

RUN LIKE A GIRL



People sometimes have ideas about “what boys are like” and “what girls are like”—sometimes these ideas are true and sometimes they’re not. Write a “**B**” over words that you think boys *mostly* like, and write a “**G**” over words that you think girls *mostly* like. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers; just your opinion!

FAST RUNNER	ENJOYS VIDEO GAMES	ADVENTUROUS	CARES ABOUT WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE	
GENTLE	GOOD AT ART	LIKES CARS		
LOVES CATS	LIKES TO COOK	LIKES SCIENCE	LIKES TO DRESS UP	
LOVES SCHOOL	STRONG	ATHLETIC		
GOOD WITH COMPUTERS	LOVING	LOVES DOGS	BRAVE	LIKES TIME WITH FRIENDS
CRIES A LOT	GOOD AT MATH	IS A GOOD LEADER		

Draw a picture of yourself doing something that **doesn't** fit into the *stereotype* of a boy or a girl.

(Gender) Stereotype!

Read these common beliefs and statements. Decide if it is a stereotype (S) and if so why.

- a) All of you are in ____ grade.
- b) Some ____ graders like recess.
- c) Girls like to wear dresses.
- d) Some girls like to draw.
- e) All of the boys like to play with trucks.
- f) Some of the ____ graders are boys.
- g) All of the ____ graders are girls.
- h) Teachers are all girls.
- i) Some of the ____ graders like playing tag.
- j) Nurses are all girls.
- k) Some boys like to play with trucks.
- l) Girls like reading.
- m) All boys like tag.
- n) All children identify as boys or girls.
- o) Girls like dolls.
- p) Some girls like to play with Legos.
- q) All children like to draw.
- r) Some boys like to play with Legos.
- s) Girls like the color purple.
- t) Some children like the color yellow.
- u) Some boys like the color pink.
- v) Some ____ graders like to dance.
- w) Boys like video games.
- x) All of the ____ graders are awesome!



Tell the students, “Stereotypes are a simple idea about a large group of people that many people think is true, but it is **not true** for everyone in that group.”

5. Conclusion: Ask students to look again at the lists of stereotypes for boys and girls. Encourage them to think about how they identify today and to list any ways that they don't fit or “break” stereotypes for girls, boys, or children. Facilitate a conversation with your students about their reflections, asking, “Is it OK when stereotypes don't fit us? How does it feel when stereotypes don't fit? Why should we think about gender stereotypes, or stereotypes telling us about things for ‘boys’ and ‘girls’?”

Remind students, “Gender stereotypes are harmful because they take a simple idea and try to say it works for everyone in a group. Gender stereotypes sometimes make people stop doing an activity they like and really want to do. They make it harder for people to be themselves and to like what they like.”