



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.

September 2020: Translated Books

September is World Kid Lit Month!



Jerome by Heart

By Taltec, Olivier

Translator Bedrick, Claudia

2018-04 - Enchanted Lion Books

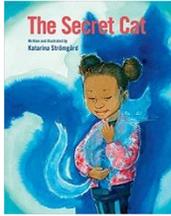
9781592702503 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Mildred L. Batchelder Award (2019)

"Raphael loves Jerome. I say it. It's easy."

This story follows a little boy named Raphael, whose daily rhythm is steeped in his immense affection for his friend Jerome. The two boys share jokes and snacks and plan future adventures to the Himalayas. Even when Raphael's constant talk of Jerome is driving his parents crazy, he remains steadfast: "Raphael loves Jerome. I can say it. It's [...More](#)



The Secret Cat

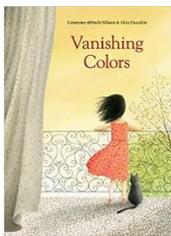
By [Stromgard, Katarina](#)

2019-02 - Eerdmans Books for Young Readers

9780802855114 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An imaginative book for anyone who's ever wanted a pet

Lucy wants a pet more than anything, even though her mom always says no. But one night, Lucy hears a scratching sound from behind her wallpaper, and a ghostly cat named Silvring appears. Silvring takes Lucy on an adventure and introduces her to a world filled with secret pets just like hers. Not all the secret pets are as [...More](#)



Vanishing Colors

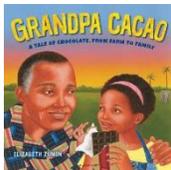
By [Orbeck-Nilssen, Constance](#)

Illustrator [Duzakin, Akin](#)

2019-03 - Eerdmans Books for Young Readers

9780802855183 [Check Our Catalog](#)

As a young refugee girl takes shelter for the night, the world appears bleak. But as she starts thinking about her happy memories, she finds the courage to hope for a better future. [...More](#)



Grandpa Cacao: A Tale of Chocolate, from Farm to Family

By [Zunon, Elizabeth](#)

2019-05 - Bloomsbury Publishing PLC

9781681196404 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This beautifully illustrated story connects past and present as a girl bakes a chocolate cake with her father and learns about her grandfather harvesting cacao beans in West Africa.

Chocolate is the perfect treat, everywhere

As a little girl and her father bake her birthday cake together, Daddy tells the story of her Grandpa Cacao, a farmer from the Ivory Coast in West Africa. [...More](#)



Chirri & Chirra, on the Town

By [Doi, Kaya](#)

Translator [Boyd, David](#)

2019-12 - Enchanted Lion Books

9781592702787 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this fifth book of perhaps the most charming series ever, Chirri and Chirra venture down forest paths and through alleyways into a yarn shop and an old woman's house, where they enjoy hot drinks and soup. When they're

done, they find a wonderful surprise hidden in the branches of a tree. Memorable for Doi's luminous appreciation of the natural world as well as her respect for beautiful edibles, [...More](#)



Along the Tapajós

By [Vilela, Fernando](#)

Illustrator [Vilela, Fernando](#)

Translator [Hahn, Daniel](#)

2019-10 - Amazon Crossing Kids

9781542008686 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A USBBY Outstanding International Book

An Amazon Best Book of 2019 in the Ages 6-8 category

A Junior Library Guild Selection

A Capitol Choices Book

Cau and Ina are a brother and sister who live in a small community along the Tapaj's River in Brazil. Here, the homes are on stilts and everyone travels around by boat--even to school When the rainy [...More](#)



Oscar Seeks a Friend

By [Pawlak, Pawel](#)

Illustrator [Pawlak, Pawel](#)

2019-09 - Lantana Publishing

9781911373797 [Check Our Catalog](#)

What if you could turn the world the other way around and take a peek at what's on the other side? Perhaps you'll find something you never expected. Such as friendship. The sad little skeleton on the cover of this book might not look very promising, but when Oscar meets a lonely little girl, it's the start of an adventure for both of them. Together they make an unusual journey to two very [...More](#)



The Fox on the Swing

By [Daciute, Evelina](#)

Illustrator [Kiudulaite, Ausra](#)

2018-06 - Thames & Hudson

9780500651568 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Mildred L. Batchelder Award (2019)

Learn about family, happiness, and friendship in this hope-filled children's book. Our story starts with a boy named Paul, who lives in a cozy treehouse in a big city with his family. And then something unexpected happens--Paul befriends a wise, friendly fox on a walk home from the bakery. The fox gives Paul a space to think about what makes him happy and what friendship means--all in the pages of [...More](#)



Francesco Tirelli's Ice Cream Shop

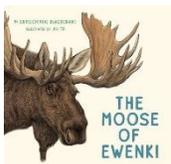
By [Meir, Tamar](#)

Illustrator [Albert, Yael](#)

2019-08 - Kar-Ben Publishing (R)

9781541534650 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Francesco Tirelli loved to eat gelato from his uncle's cart. So when he moves from Italy to Hungary, Francesco decides to open his own ice cream store. There young Peter learns to love ice cream as much as Francesco did. But when the war comes and Francesco closes his shop for the winter, he uses the shop for a special purpose--to hide his Jewish friends and neighbors from danger. This heroic [...More](#)



The Moose of Ewenki

By [Blackcrane, Gerelchimeg](#)

Illustrator [Er, Jiu](#)

Translator [Mixer, Helen](#)

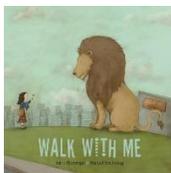
2019-09 - Greystone Kids

9781771645386 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A Shelf Awareness Best Book of the Year, and a Junior Library Guide Selection

From one of China's most beloved, bestselling children's authors comes this touching story of friendship and empathy, which celebrates the traditional way of life for the Indigenous Ewenki peoples of Mongolia.

When a Mongolian elder named Gree Shrek hunts [...More](#)



Walk with Me

By [Buitrago, Jairo](#)

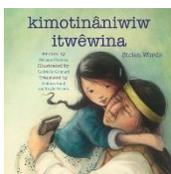
Illustrator [Yockteng, Rafael](#)

2017-03 - Groundwood Books

9781554988570 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A deceptively simple, imaginative story depicting the complex emotional reality of a girl whose father no longer lives at home.

The girl conjures up an imaginary companion, a lion, who will come with her on the long walk home from school. He will help her to pick up her baby brother from daycare and shop at the store (which has cut off the family's credit), and he'll keep her company all along [...More](#)



Kimotināniwiw Itwêwina / Stolen Words

By [Florence, Melanie](#)

Illustrator [Grimard, Gabrielle](#)

Translator [Sand, Dolores](#)

2019-09 - Second Story Press

9781772601015 [Check Our Catalog](#) CRE

This is the story of the beautiful relationship between a little girl and her grandfather. When she asks her grandfather how to say something in his

language, Cree, he admits that his language was stolen from him when he was a boy. The little girl then sets out to help her grandfather find his language again. This sensitive and warmly illustrated picture book explores the intergenerational impact [...More](#)



Felix After the Rain

By [Jogan, Dunja](#)

2020-05 - Tiny Owl Publishing

9781910328583 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A young man called Felix hides all of his sorrow inside a large black suitcase that he carries with him wherever he goes. One day, a small boy opens the suitcase whilst Felix is sleeping. Felix wakes and the tears that he had been carrying for so long suddenly pour from him. Felix is uplifted, free and his heart is full of joy. Felix embraces the world, and the world embraces him. This book is a [...More](#)



Cry, Heart, But Never Break

By [Ringtved, Glen](#)

Illustrator [Pardi, Charlotte](#)

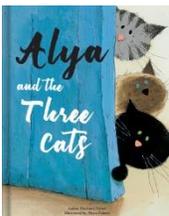
Translator [Moulthrop, Robert](#)

2016-02 - Enchanted Lion Books

9781592701872 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Aware their grandmother is gravely ill, four siblings make a pact to keep death from taking her away. But Death does arrive all the same, as it must. He comes gently, naturally. And he comes with enough time to share a story with the children that helps them to realize the value of loss to life and the importance of being able to say goodbye.

Glenn Ringtved is a best-selling and [...More](#)



Alya and the Three Cats

By [Fidawi, Maya](#)

Translator [Retnani, Mehdi](#)

Text by (Art/Photo Books) [Hachimi Alaoui, Amina](#)

2020-06 - Crackboom! Books

9782898022364 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"A delightful addition to the new-baby shelf." -Kirkus Reviews **The arrival of a new baby seen by three adorable cats** Maryam and Sami have three cats: Pasha the black angora cat--proud as a pasha really -- Minouche the grey tabby cat found in the street and Amir the playful Siamese. One day Maryam's belly starts to get bigger and something starts to stir in it. Maryam disappears for a [...More](#)



When Spring Comes to the DMZ

By [Lee, Uk-Bae](#)

Illustrator [Lee, Uk-Bae](#)

2019-03 - Plough Publishing House

9780874869729 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

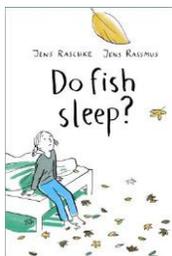
Mildred L. Batchelder Award (2020)

Batchelder Honor Winner, 2020 ALA Youth Media Awards

Honorable Mention, 2019 Freeman Awards (National Consortium for Teaching about Asia)

Korea's demilitarized zone has become an amazing accidental nature preserve that gives hope for a brighter future for a divided land.

This unique picture book invites young readers into the natural beauty of the [...More](#)



Do Fish Sleep?

By [Raschke, Jens](#)

Illustrator [Rasmus, Jens](#)

Translator [Cooper, Belinda](#)

2019-11 - Enchanted Lion Books

9781592702855 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Mildred L. Batchelder Award (2020)

Some people die when they're very old, and some in single digits. Only one thing's for certain: none of us escape it. A fact and absurdity not lost on this winning ten-year-old.

Sick since even before Jette can remember, her brother Emil now has died. The feelings that losing him evoke in her are huge and confusing. Most simply, it feels as though a dark raincloud [...More](#)



The Distance Between Me and the Cherry Tree

By [Peretti, Paola](#)

Translator [Muir, Denise](#)

2019-09 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781534439627 [Check Our Catalog](#)

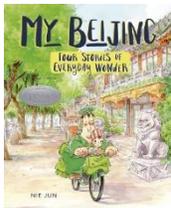
Awards:

Mildred L. Batchelder Award (2020)

Recipient of a Batchelder Honor

Ten-year-old Mafalda hides the fact that she is going blind from her family and friends in this lyrical, bittersweet debut novel from Italian author Paola Peretti that shows you how to overcome the darkness--even when you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel.

There are a lot of things ten-year-old Mafalda cares a lot about. Like, [...More](#)



My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder

By [Jun, Nie](#)

2018-08 - Graphic Universe (Tm)

9781512445909 [Check Our Catalog](#)

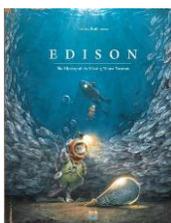
Awards:

Mildred L. Batchelder Award (2019)

A 2019 Batchelder Honor Book

Yu'er and her grandpa live in a small neighborhood in Beijing--and it's full of big personalities. There's a story around every corner, and each day has a hint of magic.

In one tale, Yu'er wants to swim in the Special Olympics, a sports competition for people with disabilities. But she and her grandpa don't have a pool Their [...More](#)



Edison

By [Kuhlmann, Torben](#)

2018-10 - Northsouth Books

9780735843226 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Mildred L. Batchelder Award (2019)

2019 Batchelder Honor Award

2019 ALA Notable Children's Book

Award-winning illustrator Torben Kuhlmann's stunning new book transports readers to new depths where imagination lights the way

A long time ago, one mouse learned to fly, another landed on the moon...what will happen in the next Mouse adventure?

From the creator of *Lindbergh--The Tale of a Flying Mouse* [...More](#)



Catherine's War

By [Billet, Julia](#)

Illustrator [Fauvel, Claire](#)

Translator [Hahnenberger, Ivanka](#)

2020-01 - Harperalley

9780062915603 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"A shining story of a young girl who struggles to come of age and find her place in a world fraught with danger." --Susan Campbell Bartoletti, Newbery Honor-winning author of *Hitler Youth*

* *Winner of the Youth Prize at the Angoul me International Comics Festival (voted by readers)* * *Winner of the Art misia Prize for Historical Fiction* [...More](#)



Kiki's Delivery Service

By [Kadono, Eiko](#)

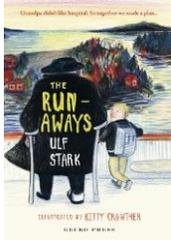
Translator [Balistreri, Emily](#)

2020-07 - Delacorte Press

9781984896667 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Nostalgic fans of the Hiya Miyazaki film and newcomers alike--soar into the modern classic about a young witch and her clever cat that started it all

Half-witch Kiki *never* runs from a challenge. So when her thirteenth birthday arrives, she's eager to follow a witch's tradition: choose a new town to call home for one year. Brimming with confidence, Kiki flies to the [...More](#)



The Runaways

By [Stark, Ulf](#)

Illustrator [Crowther, Kitty](#)

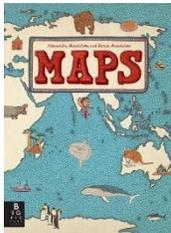
2019-04 - Gecko Press

9781776572335 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The Runaways is an inter-generational adventure filled with warmth and humor from one of the world's great writers for children.

Grandpa hates being in hospital. He thinks only of the place he was happiest--the island where he used to live. He wants to go back, but they won't let him out of the hospital.

So Gottfried Junior, his namesake, helps Grandpa make a plan [...More](#)



Maps

By [Mizielinska, Aleksandra](#)

Author [Mizielinski, Daniel](#)

2013-10 - Big Picture Press

9780763668969 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Much more than an atlas, this book of maps is a visual feast for readers of all ages, with lavishly drawn illustrations. It features not only borders, cities, rivers, and peaks, but also places of historical and cultural interest, eminent personalities, iconic animals and plants, cultural events, and many more fascinating facts. Full color. [...More](#)



Brown

By [Torseter, Oyvind](#)

Author [Øvreås, Håkon](#)

Translator [Dickson, Kari](#)

2019-06 - Enchanted Lion Books

9781592702121 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Mildred L. Batchelder Award (2020)

There's a mysterious new hero in town and his name is BROWN! BLACK follows. Who will be next? The first book in a highly popular, award-winning middle-grade series from Norway. Illustrations. [...More](#)

