



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.

June 2020: LGBTQ+ Pride



Our Rainbow

By [Little Bee Books](#)

2019-05 - Little Bee Books

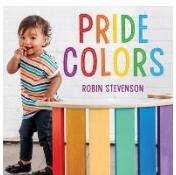
9781499809343 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this beautiful, bold board book, children will learn about the colors of the iconic pride flag

Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, and brown . . .

These are the colors of our rainbow flag. Do you know what they stand for?

Every young child is enchanted by the beautiful colors of the rainbow. Now, *Our Rainbow* can teach toddlers all about the [...More](#)



Pride Colors

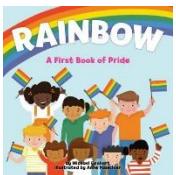
By [Stevenson, Robin](#)

2019-03 - Orca Book Publishers

9781459820708 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Through gentle rhymes and colorful photographs of adorable children, *Pride Colors* is a celebration of the deep unconditional love of a parent or caregiver for a young child. The profound message of this delightful board book is you are free to be whoever you choose to be; you'll always be loved.

Celebrated author Robin Stevenson ends her purposeful prose by explaining the meaning behind [...More](#)



Rainbow: A First Book of Pride

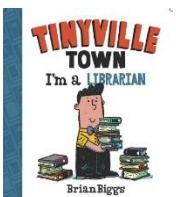
By [Genhart, Michael](#)

Illustrator [Passchier, Anne](#)

2019-05 - Magination Press

9781433830877 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A must-have primer for young readers and a great gift for pride events and throughout the year, beautiful colors all together make a rainbow in *Rainbow: A First Book of Pride*. This is a sweet ode to rainbow families, and an affirming display of a parent's love for their child and a child's love for their parents. With bright colors and joyful families, this book celebrates LGBTQ+ pride and [...More](#)



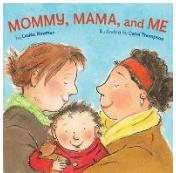
I'm a Librarian (a Tinyville Town Book)

By [Biggs, Brian](#)

2017-03 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419723223 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The Tinyville Town preschool series stacks up in a whole new way with the addition of the fourth volume, *I'm a Librarian*--the latest board book to feature one of the many diverse residents of the charming town. In *I'm a Librarian*, readers get to know the town librarian as he helps a little boy find a favorite book. As the search progresses, fans of the series will recognize many [...More](#)



Mommy, Mama, and Me

By [Newman, Leslea](#)

Illustrator [Thompson, Carol](#)

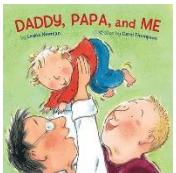
2009-06 - Tricycle Press

9781582462639 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Stonewall Book Award (2010)

Rhythmic text and illustrations with universal appeal show a toddler's daily activities--from the park to bedtime--in the company of two loving mothers. Full color. [...More](#)



Daddy, Papa, and Me

By [Newman, Leslea](#)

Illustrator [Thompson, Carol](#)

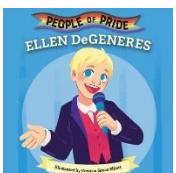
2009-06 - Tricycle Press

9781582462622 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Stonewall Book Award (2010)

From the award-winning author of "Heather Has Two Mommies" comes a first-of-its-kind board book about a toddler's daily activities--from playing to tea time--in the company of two loving fathers. Full color. [...More](#)



Ellen DeGeneres

By [Little Bee Books](#)

Illustrator [Elliott, Victoria Grace](#)

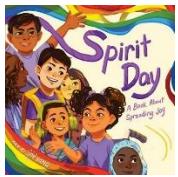
2020-03 - Little Bee Books

9781499810158 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Celebrate the amazing accomplishments of LGBTQ activist and trailblazer Ellen DeGeneres in this charming board book.

In this beautifully illustrated board book series, parents can celebrate the accomplishments of LGBTQ heroes, and introduce their little ones to the trailblazers who have shaped our world.

Ellen DeGeneres, one of the most recognizable entertainers in the world, has [...More](#)



Spirit Day: A Book about Spreading Joy

By [Yang, Joy](#)

Illustrator [Yang, Joy](#)

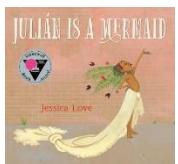
2019-09 - Little Bee Books

9781499809695 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this beautiful, bold board book, children will learn all about Spirit Day and its mission to stop bullying.

Put on a purple shirt. It's Spirit Day Today's a day to be super-kind and stand up to bullying. Because everyone has a right to feel safe.

Spirit Day is an annual LGBTQ awareness day established in 2010 to rally people against bullying. *Spirit Day* reinforces [...More](#)



Julian Is a Mermaid

By [Love, Jessica](#)

Illustrator [Love, Jessica](#)

2018-04 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9780763690458 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Stonewall Book Award (2019)

Winner of a 2019 Stonewall Book Award

In an exuberant picture book, a glimpse of costumed mermaids leaves one boy flooded with wonder and ready to dazzle the world.

While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julian notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train [...More](#)



Except When They Don't

By [Gehl, Laura](#)

Illustrator [Heinsz, Joshua](#)

2019-05 - Little Bee Books

9781499808049 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This rhyming picture book encourages children to celebrate their individuality and lets them know that it's okay to play with whatever toys they want to

Girls perform to fairy songs.

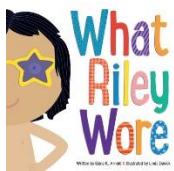
Boys play football all day long.

Boys yell, "Boo" and run away.

Girls like kittens and ballet.

Except when they don't.

Children are [...More](#)



What Riley Wore

By [Arnold, Elana K.](#)

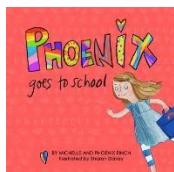
Illustrator [Davick, Linda](#)

2019-08 - Beach Lane Books

9781481472609 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Gender-creative Riley knows just what to wear for every occasion during a busy week with family and friends in this sweet and timely picture book from Elana K. Arnold and Linda Davick.

Riley wears whatever clothes feel right each day. On Monday, Riley feels shy and wears a bunny costume to school. On Tuesday, a scary trip to the dentist calls for a super hero cape. For a trip out with [...More](#)



Phoenix Goes to School: A Story to Support Transgender and Gender Diverse Children

By [Finch, Michelle](#)

Author [Finch, Phoenix](#)

2018-07 - Jessica Kingsley Publishers

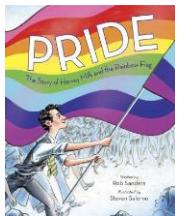
9781785928215 [Check Our Catalog](#)

My Mommy tells me I'm perfect and to be brave.

"You know who you are," she says,

"Just be yourself and always listen to your heart."

With those words of encouragement from her Mom, Phoenix is preparing for her first day of school. She is excited but scared of being bullied because of her gender identity and [...More](#)



Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag

By [Sanders, Rob](#)

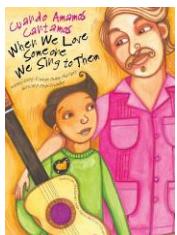
Illustrator [Salerno, Steven](#)

2018-04 - Random House Books for Young Readers

9780399555312 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Rainbow Pride Flag with the very first picture book to tell its remarkable and inspiring history

In this deeply moving and empowering true story, young readers will trace the life of the Gay Pride Flag, from its beginnings in 1978 with social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker to its spanning of the globe and its role in today's [...More](#)



When We Love Someone We Sing to Them: Cuando Amamos Cantamos

By [Martinez, Ernesto Javier](#)

Author [Martinez, Ernesto Javier](#)

Translator [Feliciano, Jorge Gabriel Martinez](#)

2018-10 - Reflection Press

9781945289149 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Selected for the American Library Association's 2019 Rainbow List. A reclamation of the Mexican serenata tradition, follow the story of a young boy who asks his father if there is a song for a boy who loves a boy. Como reappropriación de la serenata Mexicana, Cuando Amamos Cantamos cuenta la historia de un niño que le pide a su padre que canten una canción para un niño que ama a otro niño. [...More](#)



Prince & Knight

By [Haack, Daniel](#)

Illustrator [Lewis, Stevie](#)

2018-05 - Little Bee Books

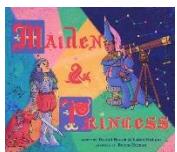
9781499805529 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Victorious . . . the premier queer-friendly fairy tale." Kirkus Reviews, starred review

"An illuminating fairy tale for young readers to be able to see that not every prince would like to marry a princess." School Library Journal

"A colorful and entertaining tale exploring sexuality, acceptance, and young love." Booklist

In this modern fairy tale, a noble prince [...More](#)



Maiden & Princess

By [Haack, Daniel](#)

Author [Galupo, Isabel](#)

Illustrator [Human, Becca](#)

2019-04 - Little Bee Books

9781499807769 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this modern fairy tale, a strong, brave maiden is invited to attend the prince's royal ball, but at the dance, she ends up finding true love in a most surprising place.

"The prince is smart and strong,"

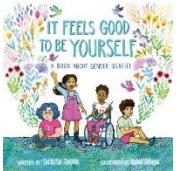
she confided in her mother.

"But if I'm being honest,

I see him as a brother."

Her mother said, "Just go

And have a bit of [...More](#)



It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book about Gender Identity

By [Thorn, Theresa](#)

Illustrator [Grigni, Noah](#)

2019-06 - Henry Holt & Company

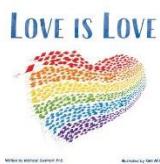
9781250302953 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A picture book that introduces the concept of gender identity to the youngest reader from writer Theresa Thorn and illustrator Noah Grigni.

Some people are boys. Some people are girls. Some people are both, neither, or somewhere in between.

This sweet, straightforward exploration of gender identity will give children a fuller understanding of themselves and others.

With [...More](#)



Yes We Are!

By [Genhart, Michael](#)

Illustrator [Min, Ken](#)

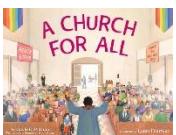
2018-05 - Little Pickle Press

9781939775139 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A story celebrating open mindedness, diversity, and love. Open a dialogue with the children in your life about the importance of love and acceptance with this Silver Moonbeam Award Winner. Families come in all shapes and sizes, but they all share one thing: Love.

It's love that makes a family...

When a boy confides in his friend about bullies saying he doesn't have [...More](#)



A Church for All

By [Pitman, Gayle E.](#)

Illustrator [Fournier, Laure](#)

2018-05 - Albert Whitman & Company

9780807511794 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This simple, lyrical story celebrates a Sunday morning at an inclusive church that embraces all people regardless of age, class,

race, gender identity, and sexual orientation. All are welcome at the church for all [...More](#)



George

By [Gino, Alex](#)

2017-04 - Scholastic Inc.

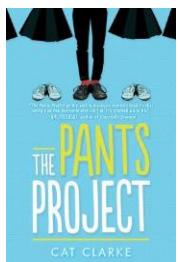
9780545812573 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The unforgettable debut from Stonewall Award Winner Alex Gino.

George joins the Scholastic Gold line, which features award-winning and beloved novels. Includes exclusive bonus content

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl.

George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her [...More](#)



The Pants Project

By [Clarke, Cat](#)

2017-03 - Sourcebooks Young Readers

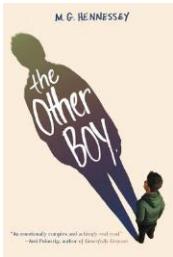
9781492638094 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Age Level: 9 and up - Grade Level: 4 to 9

"My name is Liv (Not Olivia)... I'm not technically a girl.

I'm Transgender. Which is a bit like being a transformer. Only not quite as cool because I probably won't get to save the world one day."

Liv knows he was always meant to be a boy, but with his new school's terrible dress code, he can't even [...More](#)



The Other Boy

By [Hennessey, M. G.](#)

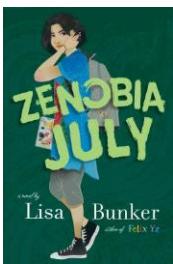
Illustrator [Monster, Sfe R.](#)

2016-09 - HarperCollins

9780062427663 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A beautifully heartfelt story about one boy's journey toward acceptance. A book that Jill Soloway, the award-winning creator of *Transparent*, called "a terrific read for all ages" and Ami Polonsky, author of *Gracefully Grayson*, called "an emotionally complex and achingly real read."

Twelve-year-old Shane Woods is just a regular boy. He loves pitching for his baseball [...More](#)



Zenobia July

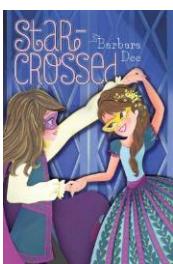
By [Bunker, Lisa](#)

2019-05 - Viking Books for Young Readers

9780451479402 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The critically acclaimed author of *Felix Yz* crafts a bold, heartfelt story about a trans girl solving a cyber mystery and coming into her own.

Zenobia July is starting a new life. She used to live in Arizona with her father; now she's in Maine with her aunts. She used to spend most of her time behind a computer screen, improving her impressive coding and hacking skills; now she's [...More](#)



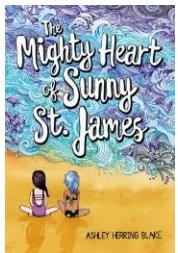
Star-Crossed

By [Dee, Barbara](#)

2017-03 - Aladdin Paperbacks

9781481478489 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Star-Crossed delighted me Barbara Dee has a light touch and a pitch-perfect middle school voice. This book will have you laughing and groaning in sympathy with crush-addled Mattie and eagerly turning pages. Mattie and her classmates charmed me with their kindness, their humor, their uncertainty, their devotion to one another and to Shakespeare Barbara masterfully sprinkles the bard's [...More](#)



The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James

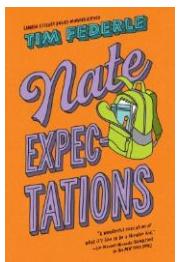
By [Blake, Ashley Herring](#)

2019-03 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316515535 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Twelve-year-old Sunny St. James navigates heart surgery, reconnecting with her lost mother, first kisses, and emerging feelings for another girl in this stunning, heartfelt novel--perfect for fans of Ali Benjamin and Erin Entrada Kelly.

When Sunny St. James receives a new heart, she decides to set off on a "New Life Plan": 1) do awesome amazing things she could never do [...More](#)



Nate Expectations

By [Federle, Tim](#)

2018-09 - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

9781481404129 [Check Our Catalog](#)

3rd book in Better Nate than ever series

[View Series](#)

"The Nate series by Tim Federle is a wonderful evocation of what it's like to be a theater kid. Highly recommended." --Lin-Manuel Miranda, star and creator of the musical, *Hamilton*

Third time's a charm Nate Foster returns home to Jankburg, Pennsylvania, to face his biggest challenge yet--high school--in this final novel in the Lambda Literary Award-winning Nate trilogy, which [...More](#)



King of the Dragonflies

By [Callender, Kheryn](#)

2020-02 - Scholastic Press

9781338129335 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In a small but turbulent Louisiana town, one boy's grief takes him beyond the bayous of his backyard, to learn that there is no right way to be yourself.

FOUR STARRED REVIEWS

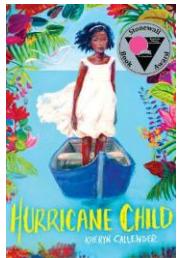
Booklist

School Library Journal

Publishers Weekly

The Horn Book

Twelve-year-old [...More](#)



Hurricane Child

By [Callender, Kheryn](#)

Author [Callender, Kacen](#)

2018-03 - Scholastic Press

9781338129304 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Stonewall Book Award (2019)

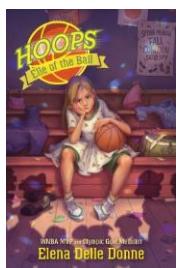
Prepare to be swept up by this exquisite novel that reminds us that grief and love can open the world in mystical ways.

Winner of the Stonewall Book Award

Winner of the Lambda Literary Award

Caroline Murphy is a Hurricane Child.

Being born during a hurricane is unlucky, and twelve-year-old Caroline has had her share of bad luck lately. [...More](#)



Elle of the Ball

By [Delle Donne, Elena](#)

2018-03 - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

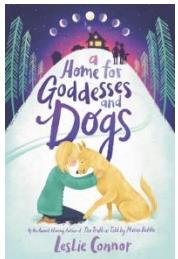
9781534412316 [Check Our Catalog](#)

1st book in Hoops series

[View Series](#)

From 2015 WNBA MVP, 2016 Olympic gold medalist, and global ambassador to the Special Olympics Elena Delle Donne comes the first novel in a brand-new middle grade series with as much heart as there is game.

Elle Deluca is a seventh grader who is tall--not just sort of tall. She's *six feet* tall. And for a twelve-year-old girl, this means that her basketball team has high hopes for [...More](#)



A Home for Goddesses and Dogs

By [Connor, Leslie](#)

2020-02 - Katherine Tegen Books

9780062796783 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A unique masterpiece about loss, love, and the world's best bad dog, from award winner Leslie Connor, author of the National Book Award finalist *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*.

This novel sings about loss and love and finding joy in new friendships and a loving family, along with the world's best bad dog. An uplifting middle [...More](#)