Feminism for Children
**Sex** is the state of being a boy or a girl, but is biological. This means, it depends on the body parts.

Sex is determined at the time of birth. The mother has XX chromosomes in her cells. The father has XY chromosomes in his cells. One chromosome from each comes together to make the baby's chromosomes. And that depends on whether the father's cells give the X or the Y chromosome.
Gender is what a person identifies himself or herself as. All genders are equal.

A person who identifies herself as female is a girl, and a person who identifies himself as male is a boy.

Sometimes, a person may not identify with any gender. They are a-gender.

A person may have body parts of a particular sex, but may identify as a member of another. This is called being transgender. One may be a transgender man, or a transgender woman, or a non-binary transgender, which means one may identify with characteristics of male and female genders. There are also some that choose to identify with neither. They are called a-gender people.
No matter whether one is a man, a woman, a transgender or a-gender, everyone is equal, everyone is important, and everyone is valuable. It takes everyone to make the world a beautiful place.
A long time ago, women, transgender and a-gender people began to be discriminated against. They were not given equal rights, and that situation continues even today.
Do you know how women are associated with the colour pink, and boys, with the colour blue? Just like that, this inequality resulted in the creation of gender roles.
These roles are often observed with rigidity. It confines boys and girls into two rigid compartments, with specific roles for each! These rigid roles are harmful because...

And in the process, because of these rigid roles, those whose roles did not fit into either - i.e., transgender and a-gender people, were considered "not normal"!

...if a boy wants to do something that is not considered a boy’s thing, or a girl wants to do something that’s not a girl’s thing, people make fun of them, or even hurt their feelings!
This inequality created something called patriarchy, where men became powerful and controlling, and women, transgender and a-gender people didn’t have rights.

All genders suffer as a result of this inequality: men, included!
How are women affected by inequality? Women don’t get to access a lot of things like healthcare, justice, education, jobs and even food and clean water. They even face violence. They are invisible in many public spheres!
How are transgender people affected by inequality? They are considered as being “abnormal” or “weird”. They are not able to access facilities that help them lead comfortable lives, and even face violence! They cannot access toilets, even!
How are men affected by inequality? Men are forced to become the earners, and are not allowed to show emotion. They are forced to be violent just to fit in. They become dominant, and are not given a chance to be nurturing if they want to!
How are a-gender people affected by inequality? Society tends to require that a person be one or the other – being neither is not even accepted as an option. That’s not fair, right? A-gender people are considered as weird or abnormal, and are forced to conform.

What is an Agender person?

How can you be without a gender? That’s not normal!

How can you not be either? You have to be a man or a woman!

Abnormal!

WEIRDO!
Inequality affects the freedom of choice of people. When people around the world saw how dangerous this inequality was, the concept of feminism came about. Feminism is all about putting the women back in the equation so that they can be treated equally.

When you put women back in the equation, you make the genders equal, because: You don’t have confined gender roles AND, You begin to see gender as fluid, and as an identity that is not a restriction!
There were three waves, or three stages of feminism. In the first stage, the effort was to promote the right of women to vote. Did you know that women were not allowed to vote for a long time, while men could? From that point to now, where we have women leaders, haven't we come a long way?

In the second wave, feminism tried to give women legal and social equality. The effort was to ensure that women's rights were given a place in society and in law.

But still, women around the world don't have those rights! So now, we are in the middle of the third wave of feminism, where we are trying to give women an equal place in society.
How can YOU be a feminist?

- **Equality**
  - for all

- **Respect**
  - for all
  - *just a little bit*

- **Compassion**
  - for all