**Spellcheck For Bias: *Whitebird***

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**Overview**

The purpose of this report is to identify opportunities for content creators to diversify character representations. This report measures representations of six identities in the script *Whitebird* for Lionsgate:

* [Gender](#bookmark=id.gjdgxs)
* [Race/Ethnicity](#bookmark=id.30j0zll)
* [LGBTQ+](#bookmark=id.1fob9te)
* [Disability](#bookmark=id.3znysh7)
* [Age (50+)](#bookmark=id.2et92p0)
* [Body Size](#bookmark=id.tyjcwt)

**Methodology**

Spellcheck for Bias is based on inventions and software developed at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. For this report, we analyze characters who spoke 1 line of text or more. In *Whitebird*, 48 characters met this criterion:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| GRAND-MÈRE/SARA (Gillian Anderson) | 396 |
| BOY/TORTEU/JULIEN (Bryce Gheisar) | 202 |
| VIVIENNE | 67 |
| MAX | 51 |
| VINCENT | 50 |
| MLLE PETITJEAN | 36 |
| ROSE | 35 |
| JULIAN | 28 |
| CAROLINE | 20 |
| M. LAFLEUR | 19 |
| PASTOR LUC | 17 |
| SOPHIE | 15 |
| GERMAN COMMANDER | 15 |
| JEAN-PAUL | 14 |
| JEROME | 13 |
| MARIANN | 12 |
| GEORGES | 11 |
| RABBI BERNSTEIN | 8 |
| MME. LAFLEUR | 7 |
| OLDER PATIENT | 7 |
| ANTOINE | 5 |
| BLOCKADE COMMANDER | 5 |
| BEARDED PATIENT | 5 |
| MME. BERNSTEIN | 4 |
| MILICE DRIVER | 4 |
| RADIO PUNDIT | 3 |
| RECEPTIONIST | 3 |
| RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 | 3 |
| GERMAN SOLDIER #1 | 3 |
| GERMAN TROOP | 3 |
| BORDER GUARD | 3 |
| MADAME BALLOU | 2 |
| RESISTANCE FIGHTER | 2 |
| MILICE COMMANDER | 2 |
| HENRI | 2 |
| SEWER WORKER | 2 |
| NERVOUS PATIENT | 2 |
| RADIO ANNOUNCER #2 | 2 |
| NEWSREEL NARRATOR | 1 |
| BULLY | 1 |
| RUTH | 1 |
| CAGEY NEIGHBOR | 1 |
| PASTOR ROBERT | 1 |
| GERMAN SOLDIER #2 | 1 |
| MILICE OFFICER | 1 |
| GERMAN COMMANDER | 1 |
| BANDAGED PATIENT | 1 |
| BLOCKADE GUARD | 1 |

Automated coding is combined with expert human coding to generate the quantitative and qualitative analysis below.

**Gender Analysis**

***For comparison, women constitute 51% of the U.S. population.***

* 14 characters are specified as female.
* The leading character is female (“GRAND-MERE/SARA”).
* The script contains 8 character opportunities to increase gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
| GRAND-MERE/SARA |  |  |
|  | BOY/TORTEAU/JULIEN |  |
| VIVIENNE |  |  |
|  | MAX |  |
|  | VINCENT |  |
| MLLE PETITJEAN |  |  |
| ROSE |  |  |
|  | JULIAN |  |
| CAROLINE |  |  |
| M. LAFLEUR |  |  |
|  | PASTOR LUC |  |
| SOPHIE |  |  |
|  | GERMAN COMMANDER |  |
|  | JEAN-PAUL |  |
|  | JEROME |  |
| MARIANN |  |  |
|  | GEORGES |  |
|  | RABBI BERNSTEIN |  |
| MME. LEAFLEUR |  |  |
|  |  | OLDER PATIENT |
|  | ANTOINE |  |
|  | BLOCKADE COMMANDER |  |
|  | BEARDED PATIENT |  |
| MME BERNSTEIN |  |  |
|  | MILICE DRIVER |  |
|  |  | RADIO PUNDIT |
| RECEPTIONIST |  |  |
|  |  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 |
|  | GERMAN SOLDIER #1 |  |
|  | GERMAN TROOP |  |
|  | BORDER GUARD |  |
| MADAM BALLOU |  |  |
|  |  | RESISTANCE FIGHTER |
|  | MILICE COMMANDER |  |
|  | HENRI |  |
|  | SEWER WORKER |  |
|  |  | NERVOUS PATIENT |
|  |  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #2 |
|  |  | NEWSREEL NARRATOR |
|  | BULLY |  |
| RUTH |  |  |
| CAGEY NEIGHBOR |  |  |
|  | PASTOR ROBERT |  |
|  | GERMAN SOLDIER #2 |  |
|  |  | MILICE OFFICER |
|  | GERMAN COMMANDER |  |
|  | BANDAGED PATIENT |  |
|  | BLOCKADE GUARD |  |

The See Jane Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the See Jane test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| **YES** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is a woman who; |
| **YES** | Is not depicted with gender stereotypes or tropes. |

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**Race/Ethnicity Analysis**

***For comparison, people of color constitute 38% of the U.S. population.***

* 0 characters are specified as characters of color.
* The leading character is specified as white (Jewish).
* The script contains 1 character opportunity to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | GRAND-MERE/SARA |  |
|  | BOY/TORTEU/JULIEN |  |
|  | VIVIENNE |  |
|  | MAX |  |
|  | VINCENT |  |
|  | MLLE PETITJEAN |  |
|  | ROSE |  |
|  | JULIAN |  |
|  |  | CAROLINE |
|  | M LAFLEUR |  |
|  | PASTOR LUC |  |
|  | SOPHIE |  |
|  | GERMAN COMMANDER |  |
|  | JEAN-PAUL |  |
|  | MARIANN |  |
|  | GEROGES |  |
|  | RABBI BERNSTEIN |  |
|  | MME LAFLEUR |  |
|  | OLDER PATIENT |  |
|  | ANTOINE |  |
|  | BLOCKADE COMMANDER |  |
|  | BEARDED PATIENT |  |
|  | MM BERSTEIN |  |
|  | MILICE DRIVER |  |
|  | RADIO PUNDIT |  |
|  | RECEPTIONIST |  |
|  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 |  |
|  | GERMAN SOLDIER #1 |  |
|  | GERMAN TROOP |  |
|  | BORDER GUARD |  |
|  | MADAME BALLOU |  |
|  | RESISTANCE FIGHTER |  |
|  | MILICE COMMANDER |  |
|  | HENRI |  |
|  | SEWER WORKER |  |
|  | NERVOUS PATIENT |  |
|  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #2 |  |
|  | NEWSREEL NARRATOR |  |
|  | BULLY |  |
|  | RUTH |  |
|  | CAGEY NEIGHBOR |  |
|  | PASTOR ROBERT |  |
|  | GERMAN SOLDIER #2 |  |
|  | MILICE OFFICER |  |
|  | GERMAN COMMANDER |  |
|  | BANDAGED PATIENT |  |
|  | BLOCKADE GUARD |  |

The Sidney Poitier Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the Sidney Poitier test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| **NO** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is a character of color who; |
|  | Is not depicted with race/ethnicity stereotypes or tropes. |



**LGBTQ+ Analysis**

***For comparison, LGBTQ+ people comprise 4.5% of the U.S. population.***

* 0 characters are specified as LGBTQ+.
* The leading character is specified as heterosexual (“GRAND-MERE/SARA”).
* The script contains 35 character opportunities to increase LGBTQ+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
|  | GRAND-MERE/SARA |  |
|  | BOY/TORTEU/JULIEN |  |
|  | VIVIENNE |  |
|  | MAX |  |
|  |  | VINCENT |
|  | MMLE PETITJEAN |  |
|  | ROSE |  |
|  |  | JULIAN |
|  |  | CAROLINE |
|  | M LEAFLEUR |  |
|  |  | PASTOR LUC |
|  | SOPHIE |  |
|  |  | GERMAN COMMANDER |
|  | JEAN-PAUL |  |
|  |  | JEROME |
|  | MARIANN |  |
|  |  | GEORGES |
|  | RABBI BERSTEIN |  |
|  | MM LAFLEUR |  |
|  |  | OLDER PATIENT |
|  |  | ANTOINE |
|  |  | BLOCKADE COMMANDER |
|  |  | BEARDED PATIENT |
|  | MME BERSTEIN |  |
|  |  | MILICE DRIVER |
|  |  | RADIO PUNDIT |
|  |  | RECEPTIONIST |
|  |  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 |
|  |  | GERMAN SOLDIER #1 |
|  |  | GERMAN TROOP |
|  |  | BORDER GUARD |
|  | MADAM BALLOU |  |
|  |  | RESISTANCE FIGHTER |
|  |  | MILICE COMMANDER |
|  |  | HENRI |
|  |  | SEWER WORKER |
|  |  | NERVOUS PATIENT |
|  |  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #2 |
|  |  | NEWSREEL NARRATOR |
|  |  | BULLY |
|  |  | RUTH |
|  |  | CAGEY NEIGHBOR |
|  |  | PASTOR ROBERT |
|  |  | GERMAN SOLDIER #2 |
|  |  | MILICE OFFICER |
|  |  | GERMAN COMMANDER |
|  |  | BANDAGED PATIENT |
|  |  | BLOCKADE GUARD |

The Vito-Russo Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the Vito-Russo test, a script/manuscript must:** | |
| **NO** | Contain a character that is identifiably lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer. |
|  | That character must not be solely or predominantly defined by their sexual orientation or gender identity (i.e. they are comprised of the same sort of unique character traits commonly used to differentiate straight/non-transgender characters from one another). |
|  | The LGBTQ character must be tied into the plot in such a way that their removal would have a significant effect, meaning they are not there to simply provide colorful commentary, paint urban authenticity, or (perhaps most commonly) set up a punchline. |



**Disability Analysis**

***For comparison, people with disabilities constitute 19% of the U.S. population.***

* 5 characters are specified as having a physical, cognitive, or communication disability.
* The leading character is not shown having a disability (“GRAND-MERE/SARA”).
* The script contains 44 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
|  |  | GRAND-MERE/SARA |
| BOY/TORTEU/JULIEN |  |  |
|  |  | VIVIENNE |
|  |  | MAX |
|  |  | VINCENT |
|  |  | MLLE PETITJEAN |
|  |  | ROSE |
|  |  | JULIAN |
|  |  | CAROLINE |
|  |  | M. LAFLEUR |
|  |  | PASTOR LUC |
|  |  | SOPHIE |
|  |  | GERMAN COMMANDER |
|  |  | JEAN-PAUL |
|  |  | JEROME |
|  |  | MARIANN |
|  |  | GEORGES |
|  |  | RABBI BERNSTEIN |
|  |  | MME. LAFLEUR |
| OLDER PATIENT |  |  |
|  |  | ANTOINE |
|  |  | BLOCKADE COMMANDER |
| BEARDED PATIENT |  |  |
|  |  | MME. BERNSTEIN |
|  |  | MILICE DRIVER |
|  |  | RADIO PUNDIT |
|  |  | RECEPTIONIST |
|  |  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 |
|  |  | GERMAN SOLDIER #1 |
|  |  | GERMAN TROOP |
|  |  | BORDER GUARD |
|  |  | MADAME BALLOU |
|  |  | RESISTANCE FIGHTER |
|  |  | MILICE COMMANDER |
|  |  | HENRI |
|  |  | SEWER WORKER |
| NERVOUS PATIENT |  |  |
|  |  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #2 |
|  |  | NEWSREEL NARRATOR |
|  |  | BULLY |
|  |  | RUTH |
|  |  | CAGEY NEIGHBOR |
|  |  | PASTOR ROBERT |
|  |  | GERMAN SOLDIER #2 |
|  |  | MILICE OFFICER |
|  |  | GERMAN COMMANDER |
| BANDAGED PATIENT |  |  |
|  |  | BLOCKADE GUARD |

The Marlee Matlin Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the Marlee Matlin test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| **YES** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) with a physical, cognitive, or communication disability who; |
| **YES** | Is not depicted with disability stereotypes or tropes. |



**Age (50+) Analysis**

***For comparison, people ages 50+ constitute 34% of the U.S. population.***

* 6 characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The leading character is age 50+ (“GRAND-MERE/SARA”).
* The script contains 29 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
| GRAND-MERE/SARA |  |  |
|  | BOY/TORTEU/JULIEN |  |
|  |  | VIVIENNE |
|  |  | MAX |
|  | VINCENT |  |
|  | MLLE PETITJEAN |  |
|  |  | ROSE |
|  | JULIAN |  |
|  | CAROLINE |  |
| M LAFLEUR |  |  |
|  |  | PASTOR LUC |
|  | SOPHIE |  |
|  |  | GERMAN COMMANDER |
|  |  | JEAN-PAUL |
|  | JEROME |  |
|  | MARIANN |  |
| GEORGES |  |  |
| RABBI BERNSTEIN |  |  |
| MME LAFLEUR |  |  |
| OLDER PATIENT |  |  |
|  | ANTOINE |  |
|  |  | BLOCKADE COMMANDER |
|  |  | BEARDED PATIENT |
| MME BERSTEIN |  |  |
|  |  | MILICE DRIVER |
|  |  | RADIO PUNDIT |
|  |  | RECEPTIONIST |
|  |  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 |
|  |  | GERMAN SOLDIER #1 |
|  |  | GERMAN TROOP |
|  |  | BORDER GUARD |
|  |  | MADAME BALLOU |
|  |  | RESISTANCE FIGHTER |
|  |  | MILICE COMMANDER |
|  | HENRI |  |
|  |  | SEWER WORKER |
|  |  | NERVOUS PATIENT |
|  |  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #2 |
|  |  | NEWSREEL NARRATOR |
|  | BULLY |  |
|  | RUTH |  |
|  |  | CAGEY NEIGHBOR |
|  |  | PASTOR ROBERT |
|  |  | GERMAN SOLDIER #2 |
|  |  | MILICE OFFICER |
|  |  | GERMAN COMMANDER |
|  |  | BANDAGED PATIENT |
|  |  | BLOCKADE GUARD |

The Betty White Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the Betty White test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| **YES** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is 50+ who; |
| **YES** | Is not depicted with age stereotypes or tropes. |



**Body Size Analysis**

***For comparison, people with large body types constitute 39% of the U.S. population.***

* 0 characters are specified as having a large body type.
* The leading character’s body type is unspecified (“GRANDE-MERE/SARA”).
* The script contains 49 character opportunities to increase body type diversity.

Characters by Body Size

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **CHARACTER WITH LARGE BODY TYPE** | **CHARACTER WITH SMALL/MEDIUM BODY TYPE** | **BODY SIZE UNSPECIFIED** |
|  |  | GRAND-MÈRE/SARA |
|  |  | BOY/TORTEU/JULIEN |
|  |  | VIVIENNE |
|  |  | MAX |
|  |  | VINCENT |
|  |  | MLLE PETITJEAN |
|  |  | ROSE |
|  |  | JULIAN |
|  |  | CAROLINE |
|  |  | M. LAFLEUR |
|  |  | PASTOR LUC |
|  |  | SOPHIE |
|  |  | GERMAN COMMANDER |
|  |  | JEAN-PAUL |
|  |  | JEROME |
|  |  | MARIANN |
|  |  | GEORGES |
|  |  | RABBI BERNSTEIN |
|  |  | MME. LAFLEUR |
|  |  | OLDER PATIENT |
|  |  | ANTOINE |
|  |  | BLOCKADE COMMANDER |
|  |  | BEARDED PATIENT |
|  |  | MME. BERNSTEIN |
|  |  | MILICE DRIVER |
|  |  | RADIO PUNDIT |
|  |  | RECEPTIONIST |
|  |  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #1 |
|  |  | GERMAN SOLDIER #1 |
|  |  | GERMAN TROOP |
|  |  | BORDER GUARD |
|  |  | MADAME BALLOU |
|  |  | RESISTANCE FIGHTER |
|  |  | MILICE COMMANDER |
|  |  | HENRI |
|  |  | SEWER WORKER |
|  |  | NERVOUS PATIENT |
|  |  | RADIO ANNOUNCER #2 |
|  |  | NEWSREEL NARRATOR |
|  |  | BULLY |
|  |  | RUTH |
|  |  | CAGEY NEIGHBOR |
|  |  | PASTOR ROBERT |
|  |  | GERMAN SOLDIER #2 |
|  |  | MILICE OFFICER |
|  |  | GERMAN COMMANDER |
|  |  | BANDAGED PATIENT |
|  |  | BLOCKADE GUARD |

The Cooper Test

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order to pass the Cooper test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| **NO** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) with a large body type who; |
|  | Is not depicted with size stereotypes or tropes. |



**Intersectional Analysis**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Female Character** | **Character of Color** | **LGBTQ+ Character** | **Character with a Disability** | **Character 50+** | **Character with Large Body Type** |
| **Female Character** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Character of Color** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **LGBTQ+ Character** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character with a Disability** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **YES** | **NO** |
| **Character 50+** | **YES** | **NO** | **NO** | **YES** |  | **NO** |
| **Character with Large Body Type** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** | **NO** |  |

**Positive Aspects**

* The script features a character (Julien) with disability as a hero and a key part of the plot. This character is written with no ableist tropes and few ableist stereotypes, and the fact that he is a romantic lead makes this story rare and beautiful. Julien is courageous and a creative problem solver, and his physical adeptness during his escape with Sarah and throughout the script flips damaging stereotypes of people with disabilities being dependent and pitiable.
* This script features a leading female character who is 50+ (Grand-mere).
* The script features multiple STEM female characters (Rose, Mmle Petitjean).
* Script features a resounding anti-bullying theme, as well as lessons of compassion, kindness, and empathy towards others.

**Potential Pitfalls**

* **Potential Sexism:** Mariann and Sophie written with The Lovesick Lady trope. They are singularly obsessed with boys throughout the script except at the end when they are reunited with Sara.