

Equity 8™

The gender-equity rating

Very Lulu (picture book)

Written by Stephanie Campisi, Illustrated by Jessica Gibson, 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. (A person's name is not counted as a gender reference in this criterion.)</p>	0	<p>"She" is used.</p> <p>Great that gender-fair* terms such as "handler" and "officer" are 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</p>	0	<p>No pink, exaggerated eyelashes or gendered accessories on Lulu, which is great.</p> <p>Lulu's handler is wearing pants. She is not wearing pink through most of the book.</p> <p>There are several illustrations that contribute to gender stereotypes however.</p> <p>A background character, a woman, is wearing a pink</p>

	<p><i>loaded with negative stereotyping.)</i></p>		<p><i>dress and has her arms up in alarm.</i></p> <p><i>At the ice cream truck, the two girls both have pink ice cream cones. The three boys don't have pink ice cream cones and their flavors are all different. This contributes to the belief that girls are one-dimensional and boys are multi-dimensional. The girls have exaggerated eyelashes, with ribbons in their hair. One girl is wearing a dress, another in a pink shirt.</i></p> <p><i>The female handler has exaggerated eyelashes.</i></p> <p><i>The girl in the family scene is wearing pink and the boy is not.</i></p> <p><i>The female handler at home is wearing pink fuzzy slippers.</i></p> <p><i>The female psychologist is wearing a pink jacket.</i></p> <p><i>The police officer is a man, which fits the stereotype.</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>	<p><i>1</i></p>	<p><i>Lulu is a rare female character who is funny, mischievous, loveable, and the star (particularly in a book read by boys).</i></p>
<p><i>Are characters with different gender representations interacting with mutual respect, skill, and admiration? (Or are</i></p>	<p><i>Are girls and boys both shown using tools while building</i></p>	<p><i>1</i></p>	<p><i>The handler and the police officer work work well together, trying different solutions to help Lulu adapt.</i></p>

<i>the characters neutrally drawn so we can create the above dynamic ourselves?)</i>	<i>something? Do they smile at each other? Do they treat each other like a peer (and not an/a inferior or superior)?</i>		<i>Lulu, however, doesn't interact with the other dogs.</i>
<i>Does the girl character have agency?</i>	<i>Is her body shown in motion? Is she making something happen through her efforts? Can you see her straining her muscles in active movement?</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Lulu is shown rolling on her back, sprinting, jumbling the obstacle course, ripping/chewing items, making kids smile, etc. The results of her actions are shown: tipped over potted plants, muddy pawprints, ripped boxes, etc.</i>
<i>Does the book's story represent any of the Guiding Principles?</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>Joy Authenticity</i>
<i>Are girls the main characters or do they share the spotlight equally with boy characters?</i>		<i>1</i>	
<i>Is the writer and/or illustrator a woman?</i>		<i>1</i>	

* Gender-fair terms include everyone by not linking to one gender.



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