

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

The Reader (picture book)

Written by Luciana De Luca, Illustrated by Cynthia Alonso, Copyright 2018

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>	1	<p>No gendered words used.</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 this that is less loaded with negative stereotyping.)</p>	0	<p>The swimming child is dressed in a gendered swimsuit.</p> <p>This book would be even better if the swimming scene had the child dressed in a wetsuit (for snorkeling or scuba diving), naked (covered as needed by the sea grasses), or wearing board shorts and a sun shirt. The book would also be better if the child was always dressed in colors other than blue (or pink) to be completely free of gendered colors. The book, otherwise, does an excellent job of illustrating a kid.</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 always refer to the main character as “the child,” yes.</p> <p>If we make the main character a girl, we also counter stereotypes. She is the star of the book, and is doing active things in the book (even though we find out she is only reading about doing them).</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 main character does not interact with other children.</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 we see her straining her muscles in active movement?</p>	1	<p>If we make the child a girl, yes. She is shown climbing a bookcase, swimming, and riding an elephant.</p>
<p>Does the book’s story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</p>		1	Joy

<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 girl, yes.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		1	



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