

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

The Poky Little Puppy (picture book)

Written by Janette Sebring Lowrey, Illustrated by Gustaf Tenggren, Copyright 1942

Rating: 2 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
<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>	<p>0</p>	<p>Gendered pronouns are used.</p> <p>He (18 times) His (5 times) Himself (1 time) Brother (1 time)</p> <p>Mother (3 times) She (4 times) Sister (1 time)</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 enough to exclude a book from this criterion. Authors often want/need to differentiate between characters. Hair is one way to do</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>No gendered accessories, which is great.</p>

	<p>so 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>	0	<p>The main character is a “he,” which is stereotypical. Having a story that focuses mostly on a boy character and his mother is stereotypical.</p> <p>Not until the last page are we told that some of the four other puppies (in the obedient group) are girls. This keeps girls firmly in the background of the plot.</p> <p>When the girl puppies are mentioned, boys are listed first: “brothers and sisters.”</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>The girl puppies remain invisible until the end of the story when we find out some of the puppies are girls. The book does not develop interactions among the girl and boy puppies enough.</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</p>	0	<p>The girl puppies are never identified individually or given parts in the story to show their individual capabilities, personalities or character.</p> <p>“Mother” talks to the puppies but is never seen. This</p>

	<i>muscles in active movement?</i>		<i>reduces any agency she might have demonstrated.</i>
<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		0	
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		0	
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	



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