An Exploration of Gender Impacts Through the Portrayal of Teachers in Best Selling Picturebooks, 2008-2012

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Abstract
The purpose of this study is to examine if a difference exists in the quantity and/or quality, in terms of effectiveness in the portrayal of teachers, and according to gender, in New York Times best selling picturebooks, 2008 to 2012. This study examines the depiction of a teacher in terms of their effectiveness, as defined by Robert Walker’s 12 Characteristics of an effective teacher. Examining each of the portrayed teachers for both the 12 effective characteristics, as well as their direct antithesis, presents a clear image of the teachers presented to young audiences through picturebooks. In addition to comparing the presentation of a male teacher as opposed to a female teacher, this study revealed the depiction of teachers to be one who is almost always female, generally prepared, creative, and positive. Educational implications for choosing picturebooks and highlighting positive qualities to children are also provided.

Notes
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Maintaining good community relations is part of being a teacher, and teachers' contact with parents, administrators, and community leaders enhances their effectiveness in the classroom. One-on-one tutoring is easy compared to leading a classroom of students in a single direction. It seems that a lot of teachers get through their degree and jump straight into the profession without thinking about these qualities and if they are actually able to fill them in a consistent manner. I was glad that I figured out it was not the right path for me before I put any students into a situation where they suffered because of my lack of enthusiasm for what I was doing. In 200 best-selling picture books for children, among those featuring only a father or only a mother, fathers are featured as prominent as a parent in fewer books (n = 4) than mothers (n = 10). The semiotic analysis of the images and text in two selected picture books reveals connotations related to the roles of fathers as masculine, protective, nurturing, and playful, and the conceptualization of children as naive, vulnerable, and playful. Then, two representative books are used for a semiotic analysis of the portrayal of fathers in the images and text. The philosophical underpinning of this work is that fatherhood is a socially constructed gender role that is mediated by culture. On space exploration every year, new observations and data are essential to our society to advance in the understanding of life and the possibility of life on another planet. In reality, science is the true foundation for technology and economic growth. We cannot constantly depend on current facts and knowledge; rather, we must look beyond the horizon and expand our understanding about the world around us. Through our space probes we were able to find new planets, stars, and even galaxies. Space exploration should continue because it could help solve many problems. The ecological impacts of space exploration are complex and the actions that we take now will.