony Mitton, Illustrated by Ant Parker, Copyright 1997

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 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 gendered accessories. |

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| <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> | <p>1</p> | <p>If we make two out of the three characters girls (one being Rabbit as she is the vehicle driver and central in the book), yes. When a child asks, "How do you know those are girls?," we can respond, "I don't know. I do know that some astronauts are girls, so I'm making these girls."</p> <p>Too many books have multiple boy characters with only one girl character. It's important for books to also have multiple girl characters.</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> | <p>1</p> | <p>If we make two of the three characters girls, yes. The astronauts are working well together and are all skilled.</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> | <p>1</p> | <p>If we make two out of the three characters girls (one being Rabbit as she is the vehicle driver and central in the book), yes. Rabbit is also first to exit the capsule. All the characters carry equipment. Mouse and Rabbit are shown walking on the moon.</p> <p>The book would be even better, however, if it showed</p> |

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| | | | <i>the characters straining their muscles and their facial expressions showed effort.</i> |
| <i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i> | | 1 | Equality |
| <i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i> | | 1 | <i>If we make two out of the three characters girls (one being Rabbit as she is the vehicle driver and central in the book), yes.</i> |
| <i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i> | | 0 | |



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