

# Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

*Surprise!* (picture book)

By Caroline Hadilaksono, Copyright 2018

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
<b>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.)</b>	<b>No gendered words, such as she, he, girl, boy, mommy, daddy, etc.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>No gendered words are used.</b>
<b>Did the artist illustrate the entire story without contributing to gender stereotypes?</b>	<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 loaded with negative stereotyping.)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>A blue ball cap is on one of the kids.</b>  <b>It's great that the mom is wearing practical clothes for being outdoors. It's both good and unusual that the mom is more covered by clothes than the dad, as we often see girls and women in less clothing. It's also great that the animals don't have exaggerated eyelashes or other artificial additions.</b>  <b>It's great that some skin color variation is shown.</b>

<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>	1	<p>The adult female does physical tasks, such as pulling a child in a wagon, helping set up a tent, carrying firewood, and driving the family in the car. The dad looks as scared as the mom when seeing the wild animals at their campsite. The two adults are similar sizes. Both look physically capable; no huge, exaggerated differences between the adults.</p>
<p><b>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect, skill, and admiration?</b> (Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</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>	1	<p>The mom and dad are shown working together with their kids, doing what needs to be done to set up their campsite. The mom comes back carrying firewood, while the dad carries one of the kids. It appears they could trade off tasks easily between each other.</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>	1	<p>The adult female does physical tasks, such as pulling a child in a wagon, helping set up a tent, carrying firewood, and driving the family car. Too often a mom is shown as a passenger when a dad is around to drive the family car.</p> <p>The younger child is drawn with less stereotyping and yet doesn't show much agency (which is age-appropriate in this story).</p>

<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		1	<b>Equality</b>
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>The mom shares the spotlight with the dad. We can make the younger child a girl; creating a family with a girl and a boy.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	



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