



Project: Expanding the use of the 'Gender Equality Charter Mark for Schools' across Europe.
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A gender equality checklist for books (these questions could also be adapted to other multi-media resources)

The collection as a whole (NB bear in mind intersectionalities of ethnicity, disability and sexuality for all questions). These are phrased in such a way that the more ticks under 'Yes' the better.

		Yes	No
1	Are all the books of good quality (text and illustrations)? (Books that are not well-written or illustrated will counteract or undermine any positive gender messages.)		
2	Is there a good balance of male and female authors from different backgrounds?		
3	Are there books with female central characters as well as male central characters (including where characters are animals or fantastical)?		
4	Are there books which show girls and boys working well together?		
5	Are there books with female characters who are strong and in leadership roles as well as books with male characters showing caring and sensitivity?		
6	Is separation of books into boys' books and girls' boxes in classrooms or in the library avoided?		
7	Are the books which say on the cover that they are for boys or girls removed from display and only used to prompt discussion of stereotyping?		
8	Are there good quality books which actively challenge sexism and gender stereotyping?		
9	Is there a good range of non-fiction books which feature women as much as men in non-stereotyped roles?		
10	Are there biographies of famous women in different roles?		
11	Are there biographies of famous men in caring or non-violent roles?		
12	Are there books about female as well as male artists and musicians?		
13	Are there books about female scientists and mathematicians?		
14	Are there books where people are shown working together for change? (as opposed to only emphasising individual heroes and heroines)		

15	Are groups that are often invisible in society represented in non-stereotyped and diverse ways in the book collection? (e.g. Gypsy, Roma or Traveler families, families with two mothers or fathers, dual-heritage families, transgender adults and children, families who practice Islam, homeless families, multi-generational families, single-parent and step-parent families, children in foster care or adopted, disabled adults or children etc.)		
Checking individual books for sexism			
In the text and illustrations:		Yes	No
1	Is the book of good quality (text and illustrations)? (Books that are not well-written or illustrated will counteract or undermine any positive gender messages.)		
2	Are gender stereotypes avoided? E.g. female characters not just in caring roles or as evil witches; male characters not just in active dominant roles, saving female characters		
3	Are the achievements of female characters based on their own initiative and intelligence rather than being reliant on their appearance or relationship with male characters?		
4	Are family roles and relationships depicted in non-stereotyped ways?		
5	Is sexist language that excludes or demeans girls or women avoided?		
6	Are pronouns used correctly? (rather than using the male pronoun to refer to all genders)		
7	Is gender-neutral language used? (e.g. firefighter rather than fireman)		
8	Are female characters depicted in the foreground of illustrations as much as male characters?		

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