

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

That's Not My Bee... (picture book)

Written by Fiona Watt, Illustrated by Rachel Wells, Copyright 2018

Rating: 6 out of 8 stars



Met criterion = 1

Did not meet criterion = 0

Egregiously did not meet criterion = - 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 so that is less loaded with negative stereotyping.)	1	No gendered accessories are added to the animals.

<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 use “it” pronouns throughout the book (even when we talk about the mouse and other bees), we counter stereotypes as we’re making gender secondary.</p> <p>If we make the bee a girl, this will counter the message that girls are not the stars in stories (specifically in books typically read by boys). (Note: In real life, the bees going from flower to flower are all females.)</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>	1	<p>Yes, if we make the bee a girl, the mouse a boy, and have them interact positively together.</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>	0	<p>Neither the bee nor the mouse show enough agency to warrant a 1.</p>
<p>Does the book’s story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</p>		0	

<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>Yes, if we make all the bees girls. (Note: In real life, the bees going from flower to flower are all females.)</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	



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