## Bias Checklist

### Evaluating a Children’s Book for Bias

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to look for:</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stereotypes</strong></td>
<td>An oversimplified generalization about a group that creates the idea we know something about the person based on their perceived membership in the group.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tokenism</strong></td>
<td>Regularly seeing only one of any group either in the characters in the story or in the selection of books in a collection.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Storyline**    | • Are people of color passive or “doers”?  
• Who causes problems?  
• Who resolves them?  
• What does a character have to do to gain acceptance? | |
| **Lifestyles**   | • Are people of color depicted as poor or otherwise unfavorable?  
• Negative value judgements?  
• Diversity within a group? | |
| **Relationships**| • What is the balance of power between the characters?  
• Who are the central and supporting characters?  
• Are a variety of family types depicted? | |
| **Heroes**       | • Whose interest are they serving?  
• What do the heroes look like?  
• Are the heroes real people? | |
| **Identity**     | • Can children see themselves reflected in the literature?  
• Can children identify with the characters in a positive way? | |
| **Author’s background or perspective** | • 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? | |

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**Credits**

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