Bias Checklist

Evaluating a Children's Book for Bias

Fostering Readers

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	• 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?	

Credits

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