

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Thomas the Tank Engine: the Very First Stories (picture book)

Written by Rev. W. Awdry, Illustrated by C. Reginald Dalby, Copyright 1946

Rating: - 3 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. (A person's name is not counted as a gender reference in this criterion.)</p>	-1	<p>Females are absent from the world in this book. Male pronouns are used 143 times. ("He" 103, "his" 22, "him" 17, and "himself" once.)</p> <p>She pronouns = zero.</p> <p>Gendered male terms used = fireman, man/men, Station Master, Signalmen, Switchmen, Workmen, and Sir</p> <p>Gendered female terms = zero</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</p>	-1	<p>Females are absent from the world in this book (except for a small background illustration on page 23. This sole woman is depicted as a caregiver/parent as she is with a small child.)</p>

	<p><i>critera. Authors often want/need to differentiate between characters. Hair is one way to do this that is less loaded with negative stereotyping.)</i></p>		
<p><i>Is there counterstereotyping? (Note: not mentioning gender counters stereotypes as it puts gender in the background.)</i></p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>	0	
<p><i>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?)</i></p>	<p><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)?</i></p>	0	
<p><i>Does the girl character have agency?</i></p>	<p><i>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can you see her straining her</i></p>	0	

	<i>muscles in active movement?</i>		
<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		-1	<i>Instead of characters learning from mistakes or their boastfulness with kind guidance, they are taught "lessons" by the other characters through trickery or mockery. They are told, "Serves you right" while they're in distress. These "lessons" tear down and shame characters rather than providing them with kind guidance.</i>
<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>		0	



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