

Gender Bias Bingo: Fiction Media

Female character could be removed and the plot wouldn't change	Female character is romantically partnered with much older male love interest	Male character is shown being irrationally protective of daughter's "innocence"	A female character is depicted as a prize or trophy that a male character can win	Male character embracing "feminine" qualities is played for laughs
Male character that experiences trauma or assault will not be given space to process it healthily	Male character is "average" looking; female romantic partner is younger and/or more attractive	If you flip all the character's genders, the plot doesn't make any sense	A female character is killed off or traumatised to help develop a male character's plotline	Female character requires rescuing by male character
Sexual assault of male character is depicted as funny or invited	Female character in action sequence is wearing something incompatible with exercise		Sexually liberated female character learns life lesson that involves suppressing her sexuality/desires	Female character hits male character and it's played for laughs, not as abuse
Male character doesn't take 'no' for an answer when romantically pursuing women	Anger is the only acceptable emotion for male character to express; usually through violence	Female character is costumed in something unnecessarily revealing, male character is not	Gendered insult is used against female character (e.g. "bitch", "slut", "whore" etc)	Male character's virginity is depicted as being funny or pathetic
Male sexuality shown as more important than their emotional wants and needs	At no point do two named female characters talk to each other about something other than a man	Female character has sexualised death scene; male character sacrifices his life for others	Female character portrayed as sensible, disciplined and responsible for safety	Male character portrayed as irresponsible, but lovable, man child

#GenderBiasBingo

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Gender Bias Bingo Guide

How To Play

1. Grab your friends, family or housemates and a copy of this bingo card for everyone that's playing.
2. Turn on the television, watch a movie, play a video game, or engage with any kind of fictional media you like.
3. Every time someone sees one of the options on the card appear in the media, they get to cross out that square.
4. The first person to cross out five squares in a row wins.
5. The middle "Marie Stopes" square is a free space that you can use to call out any gender bias you see that isn't already included on the bingo card.
Not sure if it's a gender bias? Ask yourself how often you see the situation with the genders reversed. If the answer is "basically never" it's probably a bias.

BONUS: Instead of aiming to get "Bingo" you can award each player a point, or a gold star, or a sip of a drink each time they get a square. The player with the most points, gold stars or emptiest glass at the end of the movie or tv show is the winner.

Gender Bias

Gender bias is something that we're all exposed to on a daily basis, regardless of our own gender identity. We see it in movies, on television shows, in our sports coverage, on our news, on the web and in magazines.

The examples given on this bingo card are only an example of some of the "tropes" that we see across media. Some of them might not seem too bad, but a helpful exercise is to ask yourself how often you see them in reverse. For instance, for every example of a younger woman with an older man in a romantic plotline, how often have you seen a man 10 or 20 years younger than his female, romantic co-star?

It's important to recognise gender bias in the media that we consume. The only way to dismantle harmful gender stereotypes is by acknowledging when we see them and demanding better from the media we engage with.

We encourage you to call out gender bias when you see it. Post about it on social media, point it out to others and help them recognise it. Engage in conversations about representation, because we all deserve better.

What We Do

Marie Stopes Australia is a reproductive and sexual health provider that advocates for less stigma and better access to contraception, vasectomy and abortion.

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