

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Sea Bear (picture book)

Written and illustrated by Lindsay Moore, 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>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.)</p>	<p>No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc.</p>	0	<p>"Mother" is used.</p> <p>In the explanatory content in the back pages, "male" is mentioned. The book would be better if it also named a unique feature of a female animal (that doesn't relate to stereotypes like raising offspring). A fact that could have been mentioned is that among the Greenland Sharks, the female is the biggest. Not mentioning this is a missed opportunity.</p>
<p>Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?</p>	<p>No pink, bows, or exaggerated eyelashes, etc. on girls. No blue, ball caps, etc. on boys, (Length of hair alone is not</p>	1	<p>No gendered accessories added.</p>

	<p>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>		
<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 make the main character a female, yes. We can talk about how brave, strong, and resourceful she is. Her gender is never mentioned, yet if we look ahead to the end of the book, we find the main character has cubs to take care of. It's up to us to point out her admirable characteristics outside of her job as a parent. Too often a female's assets are only linked to rearing or protecting offspring.</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>She is not interacting with other adult bears.</p> <p>We can create some of this dynamic by making the other animals in the book a mix of genders.</p>

<i>Does the girl character have agency?</i>	<i>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</i>	1	<i>She swims long distances, even through a severe storm.</i>
<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		1	<i>Resiliency</i>
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>If we make the main character a female, yes.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	



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