

Bias Checklist

Evaluating a Children's Book for Bias



Title of literature: _____

What to look for:	Details	Notes
Stereotypes	An oversimplified generalization about a group that creates the idea we know something about the person based on their perceived membership in the group.	
Tokenism	Regularly seeing only one of any group either in the characters in the story or in the selection of books in a collection.	
Storyline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are people of color passive or “doers”?• Who causes problems?• Who resolves them?• What does a character have to do to gain acceptance?	
Lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are people of color depicted as poor or otherwise unfavorable?• Negative value judgements?• Diversity within a group?	
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the balance of power between the characters?• Who are the central and supporting characters?• Are a variety of family types depicted?	
Heroes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whose interest are they serving?• What do the heroes look like?• Are the heroes real people?	
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can children see themselves reflected in the literature?• Can children identify with the characters in a positive way?	
Author's background or perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When was the book published?• What is the author's attitude toward the story and characters?• Do the images reflect respect and accuracy?	
Loaded words	Does the language carry offensive overtones?	

Credits



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