

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

The Very Impatient Caterpillar (picture book)

Written and illustrated by Ross Burach, 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>"Guys" is used on the first page, which is a gendered term.</p> <p>This book would be much better if the character on the first page said, "What are you all doing?," "What is everyone doing?," or "What's going on?" instead.</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>	1	<p>Having both pink and blue on the main character (as a butterfly), plus other colors, is great for eroding the stereotypes assigned to colors. The secondary-character butterfly also has both pink and blue on it. That's great.</p>

	<i>this that is less loaded with negative stereotyping.)</i>		
Is there counterstereotyping? <i>(Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</i>	Are stereotypes challenged by showing the opposite? <i>Examples are showing a boy happily cuddling a baby or a girl swinging a bat with expert skill.</i>	1	Yes, if we make the funny caterpillar a girl and the patient caterpillar a boy. <i>(Girls are too often shown as patient, giving, and passive. Boys are too often shown as wild, fun, and silly.)</i> Seeing the characters without bows and ball caps also counters stereotypes.
Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect, skill, and admiration? <i>(Or are the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</i>	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)?	1	Yes, if we make the main caterpillar a girl and the secondary caterpillar a boy. We can also make the rest of the caterpillars/butterflies a mix of genders to add to this dynamic.
Does the girl character have agency?	Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can we see her straining her muscles in active movement?	1	Yes, if we make the main character a girl.
Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?		1	Community <i>(One caterpillar is helping another, the butterflies)</i>

			<i>are transforming in chrysalises together, and they migrate together. There is a sense that they help each other as needed along the way and have mutual respect).</i>
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		1	<i>Yes, if we make the main character a girl.</i>
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		0	



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