



Inclusive Literature Lists

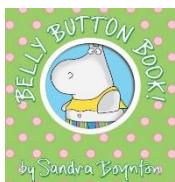
The Billings Public Library supports and values and celebrates diversity and inclusion.

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 2020: Differently Abled



Belly Button Book - Braille

By [Boynton, Sandra](#)

2005-04 - Workman Publishing

9780761137993 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Hoping for hippos? Take a look! They're in this BELLY BUTTON BOOK! [...More](#)



From Head to Toe - Braille

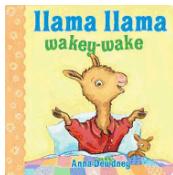
By [Carle, Eric](#)

Illustrator [Carle, Eric](#)

1999-03 - HarperFestival

9780694013012 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Parent and child can wiggle, stomp, thump, and bend right along with the colorful characters in this book. As they play, children learn important skills, such as listening, focusing attention, following instructions, and accepting a challenge. Full color. [...More](#)



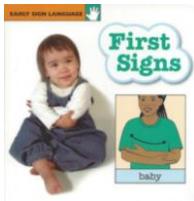
Llama Llama Wakey-Wake - Braille

By [Dewdney, Anna](#)

2012-01 - Viking Books for Young Readers

9780670013265 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Start a brand-new day the Llama way with this new board book by Anna Dewdney. A good day starts with breakfast and brushing, kissing and hugging. [...More](#)



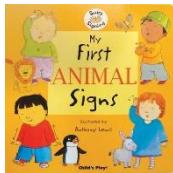
First Signs

By [Garlic Press](#)

2002-11 - Garlic Press

9781930820111 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The Early Sign Language books present signs for young children, parents, and babies in a sturdy board book format. A fascinating and enjoyable way for young children to learn sign language and basic communications skills. Some of the very first communication signs that toddlers can use. [...More](#)



My First Animal Signs

By [Lewis, Anthony](#)

2006-04 - Child's Play International

9781846430114 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Children are able to communicate by signing before they develop the skills necessary for speech. By teaching sign language to children from as young as seven months we can help them to convey their emotions and their needs. This signing guide for hearing and deaf children contains forty-eight animal signs taken from American Sign Language. Babies and toddlers are illustrated using the signs for a [...More](#)



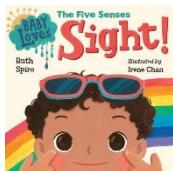
I Can, Can You?

By [Pitzer, Marjorie W.](#)

2004-06 - Woodbine House

9781890627577 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This inspirational board book is filled with full-color photos of babies and toddlers with Down syndrome discovering their world and reaching developmental milestones. "[Y]oungsters are all actively engaged . . . and reveling in their newfound abilities . . . [M]ost reassuring for preschoolers who have Down syndrome, as many never see kids like themselves in picture books." --"School Library [...More](#)



Baby Loves the Five Senses: Vision!

By [Spiro, Ruth](#)

Illustrator [Chan, Irene](#)

2019-09 - Charlesbridge Publishing

9781623541033 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Big, brainy science for the littlest listeners.

Baby loves the five senses. Accurate enough for experts, yet simple enough for baby, this clever board book explores the science of vision, light, and color. Beautiful, visually stimulating illustrations complement age-appropriate language to encourage baby's sense of wonder. Parents and caregivers may learn a thing or two as well. [...More](#)



Baby Loves the Five Senses: Audiology!

By [Spiro, Ruth](#)

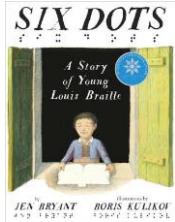
Illustrator [Chan, Irene](#)

2019-09 - Charlesbridge Publishing

9781623541026 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Big, brainy science for the littlest listeners.

Baby loves the five senses Accurate enough for experts, yet simple enough for baby, this clever board book explores the science of sound and hearing. Beautiful, visually stimulating illustrations complement age-appropriate language to encourage baby's sense of wonder. Parents and caregivers may learn a thing or two as well. [...More](#)



Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille

By [Bryant, Jennifer](#)

Illustrator [Kulikov, Boris](#)

2016-09 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9780449813379 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

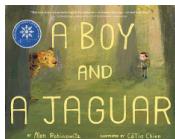
Schneider Family Book Award (2017)

An inspiring picture-book biography of Louis Braille--a blind boy so determined to read that he invented his own alphabet.

****Winner of a Schneider Family Book Award ****

Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read.

[...More](#)



A Boy and a Jaguar

By [Rabinowitz, Alan](#)

Illustrator [Chien, Catia](#)

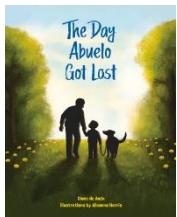
2014-05 - Houghton Mifflin

9780547875071 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Ezra Jack Keats Book Award (2015), Florida Children's Book Award (2016), Monarch Award (2016), Schneider Family Book Award (2015), Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award (2016)

As a child, Rabinowitz stuttered uncontrollably. But when he spoke to animals, he was fluent. Readers can follow the world-renowned wild cat conservationist' remarkable life as he finds a voice to speak for those who can't speak for themselves. Full color. [...More](#)



The Day Abuelo Got Lost: Memory Loss of a Loved Grandfather

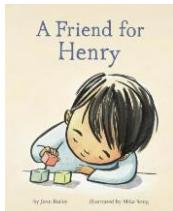
By [de Anda, Diane](#)

Illustrator [Harris, Alleanna](#)

2019-09 - Albert Whitman & Company

9780807514924 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A touching story about a boy and his grandfather who enjoy a special relationship--until Abuelo starts to lose his memory. Instead of building model planes and cooking together, Luis and his father have to search the neighborhood for Abuelo, and Luis and Abuelo have to find new activities to enjoy together. [...More](#)



A Friend for Henry

By [Bailey, Jenn](#)

Illustrator [Song, Mika](#)

2019-02 - Chronicle Books

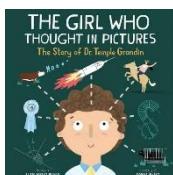
9781452167916 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Schneider Family Book Award (2020)

2020 Schneider Family Honor Book

In Classroom Six, second left down the hall, Henry has been on the lookout for a friend. A friend who shares. A friend who listens. Maybe even a friend who likes things to stay the same and all in order, as Henry does. But on a day full of *too close* and *too loud*, when nothing seems to go right, will Henry ever find a friend--or will a [...More](#)



The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin

By [Mosca, Julia Finley](#)

Illustrator [Riley, Daniel](#)

2017-08 - Innovation Press

9781943147304 [Check Our Catalog](#)

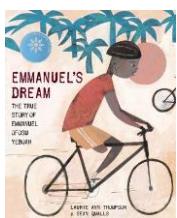
NSTA Best STEM Books for K-12 Selection

NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Books Selection

Dolly Gray Children's Literature Award Recipient

A Mighty Girl Book of the Year

If you've ever felt different, if you've ever been low, if you don't quite fit in, there's a name you [...More](#)



Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah

By [Thompson, Laurie](#)

Illustrator [Qualls, Sean](#)

2015-01 - Schwartz & Wade Books

9780449817445 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah's inspiring true story--which was turned into a film, *Emmanuel's Gift*, narrated by Oprah Winfrey--is nothing short of remarkable.

Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people--but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. As a boy, Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, [...More](#)



Hello Goodbye Dog

By [Gianferrari, Maria](#)

Illustrator [Barton, Patrice](#)

2017-07 - Roaring Brook Press

9781626721777 [Check Our Catalog](#)

For Zara's dog, Moose, nothing is more important than being with his favorite girl. So when Zara has to go to school, *WHOOSH*, Moose escapes and rushes to her side.

Hello, Moose

Unfortunately, dogs aren't allowed at school and Moose has to go back home.

Goodbye, Moose.

But Moose can't be held back for long. Through a series of escalating escapes, this loyal dog always [...More](#)



The Black Book of Colors - Braille

By [Cottin, Menena](#)

Illustrator [Faria, Rosana](#)

Translator [Amado, Elisa](#)

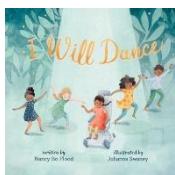
2008-06 - Groundwood Books

9780888998736 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Beehive Awards (2010), Grand Canyon Reader Award (2011)

Living with the use of one's eyes can make imagining blindness difficult, but this innovative title invites readers to imagine living without sight through remarkable illustrations done with raised lines and descriptions of colors based on imagery. Braille letters accompany the illustrations and a full Braille alphabet offers sighted readers help reading along with their fingers. This [...More](#)



I Will Dance

By [Flood, Nancy Bo](#)

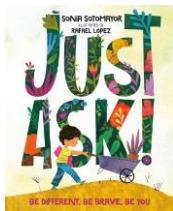
Illustrator [Swaney, Julianna](#)

2020-05 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781534430617 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This poetic and uplifting picture book illustrated by the #1 *New York Times* bestselling illustrator of *We Are the Gardeners* by Joanna Gaines follows a young girl born with cerebral palsy as she pursues her dream of becoming a dancer.

Like many young girls, Eva longs to dance. But unlike many would-be dancers, Eva has cerebral palsy. She doesn't know what dance looks like [...More](#)



Just Ask: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You

By [Sotomayor, Sonia](#)

Illustrator [López, Rafael](#)

2019-09 - Philomel Books

9780525514121 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

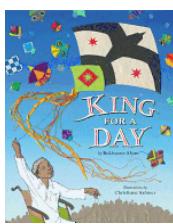
Schneider Family Book Award (2020)

A #1 *New York Times* bestseller

Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and award-winning artist Rafael Lopez create a kind and caring book about the differences that make each of us unique.

Feeling different, especially as a kid, can be tough. But in the same way that different types of plants and flowers make a garden more [...More](#)



King for a Day

By [Khan, Rukhsana](#)

Illustrator [Kromer, Christiane](#)

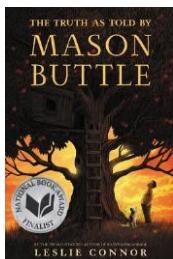
2014-01 - Lee & Low Books

9781600606595 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Irma S. & James H. Black Award (2013), Nutmeg Book Award (2016)

Basant is here, with feasts and parties to celebrate the arrival of spring. But what Malik is looking forward to most is doing battle from his rooftop with Falcon, the special kite he has built for speed. Today is Malik's chance to be the best kite fighter, the king of Basant. In two fierce battles, Malik takes down the kites flown by the bully next door. Then Malik moves on, guiding Falcon into [...More](#)



The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle

By [Connor, Leslie](#)

2018-01 - Katherine Tegen Books

9780062491435 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

National Book Awards (2018), Schneider Family Book Award (2019)

From the critically acclaimed author of *Waiting for Normal* and *All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook*, Leslie Connor, comes a deeply poignant and beautifully crafted story about self-reliance, redemption, and hope. This middle grade novel is an excellent choice for tween readers in grades 5 to 6, especially during homeschooling. It's a fun way to [...More](#)



Each Tiny Spark

By [Cartaya, Pablo](#)

2019-08 - Kokila

9780451479723 [Check Our Catalog](#)

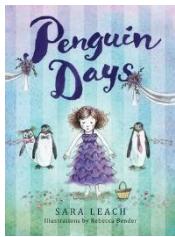
Awards:

Schneider Family Book Award (2020)

From award-winning author Pablo Cartaya comes a deeply moving middle grade novel about a daughter and father finding their way back to each other in the face of their changing family and community.

A SCHNEIDER FAMILY BOOK AWARD HONOR FOR MIDDLE GRADE

Emilia Torres has a wandering mind. It's hard for her to follow along at school, and sometimes she forgets to do what her mom [...More](#)



Penguin Days

By [Leach, Sara](#)

Illustrator [Bender, Rebecca](#)

2019-01 - Pajama Press

9781772780536 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From the award-winning creators of *Slug Days*

Lauren and her family drive to a farm in North Dakota to visit relatives and celebrate her Aunt Jossie's wedding. But Lauren finds to her dismay that she is expected to do more than meet adults who hug her and invade her personal space. Lauren is going to be--horror of all horrors--a flower girl.

Lauren has Autism Spectrum [...More](#)



[View Series](#)

A Boy Called Bat

By [Arnold, Elana K.](#)

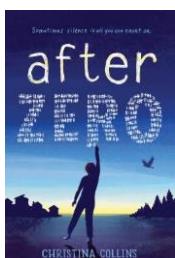
Illustrator [Santoso, Charles](#)

2017-03 - Walden Pond Press

9780062445827 [Check Our Catalog](#)

1st book in Boy called Bat series

The first book in a funny, heartfelt, and irresistible young middle grade series starring an unforgettable young boy on the autism spectrum, from acclaimed author Elana K. Arnold and with illustrations by Charles Santoso. This chapter book is an excellent choice to share during homeschooling, in particular for children ages 6 to 8 who are ready to read [...More](#)



Other Birds

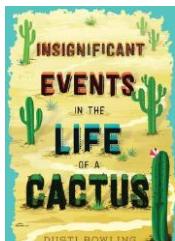
By [Collins, Christina](#)

2018-09 - Sourcebooks Young Readers

9781492655329 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Age Level: 8 and up - Grade Level: 3 to 7

Elise carries a notebook full of tallies, each page marking a day spent at her new public school, each stroke of her pencil marking a word spoken. A word that can't be taken back. Five tally marks isn't so bad. Two is pretty good. But zero? **Zero is perfect. Zero means no wrong answers called out in class, no secrets accidentally spilled,** [...More](#)



[View Series](#)

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus

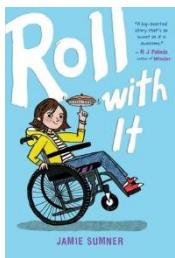
By [Bowling, Dusti](#)

2017-09 - Sterling Children's Books

9781454923459 [Check Our Catalog](#)

1st book in Aven Green series

Aven Green was born without arms. After her dad takes a job running a dying Western theme park in Arizona, she bonds with a classmate named Connor, who has his own disability to conquer. The two soon find themselves immersed in a mystery at the park. [...More](#)



Roll with It

By [Sumner, Jamie](#)

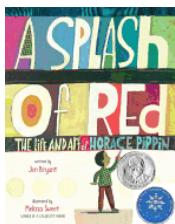
2019-10 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781534442559 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A Kirkus Reviews Best Middle Grade Book of 2019

"A big-hearted story that's as sweet as it is awesome." --R.J. Palacio, author of *Wonder*

In the tradition of *Wonder* and *Out of My Mind*, this big-hearted middle grade debut tells the story of an irrepressible girl with cerebral palsy whose life takes an unexpected turn when she moves to a new [...More](#)



A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin

By [Bryant, Jennifer](#)

Illustrator [Sweet, Melissa](#)

2013-01 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9780375867125 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Capitol Choices: Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens (2014), Georgia Children's Book Award (2015), Keystone to Reading Book Award (2015), Monarch Award (2016), Nutmeg Book Award (2016), Orbis Pictus Award (2014), Parents Choice Awards (Spring) (2008-Up) (2013), Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award (2015), Red Clover Award (2015), Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award (2014), Schneider Family Book Award (2014), Show Me Readers Award (2016), William Allen White Childens Book Award (2016)

Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet team up once again to share this inspiring story of a self-taught painter from humble beginnings who despite many obstacles, was ultimately able to do what he loved, and be recognized for who he was: an artist. [...More](#)



Song for a Whale

By [Kelly, Lynne](#)

2019-02 - Delacorte Press

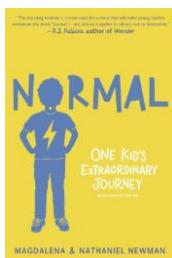
9781524770235 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Schneider Family Book Award (2020)

In the spirit of modern-day classics like *Fish in a Tree* and *Counting by 7s* comes the Schneider Family Book Award-winning story of a deaf girl's connection to a whale whose song can't be heard by his species, and the journey she takes to help him.

From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person [...More](#)



Normal Young Readers Edition

By [Newman, Magdalena M.](#)

Author [Newman, Nathaniel](#)

Illustrator [Swaab, Neil](#)

2020-01 - Houghton Mifflin

9781328631831 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Praised by R.J. Palacio as "wondrous"--this moving memoir follows a teenage boy with TC syndrome and his exceptional family from diagnosis at birth to now.

"This touching memoir is a must-read for anyone who wants to know more about the real-world experiences of a child with craniofacial differences and his extraordinary family. It's also more than that. It's a story about the love between [...More](#)