



## 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.

### May 2020: Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



#### **Crouching Tiger**

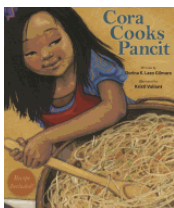
By [Compestine, Ying Chang](#)

Illustrator [Nascimbene, Yan](#)

2011-12 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9780763646424 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When Ming Da's Chinese grandpa comes to visit, he overcomes his initial embarrassment at his grandfather's traditions and begins to appreciate him. [...More](#)



#### **Cora Cooks Pancit**

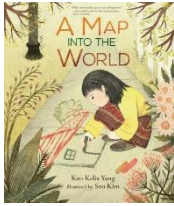
By [Lazo Gilmore, Dorina K.](#)

Illustrator [Valiant, Kristi](#)

2014-05 - Shen's Books

9781885008480 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When all her older siblings are away, Cora's mother finally lets her help make pancit, a Filipino noodle dish. Includes recipe for pancit. [...More](#)



## **A Map Into the World**

By [Yang, Kao Kalia](#)

Illustrator [Kim, Seo](#)

2019-10 - Carolrhoda Books (R)

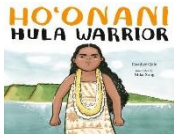
9781541538368 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Filled with wonder and sorrow and happiness."

--Alison McGhee, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Someday*

**A heartfelt story of a young girl seeking beauty and connection in a busy world.**

As the seasons change, so too does a young Hmong girl's world. She moves into a new home with her family and encounters both birth and [...More](#)



## **Ho'onani: Hula Warrior**

By [Gale, Heather](#)

Illustrator [Song, Mika](#)

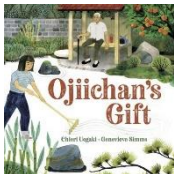
2019-10 - Tundra Books (NY)

9780735264496 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**An empowering celebration of identity, acceptance and Hawaiian culture based on the true story of a young girl in Hawai'i who dreams of leading the boys-only hula troupe at her school.**

Ho'onani feels in-between. She doesn't see herself as *wahine* (girl) OR *kane* (boy). She's happy to be in the middle. But not everyone sees it that way.

When Ho'onani finds out that [...More](#)



## **Ojiichan's Gift**

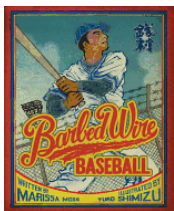
By [Uegaki, Chieri](#)

Illustrator [Simms, Genevieve](#)

2019-04 - Kids Can Press

9781771389631 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When Mayumi was born, her grandfather created a garden for her. It was unlike any other garden she knew. It had no flowers or vegetables. Instead, Ojiichan made it out of stones: ?big ones, little ones and ones in-between.? Every summer, Mayumi visits her grandfather in Japan, and they tend the garden together. Raking the gravel is her favorite part. Afterward, the two of them sit on a bench and [...More](#)



## **Barbed Wire Baseball**

By [Moss, Marissa](#)

Illustrator [Shimizu, Yuko](#)

2013-04 - Abrams Books for Young Readers

9781419705212 [Check Our Catalog](#)

### **Awards:**

Beehive Awards (2015), Cybils (2013), Garden State Children's Book Awards (2016), Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award (2015), South Carolina Children's, Junior and Young Adult Book Award (2015)

As a boy, Kenichi "Zeni" Zenimura dreams of playing professional baseball, but

everyone tells him he is too small. Yet he grows up to be a successful player, playing with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. When the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor in 1941, Zeni and his family are sent to one of ten internment camps where more than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry are imprisoned without trials. Zeni brings [...More](#)

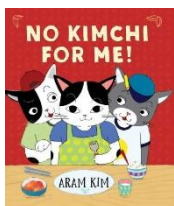


### **Hello Maggie!**

Author: [Yabu, Shigeru](#).

ISBN: 9780978976705

The author tells about his and his family's experiences as Japanese American internees at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming from 1942 to the end of World War II. During that time, he made friends with a magpie whom he named Maggie.



### **No Kimchi for Me!**

By [Kim, Aram](#)

2017-09 - Holiday House

9780823437627 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A Junior Library Guild Selection. Yoomi hates stinky, spicy kimchi, the pickled cabbage condiment served with Korean meals. Then Grandma shows Yoomi how to make kimchi pancakes in this celebration of Korean culture. Includes a kimchi pancake recipe and other back matter. Full color. [...More](#)



### **They Say Blue**

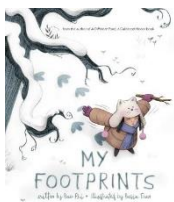
By [Tamaki, Jillian](#)

2018-03 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419728518 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**A 2018 Boston Globe-Horn Book Picture Book Award Winner and A 2018 Parent's Choice Picture Book Gold Award Winner**

In captivating paintings full of movement and transformation, Tamaki follows a young girl through a year or a day as she examines the colors in the world around her. Egg yolks are sunny orange as expected, yet water cupped in her hands isn't blue like they say. But [...More](#)



### **My Footprints**

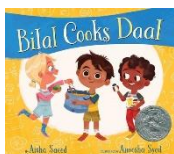
By [Phi, Bao](#)

Illustrator [Tran, Basia](#)

2019-09 - Capstone Editions

9781684460007 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Every child feels different in some way, but Thuy feels double different. She is Vietnamese American and she has two moms. Thuy walks home one winter afternoon, angry and lonely after a bully's taunts. Then a bird catches her attention and sets Thuy on an imaginary exploration. What if she could fly away like a bird? What if she could sprint like a deer, or roar like a bear? Mimicking the [...More](#)



### **Bilal Cooks Daal**

By [Saeed, Aisha](#)

Illustrator [Syed, Anoosha](#)

2019-06 - Salaam Reads / Simon & Schuster Books for You  
9781534418103 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**Awards:**

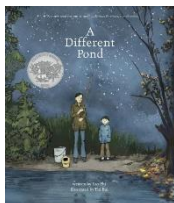
Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2020)

**A Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book of 2019**

**An Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Honor Book 2019**

**Six-year-old Bilal introduces his friends to his favorite dish--daal --in this charming picture book that showcases the value of patience, teamwork, community, and sharing.**

Six-year-old Bilal is excited to help his dad make his favorite food of [...More](#)



**A Different Pond**

By [Phi, Bao](#)

Illustrator [Bui, Thi](#)

2017-08 - Capstone Young Readers

9781623708030 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**Awards:**

Caldecott Medal (2018)

A 2018 Caldecott Honor Book that Kirkus Reviews calls a must-read for our times, A Different Pond is an unforgettable story about a simple event - a long-ago fishing trip. Graphic novelist Thi Bui and acclaimed poet Bao Phi deliver a powerful, honest glimpse into a relationship between father and son - and between cultures, old and new. As a young boy, Bao and his father awoke early, hours before [...More](#)



**Leila in Saffron**

By [Guidroz, Rukhsanna](#)

Illustrator [Mirtalipova, Dinara](#)

2019-06 - Salaam Reads / Simon & Schuster Books for You

9781534425644 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**"Glorious." --Kirkus Reviews**

**A colorful journey of self-discovery and identity, this sweet, vibrant picture book follows young Leila as she visits her grandmother's house for their weekly family dinner, and finds parts of herself and her heritage in the family, friends, and art around her.**

*Sometimes I'm not sure if I like being me.*

When Leila looks in the [...More](#)



**Grandpa's Stories**

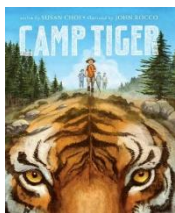
By [Colpoys, Allison](#)

Author [Coelho, Joseph](#)

2019-04 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419734984 [Check Our Catalog](#)

One young girl reflects on a year with her beloved grandpa. She remembers the fields and parks they explored in the springtime and the old toys they fixed up in the summer. She remembers the handmade gifts they exchanged in the fall and the stories Grandpa told by the fire each winter. But this year, the girl must say good-bye to Grandpa. In the face of her grief, she is determined to find a way [...More](#)



### **Camp Tiger**

By [Choi, Susan](#)

Illustrator [Rocco, John](#)

2019-05 - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

9780399173295 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**Six Starred Reviews**

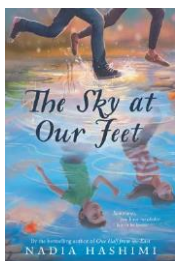
**Shelf Awareness Best Children's Book of 2019**

**A 2019 New York Public Library Best Book for Kids**

**Imagination meets reality in this poetic and tender ode to childhood, illustrated by Caldecott Honor winner, John Rocco.**

Every year, a boy and his family go camping at Mountain Pond.

Usually, they see things like an eagle fishing [...More](#)



### **The Sky at Our Feet**

By [Hashimi, Nadia](#)

2018-03 - HarperCollins

9780062421937 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**This #ownvoices novel by bestselling author Nadia Hashimi tells the affecting story of an Afghan-American boy who believes his mother has been deported. For fans of *Inside Out* and *Back Again* and *Counting by 7s*. This middle grade novel is an excellent choice for tween readers in grades 5 to 6, especially during [...More](#)**



### **Front Desk**

By [Yang, Kelly](#)

2018-05 - Arthur A. Levine Books

9781338157796 [Check Our Catalog](#)

#### **Awards:**

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2019)

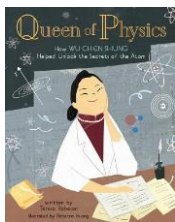
**Winner of the Asian / Pacific American Award for Children's Literature**

*\* Many readers will recognize themselves or their neighbors in these pages. -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review*

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets.



Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista [...More](#)



## Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom

By [Robeson, Teresa](#)

Illustrator [Huang, Rebecca](#)

2019-10 - Sterling Children's Books

9781454932208 [Check Our Catalog](#)

### Awards:

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2020)

**Meet Wu Chien Shiung, famous physicist who overcame prejudice to prove that she could be anything she wanted.**

When Wu Chien Shiung was born in China 100 years ago, girls did not attend school; no one considered them as smart as boys. But her parents felt differently. Naming their daughter "Courageous Hero," they encouraged her love of learning and science. This engaging biography [...More](#)



## Stargazing

By [Wang, Jen](#)

Illustrator [Wang, Jen](#)

2019-09 - First Second

9781250183873 [Check Our Catalog](#)

### Awards:

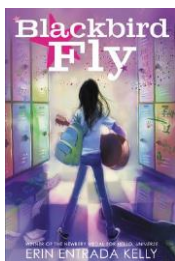
Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2020)

***Stargazing* is a heartwarming middle-grade graphic novel in the spirit of *Real Friends* and *El Deafo*, from *New York Times* bestselling author-illustrator Jen Wang.**

A 2019 New York Public Library Best Books for Kids Selection

One of FORBES Best Graphic Novels of 2019

One of NPR's [...More](#)



## Blackbird Fly

By [Kelly, Erin Entrada](#)

Illustrator [Peterschmidt, Betsy](#)

2015-03 - Greenwillow Books

9780062238610 [Check Our Catalog](#)

### Awards:

Cybils (2015)

**Future rock star or friendless misfit? That's no choice at all. In this acclaimed novel by Newbery Medalist Erin Entrada Kelly, twelve-year-old Apple grapples**

with being different; with friends and backstabbers; and with following her dreams.

*Publishers Weekly* called *Blackbird Fly* "a true triumph," and the *Los Angeles Times Book Review* said, [...More](#)



### **The House That Lou Built**

By [Respicio, Mae](#)

2018-06 - Wendy Lamb Books

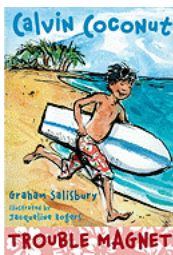
9781524717940 [Check Our Catalog](#)

#### **Awards:**

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2019)

"If this book were a house, the rooms would be filled with warmth, family, and friendship." --Erin Entrada Kelly, author of the Newbery Medal winner *Hello, Universe*; *The Land of Forgotten Girls*; and *Blackbird Fly*

A coming-of-age story that explores culture and family, forgiveness and friendship, and what makes a true home. Perfect for fans of Wendy Mass and Joan Bauer. [...More](#)



### **Trouble Magnet**

By [Salisbury, Graham](#)

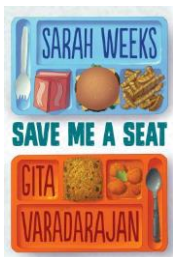
Illustrator [Rogers, Jacqueline](#)

2009-03 - Wendy Lamb Books

9780385906395 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Fourth-grader Calvin lives near the beach in Oahu with his mom and little sister. Mom says: "You're the man of the house." But Calvin's not great at being the man of the house, or taking care of his responsibilities. He's too busy having fun with his pals, and avoiding Tito, the bully.

"Trouble Magnet "is the first book in a new series for younger readers full of all the fun of growing [...More](#)



### **Save Me a Seat**

By [Weeks, Sarah](#)

Author [Varadarajan, Gita](#)

2016-05 - Scholastic Press

9780545846608 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they're both stuck in the same place: SCHOOL.

Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own.

Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits [...More](#)



### **Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen**

By [Michiko Florence, Debbi](#)

Illustrator [Vukovic, Elizabeth](#)

2017-07 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

9780374308346 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**1st book in Jasmine Toguchi series**

**A Junior Library Guild Fall 2017 Selection**

**An Amazon's Best Children's Books of 2017**

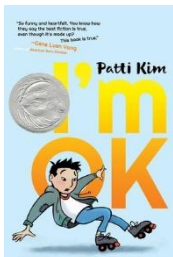
**A Beverly Clearly Children's Choice Award Nominee**

**An Evanston Public Library's 101 Great Books for Kids List 2017**

**A Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best Books 2017**

**A 2017 Nerdy Book Club Award Winner**

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### **I'm Ok**

By [Kim, Patti](#)

2018-10 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781534419292 [Check Our Catalog](#)

#### **Awards:**

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2020)

**An Asian/Pacific American Literature Award Honor Book**

**Ok Lee is determined to find the perfect get-rich-quick scheme in this funny, uplifting novel that bestselling author Gene Luen Yang called "So funny and heartfelt."**

Ok Lee knows it's his responsibility to help pay the bills. With his father gone and his mother working three jobs and still barely making ends meet, there's [...More](#)



### **Stand Up, Yumi Chung!**

By [Kim, Jessica](#)

2020-03 - Kokila

9780525554974 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**One lie snowballs into a full-blown double life in this irresistible story about an aspiring stand-up comedian.**

On the outside, Yumi Chung suffers from #shygirlproblems, a perm-gone-wrong, and kids calling her "Yu-MEAT" because she smells like her family's Korean barbecue



restaurant. On the inside, Yumi is ready for her Netflix stand-up special. Her notebook is filled with mortifying [...More](#)



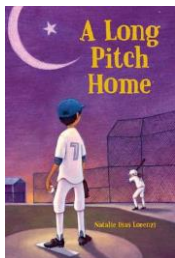
### **Amina's Voice**

By [Khan, Hena](#)

2017-03 - Salaam Reads / Simon & Schuster Books for You

9781481492065 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community in this sweet and moving novel from the award-winning author of "It's Ramadan, Curious George." [...More](#)



### **A Long Pitch Home**

By [Lorenzi, Natalie Diaz](#)

2016-09 - Charlesbridge Publishing

9781580897136 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Ten-year-old Bilal liked his life back home in Pakistan. He was a star on his cricket team. But when his father suddenly sends the family to live with their aunt and uncle in America, nothing is familiar. While Bilal tries to keep up with his cousin Jalaal by joining a baseball league and practicing his English, he wonders when his father will join the family in Virginia. Maybe if Bilal can prove [...More](#)



### **The Way to Bea**

By [Yeh, Kat](#)

2018-09 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316236690 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**Counting by 7s by Judy Blume in this charming and insightful middle grade novel about being yourself and finding your place**

Seventh grade isn't starting off so well for Beatrix Lee. Bea used to have friends...and now she doesn't. She was an only child...and now she's going to be a big sister. She used to fit in...and now she stands out for all the wrong reasons. [...More](#)



### **Green Lantern: Legacy**

By [Le, Minh](#)

Illustrator [Tong, Andie](#)

2020-01 - DC Comics

9781401283551 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**From Minh L , award-winning author of *Drawn Together* and *Let Me Finish* comes the tale of a new hero**

Thirteen-year-old Tai Pham lives in the apartment above his grandmother's store, where his bedroom is crammed with sketchpads and comic books. But not even his most imaginative drawings could compare to the colorful adventure he's about to embark on.

When Tai inherits [...More](#)