



Lessons from Captain Marvel for International Women's Day

This is an open invitation and list to look at the positive portrayals of females and males from the Captain Marvel movie as we move closer to International Women's Day 2020 on 8 March.

The best way to join in with this opportunity is to watch the movie with others (males it will be of significant value to watch this with at least another female) and be ready to pause, discuss and take note of the big messages around female role models as well as the plethora of small nuanced components of the movie that flip gender stereotypes, put females at the front and not the back of the story and images, and much much more!

This is a guide to support that process and you can add your comments below where we can see other comments on the portrayals of gender equality / inequality from this movie...

I hope this will generate interesting conversations, thoughts, perspectives, ideas and action for gender equality - which of course is Global Goal #5!

If you would like to add your thoughts and comments - please email them to me so they can be moderated. You can ask for the comments to be anonymous but open discussions are always the best 😊 I hope to receive your email and contributions: info@teaspoonsofchange.org

[Lessons from Captain Marvel for IWD 2020.docx](#) share the link with others to join the conversation!

Guide for discussion, notes, comments and reflections...

1. Have you seen this movie before?

If you haven't and have the time and ability to watch it then please do. In the least watch the trailer and see if you can make any observations for that alone! <https://youtu.be/Z1BCujX3pw8>

2. What connection does this movie have to International Women's Day

Either before seeing this movie, after watching the trailer or having seen the movie before)?

3. Who are the main characters of the movie?

a. Can you think of three other movies where the lead is a female and the story is revolved around them - as a powerful figure and person

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

4. How do you feel about the representation of women of colour? Women from diverse backgrounds? Women with disabilities? Non-binary and gender-fluid people?

Enough, need more, too much? What do you know about the progression of waves of feminism?

5. Below is a table for you to add more and more parts of the movie that show portrayals of positive gender equality for females and males:

Keep an eye out for lots of small details and situations where traditional gender roles are reversed or counter stereotypes are shown... I've started with a few examples but list many more of your own!

Examples of positive portrayals for females	Examples for positive portrayals for males
Many examples of powerful decision making based out of strength not weakness for women	Fury playing with cat (as a female might in other movies)
People always telling women in particular they aren't strong enough to succeed... But she always gets up again to prove them wrong or be strong in herself	Captain Marvel says: "Hand me over the communicator" - and Fury does without complaint and plays a mostly supportive and submissive role throughout
People always telling women (especially women but often men as well) they aren't strong enough to succeed...	The men in the backseat while the women fly the ship
The various shows of strength in determination to overcome obstacles as a female from a young girl and through to this point [1hr 30mins]	Fury doing the dishes with Captain Marvel - where both are humble equals and doing it in a context that has been often 'women's work'
Examples of more humility and humanity when Captain Marvel is being the hero...	
The young girl saying to the 'alien' child: "I like your eyes"	
The young girl saying she will be a pilot one day	

6. Please recommend any other excellent movies, books, songs, examples of females and males being portrayed in positive, gender equal, non-stereotypes...

- *Invisible Women*, Caroline Criado Perez
- [He for She](#) campaign with Emma Watson
- [Orchid Project](#) - FGC org
- [Fair Agenda Australia](#)
- [Ghostbusters](#) (2016)
- [World's Largest Lesson](#) gender equality lesson
- [A Man's World](#) (India)

*Special thanks to my partner, Serafina, for pointing out so many examples throughout the movie of role reversals and nuance of gender inequality that I would have missed as a male watching this movie alone. This movie and experience of watching it through a gender equality / gender empowerment lens is a great learning opportunity to honour the creation of International Women's Day so we can all lead lives of access and opportunity regardless of gender and overcoming the bias systems and structures that can be overcome.

