



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.

March 2021: Women's History Month



Who Is Ruth Bader Ginsburg?: A Who Was? Board Book

By [Kaiser, Lisbeth](#)

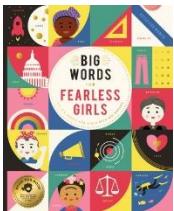
Author [Who Hq](#)

Illustrator [Chow, Stanley](#)

2020-12 - Rise X Penguin Workshop

9780593222744 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Big Words for Fearless Girls: 1,000 Big Words for Girls with Big Dreams

By [Miles, Stephanie](#)

Illustrator [Miles, David](#)

2019-10 - Bushel & Peck Books

9781733633543 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Big Words for Fearless Girls is a first-of-its-kind primer bursting with powerful first words girls will need to pursue their big dreams. The vibrant, oversized board book comes packed with 1,000 brightly illustrated words, all interwoven with 100 female heroes and inspiring messages. Readers will learn colors with Frida Kahlo, animals with Jane Goodall, things that go with Amelia [...More](#)



3 2 1 Awesome!: 20 Fearless Women Who Dared to Be Different

By [Chen, Eva](#)

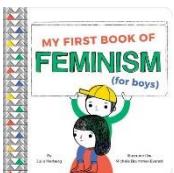
Illustrator [Desierto, Derek](#)

2020-10 - Feiwel & Friends

9781250624024 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Instagram superstar and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Juno Valentine and the Magical Shoes* Eva Chen shines a spotlight on 20 amazing women--including Megan Rapinoe, Sonia Sotomayor, Shirley Chisholm, Greta Thunberg and more --in *3 2 1 Awesome* a sassy and fun counting board book, perfect for the youngest of budding feminists.

Why stick to counting on [...More](#)



My First Feminist Book (for Boys)

By [Merberg, Julie](#)

Illustrator [Brummer Everett, Michéle](#)

2018-11 - Downtown Bookworks

9781941367629 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Feminism begins at home--and *My First Book of Feminism (for Boys)* is where it begins

Simple illustrations paired with engaging, rhyming text make the compelling, age appropriate argument that girls and boys are equal, plain and simple. Humorous, familiar scenarios are treated as teachable moments for very young boys (ages 0-3) who will ideally grow up without ever questioning women's [...More](#)



La Vida de/The Life of Selena

By [Rodriguez, Patty](#)

Author [Stein, Ariana](#)

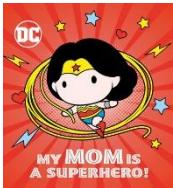
Illustrator [Reyes, Citlali](#)

2018-03 - Lil' Libros

9780986109997 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A *Lil' Libros* Bilingual Biography

Selena's career started at a young age when she became lead singer in her family's band, Selena Y Los Dinos. She went on to become an award-winning artist with albums like *Amor Prohibido* and *Selena Live*, and earned the title Queen of Tejano Music." Your little one will learn that Selena's favorite food was pizza and that the most important people [...More](#)



My Mom Is a Superhero! (DC Wonder Woman)

By [Chlebowski, Rachel](#)

Illustrator [Red Central Ltd](#)

2021-01 - Random House Books for Young Readers

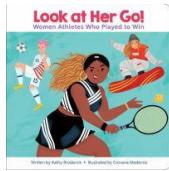
9780593305409 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Celebrate superhero moms this Mother's Day with this extra cute version of Wonder Woman(TM) in this sturdy board book

What makes your mom a superhero? My mom does so much for me with care; like a Wonder Woman, she's always there

Wonder Woman has never been more adorable in this sturdy board book that's the perfect way for babies and toddlers to celebrate Mother's Day. [...More](#)

Look at her go! : women athletes who played to win

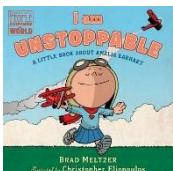


Author: [Broderick, Kathy author](#)

ISBN: 9781503752788

Meet Serena Williams, Megan Rapinoe, Chloe Kim, and other superstar athletes!

Discover 50 inspiring facts from more than 90 years of women's sports history! From trusted educational brand Encyclopedia Britannica, this board book pairs biographical facts about ten inspiring women with illustrations that capture their spirit and energy.



I Am Unstoppable: A Little Book about Amelia Earhart

By [Meltzer, Brad](#)

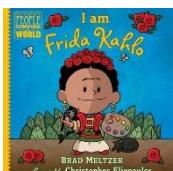
Illustrator [Eliopoulos, Christopher](#)

2019-05 - Dial Books

9780525552932 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The littlest readers can learn about Amelia Earhart in this board book version of the *New York Times* bestselling *Ordinary People Change the World* biography.

This friendly, fun biography series focuses on the traits that made our heroes great--the traits that kids can aspire to in order to live heroically themselves. In this new board book format, the very youngest readers can [...More](#)



I Am Frida Kahlo

By [Meltzer, Brad](#)

Illustrator [Eliopoulos, Christopher](#)

2021-03 - Dial Books

9780525555988 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The famous Mexican painter Frida Kahlo is the 23rd hero in the *New York Times* bestselling picture book biography series from Brad Meltzer and Christopher Eliopoulos

This friendly, fun biography series focuses on the traits that made our heroes great--the traits that kids can aspire to in order to live heroically themselves. Each book tells the story of an icon in a lively, [...More](#)



Who Is Jane Goodall?: A Who Was? Board Book

By [Kaiser, Lisbeth](#)

Author [Who Hq](#)

Illustrator [Chow, Stanley](#)

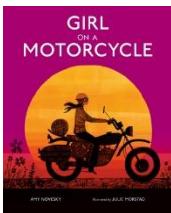
2021-03 - Rise X Penguin Workshop

9780593223420 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The latest addition to the Who HQ program: board book biographies of relevant and important figures, created specifically for the preschool audience

The #1 *New York Times* Bestselling Who Was? series expands into the board book space, bringing age-appropriate biographies of influential figures to readers ages 2-4.

The chronology and themes of Jane Goodall's meaningful life [...More](#)



Girl on a Motorcycle

By [Novesky, Amy](#)

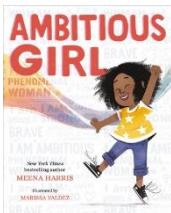
Illustrator [Morstad, Julie](#)

2020-09 - Viking Books for Young Readers

9780593116296 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A picture book biography by an award-winning team about the first woman to ride a motorcycle around the world

One day, a girl gets on her motorcycle and rides away. She wants to wander the world. To go . . . Elsewhere. This is the true story of the first woman to ride a motorcycle around the world alone. Each place has something to teach her. Each place is beautiful. And despite many [...More](#)



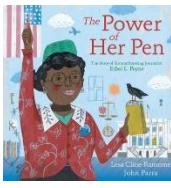
Ambitious Girl

By [Harris, Meena](#)

2021-01 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316229692 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Anyone who's ever been underestimated or overshadowed will find inspiration in this empowering new picture book from Meena Harris, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Kamala and Maya's Big Idea*, which is based on a true story about her aunt, Vice President Kamala Harris, and her mother, Maya Harris. When a young girl sees a strong woman on TV labeled as "too assertive" and [...More](#)



The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne

By [Cline-Ransome, Lesa](#)

Illustrator [Parra, John](#)

2020-01 - Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books

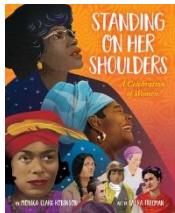
9781481462891 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"A powerful story." --*The Horn Book*

"A worthy addition to children's biography collections." --*Booklist*

"A solid treatment of an important but little-known figure, and it may prompt kids to think about the role and composition of a free press." --*BCCB*

"Cline-Ransome tells Ethel Payne's] story with economy and drive. 'Somebody had to do the [...More](#)



Standing on Her Shoulders

By [Clark-Robinson, Monica](#)

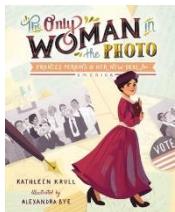
Illustrator [Freeman, Laura](#)

2021-02 - Orchard Books

9781338358001 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A stunning love letter to the important women who shape us -- from our own mothers and grandmothers to the legends who paved the way for girls and women everywhere.

Standing on Her Shoulders is a celebration of the strong women who influence us -- from our mothers, sisters, aunts, and grandmothers to the women who fought for equality and acceptance in the United [...More](#)



The Only Woman in the Photo: Frances Perkins & Her New Deal for America

By [Krull, Kathleen](#)

Illustrator [Bye, Alexandra](#)

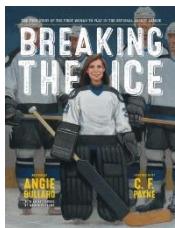
2020-02 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781481491518 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Discover the incredible life of Frances Perkins, the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet and the mastermind behind Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, in this fascinating picture book biography that's perfect for fans of *I Dissent*.

Most people know about President FDR, but do you know the woman who created his groundbreaking New Deal?

As a young girl, Frances Perkins [...More](#)



Breaking the Ice: The True Story of the First Woman to Play in the National Hockey League

By [Bullaro, Angie](#)

Afterword by [Rhéaume, Manon](#)

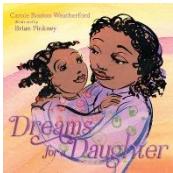
Illustrator [Payne, C. F.](#)

2020-10 - Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books

9781534425576 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The inspiring true story of Manon Rhéaume, the first and only woman to play a game in the National Hockey League, featuring an afterward from Manon herself.

"One day, a woman will play in the National Hockey League. If no one prevents her," said a twelve-year-old Manon Rhéaume. Manon always dreamed of playing hockey. So, when the team her father coached needed a goalie, five-year-old [...More](#)



Dreams for a Daughter

By [Weatherford, Carole Boston](#)

Illustrator [Pinkney, Brian](#)

2021-03 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781534451988 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This stunning and empowering picture book from a *New York Times* bestselling author and an acclaimed illustrator celebrates a Black mother's hopes and dreams for her daughter.

As I cradle you, look in your eyes,

your gaze says softly,

I want to know everything.

I promise to show you all that I can.

This love letter from mother to [...More](#)



Send a Girl!

By [Rinker, Jessica M.](#)

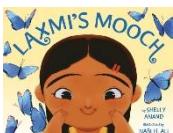
Illustrator [Hunt, Meg](#)

2021-03 - Bloomsbury Publishing PLC

9781547601745 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Brenda Berkman was often told that she couldn't do certain things because she was a girl. When she grew up, she longed for a job that was challenging, different every day, and required physical and mental strength. In 1977 when the New York City Fire Department finally complied with the Civil Rights Act (from 1964) by allowing women to take the FDNY exam, Brenda jumped at the chance.

But [...More](#)



Laxmi's Mooth

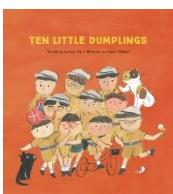
By [Anand, Shelly](#)

Illustrator [Ali, Nabi H.](#)

2021-03 - Kokila

9781984815651 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Ten Little Dumplings

By [Fan, Larissa](#)

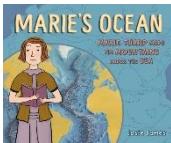
Illustrator [Wume, Cindy](#)

2021-01 - Tundra Books (NY)

9780735266193 [Check Our Catalog](#)

If one son is lucky, then ten must be great luck indeed But where does that leave an only daughter? Based on a true family story, this inspiring picture book about a different perspective tells the tale of a girl determined to be seen, who finds her own voice and makes her own luck.

In the city of Fengfu, there lives a very special family -- special because they have ten sons who do [...More](#)



Marie Tharp: The Woman Who Mapped the Ocean Floor

By [James, Josie](#)

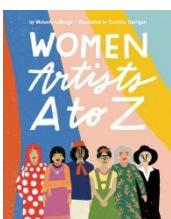
Illustrator [James, Josie](#)

2020-09 - Henry Holt & Company

9781250214737 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A mixed-format picture book biography of Marie Tharp, the remarkable woman who mapped the ocean floor.

Marie Tharp earned a graduate degree in geology in the 1940s, at a time when scientific careers were largely unavailable to women. Marie's vision and tenacity paved the way for her to become one of the greatest oceanographic cartographers of the 20th century. She [...More](#)



Women Artists A-Z

By [Labarge, Melanie](#)

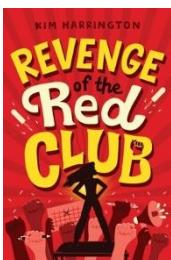
Illustrator [Corrigan, Caroline](#)

2020-02 - Dial Books

9780593108727 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An empowering and educational alphabet picture book about women artists, perfect for fans of *Rad American Women A-Z*.

How many women artists can you name? From Frida Kahlo and Georgia O'Keeffe, to Jaune Quick-to-See Smith and Xenobia Bailey, this lushly illustrated alphabet picture book presents both famous and underrepresented women in the fine arts from a variety of [...More](#)



Revenge of the Red Club

By [Harrington, Kim](#)

2019-10 - Aladdin Paperbacks

9781534435728 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A tween reporter discovers an important and beloved club at school is being shut down--and uses the power of the pen to try and activate some much-needed social change in this period-positive and empowering middle grade novel about the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

Riley Dunne loves being a member of the Red Club. It's more than a group of girls supporting each [...More](#)



Amazing Women of the Middle East: 25 Stories from Ancient Times to Present Day

By [Tarnowska Wafa'](#)

Illustrator [Esteves, Margarida](#)

Illustrator [Hadadi, Hoda](#)

2020-09 - Crocodile Books

9781623718701 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A superb collection of stories about incredible women from the Middle East

Discover Sheherazade, the famous storyteller, dive into the musical world of the beautiful singer Fairuz and meet Amal Clooney, an outstanding international lawyer. Feel inspired by twenty-five amazing women from the Middle East, who have created a legacy through strength of vision, leadership, courage, and [...More](#)



Girl Haven

By [Sturges, Lilah](#)

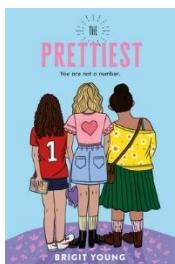
Illustrator [Carter, Meaghan](#)

2021-02 - Oni Press

9781620108659 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Full of wonder, humor, and heart, *Girl Haven* is the newest original story from the author of *Lumberjanes*.

Three years ago, Ash's mom left home and never returned, leaving behind a husband and child and a shed full of mystical curiosities related to the all-girl fantasy world she'd created as a child--Koretris. One day Ash invites a new group of friends from Pride Club [...More](#)



The Prettiest

By [Young, Brigit](#)

2020-04 - Roaring Brook Press

9781626729230 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A must-read for young feminists, *The Prettiest* is an incisive, empowering novel by Brigit Young about fighting back against sexism and objectification.

THE PRETTIEST: It's the last thing Eve Hoffmann expected to be, the only thing Sophie Kane wants to be, and something Nessa Flores-Brady knows she'll never be . . . until a list appears online, ranking the top fifty prettiest [...More](#)



The Amelia Six

By [Gray, Kristin L.](#)

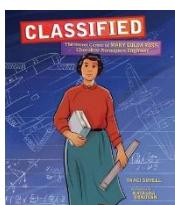
2020-06 - Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books

9781534418851 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"A cozy whodunit that cheerfully affirms girls' and women's contributions to aerospace." --*Kirkus Reviews*

"Comparisons with Nancy Drew and Sammy Keyes come to mind, but this satisfying mystery seems more like the works of Ellen Raskin, E.L. Konigsburg, and Gennifer Choldenko." --*School Library Connection*

"A wonderful tribute to Amelia [...More](#)



Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer

By [Sorell, Traci](#)

Illustrator [Donovan, Natasha](#)

2021-03 - Millbrook Press (Tm)

9781541579149 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Mary Golda Ross designed classified airplanes and spacecraft as Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's first female engineer. Find out how her passion for math and the Cherokee values she was raised with shaped her life and work.

Cherokee author Traci Sorell and Matisse illustrator Natasha Donovan trace Ross's journey from being the only girl in a high school math class to becoming a teacher [...More](#)



Starfish

By [Fipps, Lisa](#)

2021-03 - Nancy Paulsen Books
9781984814500 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Ellie is tired of being fat-shamed and does something about it in this poignant debut novel-in-verse.

Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules--like no making waves, avoid eating in public, and don't move so fast that your body jiggles. And she's found [...More](#)



The Land of the Cranes

By [Salazar, Aida](#)

2020-09 - Scholastic Press
9781338343809 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From the prolific author of *The Moon Within* comes the heart-wrenchingly beautiful story in verse of a young Latinx girl who learns to hold on to hope and love even in the darkest of places: a family detention center for migrants and refugees.

Nine-year-old Betita knows she is a crane. Papi has told her the story, even before her family fled to Los Angeles to seek [...More](#)