Assessment grid for gender-equal books[1] – Fiction book

Goal: To guide educators and parents to be able to choose books for the children that promote gender equality and that are free of gender stereotypes.

See also: Book selection checklist

Book's ID		Grade
Title :		/ 17
Author :		
Target audience : 0 - 4 years old / 4 – 6 years old / 6 – 9 years old / 9 – 12 years old		
Themes and values		5 pts
Is the book promoting a theme linked to equality, gender stereotypes or diversity? In what way? Direct ___ Indirect ___ Humorous ___ Moralizing ___	Yes	No
Are female characters proactive in the story, do they propose ideas, show initiative or courage, use their strengths in a positive way?	Yes	No
Do characters express a variety of emotions, no matter their gender? (For example, an angry girl and a sad boy)	Yes	No
Does the narrative of the story can be of interest both for boys and girls? If not, why?:	Yes	No
Is the book connected to children's cultural and current reality?	Yes	No
Characters (From the text and illustrations' point of view)		9 pts
Is there an equal number of female and male characters? On the cover (main characters)? (For example, two characters of different genders occupying the same space)	Yes	No
Among minor characters?	Yes	No
Are characters portrayed in non-stereotypical places? (Example of a bias : female characters are in the kitchen and male characters at hockey rink.)	Yes	No
Are characters diversified in terms of appearance? (Size, physical attributes, clothes and accessories, physical abilities, social conditions and origins)	Yes	No
Are characters free of stereotypes? In their strengths and weaknesses? (For example : brave girls and fearful boys)	Yes	No
In their interests and leisure activities? (For example : girls climbing and boys dancing)	Yes	No
In the way they look? (For example: boys wearing aprons and girls wearing glasses and a lab coat)	Yes	No

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[1] This assessment grid for books is used by the Kaléidoscope project from Quebec City's YWCA. We thank them for sharing this resource with us. Edits are inspired from Ducret & Le Roy (2012).

If a job is involved, is it performed by someone whose gender isn't traditionally associated with it? (For example, a girl mechanic and a male nurse)	Yes	No
If there are parents involved, are they acting in a non-traditional way for their gender? (For example, a father taking care of children or a mother driving the car)	Yes	No
GENERAL QUALITY	3 PTS	
Is the underlying message appropriated for the target audience?	Yes	No
Are illustrations captivating for the target audience?	Yes	No
Is the text and illustrations' layout dynamic and harmonious?	Yes	No
GLOBAL GRADE		
Add the number of "Yes" and "No" and report the total of "Yes" at the top of the grid.	Total yes	Total no

Is there an element that makes you recommend the rejection or the adoption of this book?
Please give an example and note which page(s) you base your recommendation on.

Rejection, explain: _____
_____
_____
_____

Adoption, explain: _____
_____
_____
_____

Other comments :
_____
_____
_____
_____

Assessment grid for gender-equal books - Informative book

Book's ID			Grade	
Title :			/ 10	
Author :				
Target audience : 0 - 4 years old / 4 – 6 years old / 6 – 9 years old / 9 – 12 years old				
Themes and values			3 pts	
Is the book promoting a theme linked to equality, gender stereotypes or diversity?			Yes	No
Is the book about women who made History, brought new ideas, showed initiative, were brave or used their strengths in a positive way?			Yes	No
Can the subject can be of interest both for boys and girls? If not, why?:			Yes	No
Documentary content			3 pts	
Are informations presented in a neutral way, in order to share facts, not an opinion?			Yes	No
Are statistical or factual informations recent?			Yes	No
Are informations presented without sexist bias? (Example about reproduction : the sperm is presented as a brave warrior competing to fertilize a passive egg. In fact, the female reproductive system secretes a hormone that facilitates the sperm's passage to the egg.)			Yes	No
General quality			4 pts	
Is the vocabulary used appropriated for the target audience?			Yes	No
Are the illustrations and/or pictures fascinating for the target audience?			Yes	No
Is the text and illustrations' layout dynamic and airy?			Yes	No
Are there search tools such as an index, a table of contents or a summary?			Yes	No
Global grade				
Add the number of "Yes" and "No" and report the total of "Yes" at the top of the grid.			Total yes	Total no

Is there an element that makes you recommend the rejection or the adoption of this book?
Please give an example and note which page(s) you base your recommendation on.
Rejection, explain: _____
_____

Adoption, explain: _____
_____

Other comments :
_____
_____
_____
_____