



Inclusive Literature Lists

The Billings Public Library supports and values and celebrates diversity and inclusion. We strive to curate a collection of resources that represents all demographics in our community's tapestry. We believe an inclusive and welcoming community is a stronger community.

This list of inclusive and diverse literature that the youth of our community can see themselves in as well as use as a conduit to build compassion for others is brought to you on behalf of collaboration between the Human Relations Commission of the City of Billings, the Billings Public Library, and a children's literature assistant professor from Montana State University Billings.

This list is not intended to be exhaustive. We welcome your feedback, suggestions, and any recommendations for this list. We will take these into consideration as we continue to develop these lists.

July 2024 Inclusive Literature



Brown Sugar Baby Sweetest Love

By [Cottage Door Press](#)

Editor [Cottage Door Press](#)

Illustrator [Southerland, Jestenia](#)

2023-11 - Cottage Door Press

9781646386604 [Check Our Catalog](#)

It's Brown Sugar Baby's first Valentine's Day! In this **multigenerational story**, Brown Sugar Baby is in the kitchen baking sweet Valentine treats with Grandpa and Mom. Award-winning author Kevin Lewis delivers another lyrical and relatable celebration of unconditional love. This African American family is full of warmth and celebration, [...More](#)



When Moon Blooms

By [Salazar, Aida](#)

Illustrator [Benavides, Caribay M.](#)

2024-02 - Rise X Penguin Workshop

9780593659182 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Derived from Mexican Indigenous wisdom, this series of poetic board books center around establishing an authentic, heartfelt connection with and respect for nature.

Using Mexican concepts, this poignantly lyrical series invites young children to pay witness to nature, to value it, and to become a steward of the planet. The moon's phases - new, waxing, full, and waning - are seamlessly [...More](#)



Ten Little Birds / Diez Pajaritos

By [Salguero, Andrés](#)

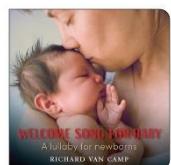
Illustrator [Palacios, Sara](#)

2021-04 - Scholastic en Espanol

9781338343694 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Count to 10 and back again with Latin Grammy Award-winning children's musical duo 123 Andr• s in this bilingual board book!

The popular song from 123 Andr• s' Latin Grammy Award-winning album is cleverly and beautifully brought to life in this bright, bouncy board book! Each of the 10 birds is given a fun and silly personality, and children will love to follow along as each flies away -- [...More](#)



Welcome Song for Baby: A Lullaby for Newborns

By [Van Camp, Richard](#)

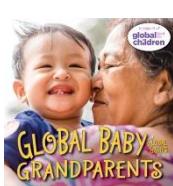
2007-10 - Orca Book Publishers

9781551436616 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

NAPPA Gold Awards (2007)

A poem for newborns by well known First Nations writer Richard Van Camp accompanied by photographs. [...More](#)



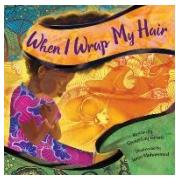
Global Baby Grandparents

By [Ajmera, Maya](#)

2024-01 - Charlesbridge Publishing

9781623544539 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



When I Wrap My Hair

By [Grant, Shauntay](#)

Illustrator [Mohammed, Jenin](#)

2024-01 - Quill Tree Books

9780063093911 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In the vein of *I Am Enough* and *Hold Them Close*, this inspiring and beautiful picture book celebrates how hair wrapping ties together past and present.

When I wrap,

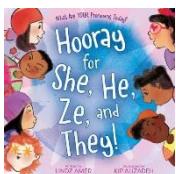
my roots run deep.

As deep as an African marketplace

or a city sidewalk

or the stories between them.

With lyrical [...More](#)



Hooray for She, He, Ze, and They!: What Are Your Pronouns Today?

By [Amer, Lindz](#)

Illustrator [Alizadeh, Kip](#)

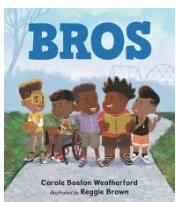
2024-02 - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

9781665931144 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this joyous picture book exploration of gender euphoria, celebrated *Queer Kid Stuff* and *The Rainbow Parenting* podcast host Lindz Amer teaches kids about all the ways pronouns can be joyful, defining, and empowering.

Everyone has a pronoun. There are hes. There are shes. There are theys. There are zes and hirs and faes and pers and more! What's yours?

Finding the [...More](#)



Bros

By [Weatherford, Carole Boston](#)

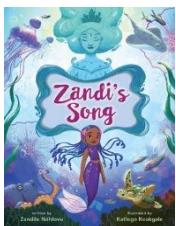
Illustrator [Brown, Reggie](#)

2024-03 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9781536220414 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A celebration of childhood from an award-winning author, this upbeat day-in-the-life of a bunch of friends was inspired by the #BlackBoyJoy meme that spurred a movement.

From sunrise to sunset, a group of young Black boys joyously spend the day together as they live their best lives freely in their community. With confidence and a touch of swag, these friends do everything with one [...More](#)



Zandi's Song

By [Ndhlovu, Zandile](#)

Illustrator [Keokgale, Katlego](#)

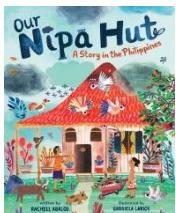
2024-03 - Amazon Crossing Kids

9781662520105 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Zandi is a girl on a mission: to bring a message of conservation to the world.

Zandi was always thinking and dreaming about the ocean. Then, one special day, the ocean calls for her. Zandi tentatively approaches the water--and that's when her adventure begins! She soon finds herself transformed into a mermaid and on an unforgettable underwater journey, where she hears the song of

[...More](#)



Our Nipa Hut: A Story in the Philippines

By [Abalos, Rachell](#)

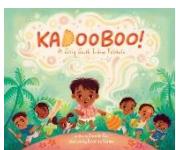
Illustrator [Larios, Gabriela](#)

2024-02 - Barefoot Books

9781646865000 [Check Our Catalog](#)

★ "Emphasizes the bonds of family and community, as neighbors come together under rainbow skies . . . This well-crafted overview is not only a heartening story, but a good choice for STEM and multicultural studies" - School Library Journal, starred review

Yelena and Papa take care of their traditional Filipino dwelling - their nipa hut - and it takes care of them. But when [...More](#)



Kadooboo!: A Silly South Indian Folktale

By [Rao, Shruthi](#)

Illustrator [Varma, Darshika](#)

2024-02 - Page Street Kids

9781645677895 [Check Our Catalog](#)

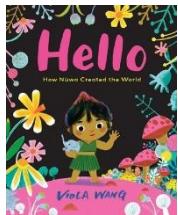
Kadooboo! Golden brown, puffy, sweet, and crunchy, it's fresh from the pan--a delicious treat!

As soon as it's ready, Kabir runs home with some to share.

He's got to be quick, before the rain! But wait ... can he remember the treat's name? (His Amma is sure to ask!)

Of course he can. That is, if fun and friends aren't too distracting along the way.

As Kabir makes his way, [...More](#)



Hello: A Story of Creation and Connection

By [Wang, Viola](#)

2024-02 - Little Bee Books

9781499814927 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The creation of humankind begins with Nuwa, a lonely young goddess, a handful of clay, and a single "hello" in this vibrant and touching tale inspired by Chinese mythology.

"Wang breathes new life into the story of the Chinese goddess of creation. . . . Eye-popping illustrations bring the charm in this novel folktale retelling." *Kirkus Reviews*

Many years ago, when the [...More](#)



Aloha Everything

By [George, Kaylin Melia](#)

Illustrator [Waite, Mae](#)

2024-04 - Red Comet Press

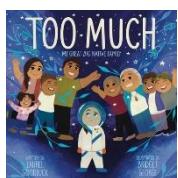
9781636551128 [Check Our Catalog](#)

★ "A stunning tribute to Hawaiian culture and identity."-starred review, *Kirkus*,

★ "A breathtaking picture book."-starred review, *Foreword Magazine*

***Aloha Everything*, is a magical story that will take you on a thrilling journey through the breathtaking islands of Hawai'i!**

In this exciting adventure, [...More](#)



Too Much: My Great Big Native Family

By [Goodluck, Laurel](#)

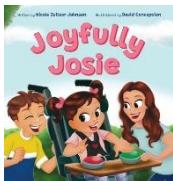
Illustrator [George, Bridget](#)

2024-01 - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

9781665911269 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A little boy wants a chance to shine on his own but discovers that being apart from his large and lively Native family isn't necessarily better in this heartwarming and humorous picture book.

When Russell gets a part in the school play, he lights up like a shining star--and he can't wait to tell his big, boisterous Native family the exciting news. But catching their attention when [...More](#)



Joyfully Josie

By [Johnson, Nicole](#)

Illustrator [Concepcion, David](#)

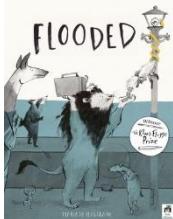
2023-05 - Foxg1 Reesarch Foundation

9798218159771 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Why are children confused when they meet a child with a disability?

Introducing Joyfully Josie, a heartwarming children's book about a little girl named Josie who has a rare disease called FOXG1 syndrome that causes disabilities.

Despite her many challenges, Josie's joy lights up the world around her. Through her experiences, [...More](#)



Flooded

By [Illustrajo, Mariajo](#)

2023-10 - Frances Lincoln Ltd

9780711276789 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Winner of the Klaus Flugge Prize for Illustration 2023

Flooded is the funny and beautifully illustrated tale of animals who live in a city that is ever so slowly flooding.

The flood comes gradually at first.

All the animals **ignore the obvious** and go about their busy lives, disjointed from one another and **preoccupied by their own problems**.

[...More](#)



Rosie Runs

By [Maijala, Marika](#)

Illustrator [Maijala, Marika](#)

Translator [Spanenberg, Mia](#)

2023-08 - Elsewhere Editions

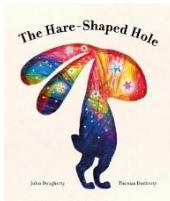
9781953861603 [Check Our Catalog](#)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2023 KIDS' INDIE NEXT LIST SELECTION

A racing dog named Rosie escapes the track and bounds towards freedom in this panoramic heartwarming tale. For young readers who love people-

watching, sniffing wild plants, racing in the wind, and other small joys of life.

Rosie dreams of forests, meadows, hares, and freedom. Trapped at the racetrack, she sprints in [...More](#)



The Hare-Shaped Hole

By [Dougherty, John](#)

Illustrator [Docherty, Thomas](#)

2024-01 - Frances Lincoln Ltd

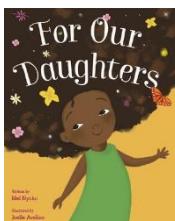
9780711276079 [Check Our Catalog](#)

As Seen on CBC

***The Hare-Shaped Hole* is a beautiful, touching and poignant picture book that gently explores themes of grief and loss.**

Hertle and Bertle were always a pair, though one was a turtle and one was a hare.

They were utterly buddies, and best friends forever, and whenever you looked, you would find them together... until quite unexpectedly... the [...More](#)



For Our Daughters

By [Nyoko, Mel](#)

Illustrator [Avelino, Joelle](#)

2024-04 - Random House Studio

9780593428085 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An inspirational and empowering book about what mothers, especially Black mothers, want their daughters to know.

This inspiring book gives girls permission to let their lights shine. They want all girls to know that there are no limits on what they can achieve.

One by one, common misconceptions are flipped and replaced by empowering statements such as *your hair is like a* [...More](#)



Butterfly on the Wind

By [Pottle, Adam](#)

Illustrator [Chen, Ziyue](#)

2024-03 - Roaring Brook Press

9781250821973 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A magical picture book about a Deaf girl who creates a butterfly with Sign Language and sends it on a journey around the world.

On the day of the talent show, Aurora's hands tremble. No matter how hard she tries to sign, her fingers stumble over one another and the words just won't come. But as she's about to give up, she spots a butterfly.

Using her hands to sign the ASL word [...More](#)



The Secret Library

By [Magoon, Kekla](#)

2024-05 - Candlewick Press (MA)

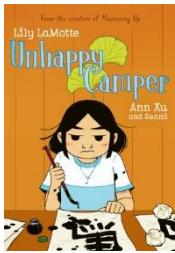
9781536230888 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An instant *New York Times* bestseller!

Travel through time with National Book Award Finalist Kekla Magoon in a page-turning fantasy adventure about family secrets and finding the courage to plot your own life story.

Since Grandpa died, Dally's days are dull and restricted. She's eleven and a half years old, and her exacting single mother is already preparing her to take over

[...More](#)



Unhappy Camper

By [Lamotte, Lily](#)

Illustrator [Xu, Ann](#)

Illustrator [Sunmi](#)

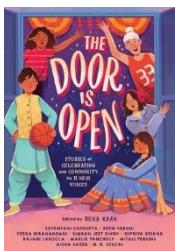
2024-04 - HarperCollins

9780062973900 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Moments of humor captured through playful anime-like facial expressions and gestures propel the plot forward in whimsical fashion." -- *The Horn Book*

"With compassion, the story teaches the benefits of embracing one's identity... A worthy addition to any middle or high school library." -- *School Library Journal*

From [...More](#)



The Door Is Open

By [Khan, Hena](#)

Author [Hiranandani, Veera](#)

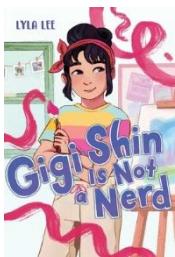
Author [Kelkar, Supriya](#)

2024-04 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316450638 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Discover stories of fear, triumph, and spectacular celebration in this warm-hearted novel of interconnected stories that celebrates the diversity of South Asian American experiences in a local community center.

Discover stories of fear, triumph, and spectacular celebration in the fictional town of Maple Grove, New Jersey, where the local kids gather at the community center to [...More](#)



Gigi Shin Is Not a Nerd

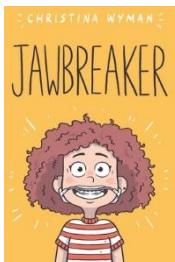
By [Lee, Lyla](#)

2024-03 - Aladdin Paperbacks

9781665939171 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This first book in a sparkling middle grade series giving a fresh take on *The Baby-Sitters Club* follows a young Korean American girl who starts a business with her best friends to support her artistic dreams.

Jiyoung "Gigi" Shin loves to create, from her zany outfits to self-executed haircuts. She dreams of becoming an artist and doodles every chance she gets--at school instead of [...More](#)



Jawbreaker

By [Wyman, Christina](#)

2023-10 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

9780374389697 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A *USA Today* bestseller perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier's *Smile*, this refreshingly honest middle-grade debut novel is about toxic sibling rivalry, socioeconomic disparity, and dental drama.

★ "Smile meets Wonder in Wyman's affirming debut." --*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "A hugely relatable must-read." [...More](#)



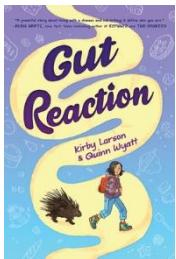
Between Two Brothers

By [Allen, Crystal](#)

2024-01 - Balzer & Bray/Harperteen

9780063047297 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Inspired by real events, *Between Two Brothers* is a powerful and uplifting story about forgiveness, brotherhood, and the power of a family's unconditional love, from Crystal Allen, the acclaimed author of *How Lamar's Bad Prank Won a Bubba-Sized Trophy* and the Magnificent Mya Tibbs series. Perfect for readers who loved *Fish in a Tree* and *Out of My ...More*



Gut Reaction

By [Kirby, Kirby](#)

Author [Wyatt, Quinn](#)

2024-03 - Scholastic Press

9781338893137 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Critically acclaimed, bestselling author and Newbery Honor-winner, Kirby Larson, and her daughter, debut author, Quinn Wyatt, pen this gorgeously moving and often funny story that explores what living with a chronic illness is like. Inspired by Quinn's own personal journey, *Gut Reaction* is full of heart and humor and highlights the importance of asking for help when it comes to mental [...More](#)



The Wrong Way Home

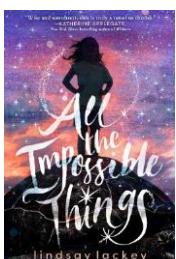
By [O'Shaughnessy, Kate](#)

2024-04 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9780593650738 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Twelve-year-old Fern believes she's living a noble life--but what if everything she's been told is a lie? This is a huge-hearted story about a girl learning to question everything--and to trust in herself.

Fern's lived at the Ranch, an off-the-grid, sustainable community in upstate New York, since she was six. The work is hard, but Fern admires the Ranch's leader, Dr. Ben. So when [...More](#)



All the Impossible Things

By [Lackey, Lindsay](#)

2019-09 - Roaring Brook Press

9781250202864 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A bit of magic, a sprinkling of adventure, and a whole lot of heart collide in *All the Impossible Things*, Lindsay Lackey's extraordinary middle-grade novel about a young girl navigating the foster care system in search of where she belongs.

Meet Ruby "Red" Byrd--a young, unique girl facing the turbulence of life while grappling with a powerful, mysterious connection to the [...More](#)



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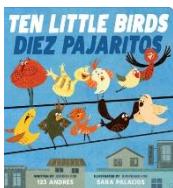
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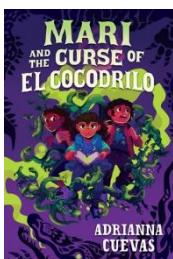
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Mari and the Curse of El Cocodrilo

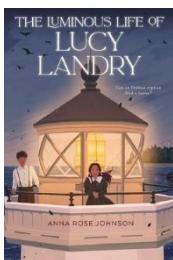
By [Cuevas, Adrianna](#)

2023-10 - HarperCollins

9780063285491 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From Pura Belpré Honor-winning author Adrianna Cuevas comes *Mari and the Curse of El Cocodrilo*, a new middle grade novel about a young Cuban American girl who must fight to break a curse of bad luck set upon her by El Cocodrilo when she rejects her family's traditions.

If Mari Feijoo could, she would turn her family's Peak Cubanity down a notch, [...More](#)



The Luminous Life of Lucy Landry

By [Johnson, Anna Rose](#)

2024-03 - Holiday House

9780823453634 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Lucy, a spirited French-Ojibwe orphan, is sent to the stormy waters of Lake Superior to live with a mysterious family of lighthouse-keepers--and, she hopes, to find the legendary necklace her father spent his life seeking...

Selena Lucy Landry (named for a ship, as every sailor's child should be) has been frightened of the water ever since she lost her father at sea. But with no one [...More](#)



Just Lizzie

By [Wilfrid, Karen](#)

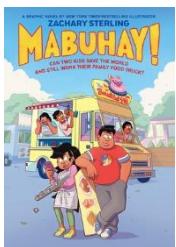
2023-11 - Clarion Books

9780063290297 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A 2024 LAMBDA AWARD FINALIST

In this beautifully written contemporary middle grade debut, an eighth grader's study of asexuality in science class leads her to understand her own asexual identity as she embarks on a journey toward self-discovery and self-advocacy. For readers of Alex Gino and Ashley Herring Blake.

There's the part of me that [...More](#)



Mabuhay! A Graphic Novel

By [Sterling, Zachary](#)

Illustrator [Sterling, Zachary](#)

2023-10 - Graphix

9781338738643 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Nominated for the 2024 Eisner Awards for Best Publication for Kids

From rising star Zachary Sterling comes a humorous and heartwarming middle-grade graphic novel that celebrates food, family, and folklore.

Can two kids save the world *and* work their family food truck?

First-generation Filipino siblings JJ and Althea struggle to belong [...More](#)