



Gender Wheel®

READING
PROTOCOL

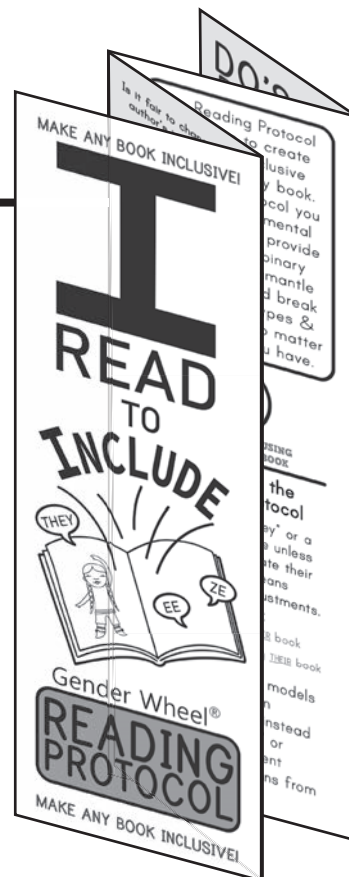


BOOKMARK

Here's a handy bookmark reminder that you can place in ANY book that you'd like to expand with the Reading Protocol to create new inclusive stories!

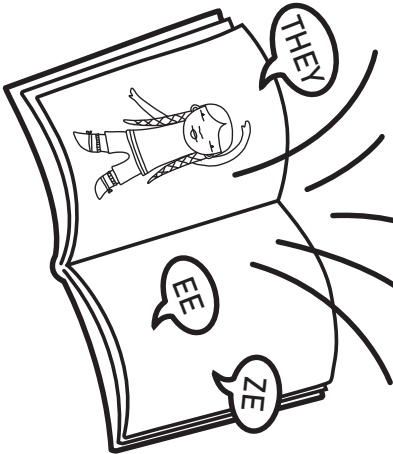
MAKING YOUR BOOKMARK:

1. Print the following 2 pages double-sided.
(*flip on the short side for double printing*)
2. Fold in an accordion format along the dotted lines so it makes a bookmark similar to the image shown to the right.
3. If you want, you can check the box on the protocol you'd like to use on the book. This is especially helpful if you have multiple people reading the same book to kids as a way to keep everyone on the same (gender-inclusive) page!



Watch some examples in action:
WWW.GENDERWHEEL.COM/PLAYING-WITH-PRONOUNS-IN-BOOKS

THEY TO READ



INCLUDE

Gender Wheel®

READING PROTOCOL

MAKE ANY BOOK INCLUSIVE!

Watch it in action: WWW.GENDERWHEEL.COM/PLAYING-WITH-PRONOUNS-IN-BOOKS

The Reading Protocol is 3 ways to create a gender-inclusive reading of any book. With this protocol you have an opportunity to provide queer, trans & nonbinary reflection, dismantle the binary, and break down stereotypes & assumptions no matter what book you read.



CHECK IT USING FOR THIS BOOK

READ with the Pronoun Protocol

- Use singular “They” or a character’s name unless they explicitly state their pronoun. This means making verb adjustments.

EXAMPLE:

He is reading his book

They are reading their book

WHAT THIS DOES:

Models using “they” as an inclusive default instead of assuming “he” or “she.” Helps interrupt binary assumptions from forming.



CHECK IT USING FOR THIS BOOK

REFRAME and ADAPT with Playing with Pronouns

- Make a list of characters in the book and a range of pronouns then decide with the kid (or kids) your reading to what pronouns to use for each character.

character's name	_____	new pronoun	_____
character's name	_____	new pronoun	_____
character's name	_____	new pronoun	_____
character's name	_____	new pronoun	_____
character's name	_____	new pronoun	_____
character's name	_____	new pronoun	_____
character's name	_____	new pronoun	_____

WHAT THIS DOES:

Opportunity to practice using lots of pronouns. New diverse adaptations that un-erase those who are often STILL left out of books. Expands creative thinking.



CHECK IT USING FOR THIS BOOK

REINTERPRET to Fully Disrupt Assumptions and the “Girl Boy Lie”

- Switch out pronouns and use “she” for a “he” character and “he” for a “she” character.

EXAMPLE:

SHE is playing with HER dolls
HE is playing with HIS dolls

- The *Playing with Pronouns* card deck can be a great resource. For example, if a character is wearing a dress, there are several characters in the card deck that are wearing dresses and use “he” and can give faces to these reinterpreted stories.

WHAT THIS DOES:

Interrupts formalization of stereotypes for what “he” or “she” looks like. Breaks down binary gender roles. Expands our thinking and encourages complete acceptance and respect for everybody to freely be who they are.

DO'S & DON'TS

DO include kids in the process in age-appropriate ways.

- when younger, reading in these ways can be done as a matter of course, as kids age tell them what you are doing and why.

DO stay aware when reading and keep thinking fluid in order to stay consistent.

- rote reading becomes a thing of the past as you learn to translate in the moment like you would another language.

DO start small and build up with practice.

- Begin with simple books then you can expand your awareness to use all of these methods with older and more complicated books.

DON'T hide or lie about what is actually written in a book.

- helping kids see through binary ideas of gender is the point. This means always being honest with kids about what you're doing.



Some simple responses to common Pushback

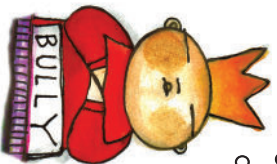
"Is that really what it says?"

I'm changing the pronouns/words to include everybody, especially people who are often left out by old ideas about what it means to be 'boy' or 'girl.' There are lots more people in the world than just two. Let's practice including everybody and creating new stories together.



"That's not a boy, that's a girl!"

Reinterpretations of books and movies happen all the time. I'm reinterpreting this story to include real people that I know and love who rarely have stories that reflect them.



"You can't read a book that way!"

Reinterpretations of books and movies happen all the time. I'm reinterpreting this story to include real people that I know and love who rarely have stories that reflect them.

Is it fair to change the author's intent for a character?

This is a way of extending the creative process for personal and/or educational purposes. Un-erasing the many people who are still not included in nearly ALL narratives is a valuable and powerful practice for kids to be involved in. Especially kids from communities that are often erased like queer, trans, and intersex people.

It's also worth noting that comic books and movie remakes often take great liberties in "reinterpreting" characters, also going so far as to change genders at times to make stories more contemporary or inclusive.

These are not unimaginable people. In fact, by simply using this protocol you **would reflect many real-life nonbinary, queer, trans and intersex people.** Beloved FICTIONAL characters from favorite classics can expand and create even deeper, more nuanced versions that can bring actual relevance and reflection to queer, trans, and intersex kids.

PRONOUN CHEAT SHEET

SHE	Her	Hers	Herself
SHEY	Sher	Shers	sherself
FAE	Faer	Faers	Faerself
EY	Em	Eirs	Eemself
AE	Aer	Aers	Aerself
THEY	Them	Theirs	Themself
THON	Thon	Thon's	Thonsel
ONE	One	One's	Oneself
PER	Per	Pars	Perself
TREE	Tree	Trees	Treeseff
VE	Ver	Vers	Verself
NE	Nem	Nirs	Nemself
ZE	Zir or Hir	Zirs or Hirs	Zirself or Hirself
XE	Xem	Xyrs	Xemself
HIE	Hir	Hiers	Hirself
HE	Him	His	Himself
EE	Eem	Eers	Eemself
E	Em	Eirs	Emsself

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LEARN MORE about the Pronoun Protocol
WWW.PRONOUNPROTOCOL.ORG

LEARN MORE about the Playing with Pronouns Card Deck
WWW.PLAYINGWITHPRONOUNS.COM

