



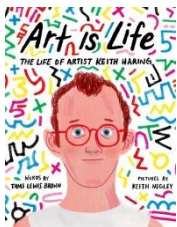
Inclusive Literature Lists

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 2021: LGBTQ+ Pride



Art Is Life: The Life of Artist Keith Haring

By [Brown, Tami Lewis](#)

Illustrator [Negley, Keith](#)

2020-12 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

9780374304249 [Check Our Catalog](#)

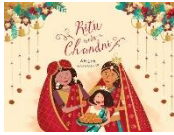
Writer Tami Lewis Brown and illustrator Keith Negley present a joyful picture book biography of modern art icon Keith Haring, celebrating the ways his life embodied the message: art is for everyone.

Art is life...

and life is art.

Keith Haring believed that art should be enjoyed by everyone.

When Keith first moved to New York City, he rode the subway and [...More](#)



Ritu Weds Chandni

By [Narvankar, Ameya](#)

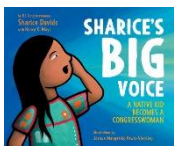
Illustrator [Narvankar, Ameya](#)

2020-12 - Yali Books

9781949528930 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A Kirkus Reviews' Best Picture Book of 2020 | A 2021 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People | A 2021 ALA Rise: A Feminist Book Project's Top Ten Book

Ayesha is excited to attend her cousin Ritu's wedding. She can't wait to dance at the baraat ceremony But not everyone is happy that Ritu is marrying her girlfriend Chandni. Some have even [...More](#)



Sharice's Big Voice: A Native Kid Becomes a Congresswoman

By [Davids, Sharice](#)

Author [Mays, Nancy K.](#)

Illustrator [Pawis-Steckley, Joshua Mangeshiq](#)

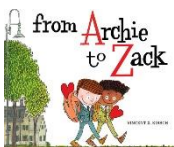
2021-06 - HarperCollins

9780062979667 [Check Our Catalog](#)

On Here Wee Read's 2021 Ultimate List of Diverse Children's Books

This picture book autobiography tells the triumphant story of Sharice Davids, one of the first Native American women elected to Congress, and the first LGBTQ congressperson to represent Kansas.

When Sharice Davids was young, she never thought she'd be [...More](#)



From Archie to Zack

By [Kirsch, Vincent X.](#)

2020-12 - Abrams Books for Young Readers

9781419743672 [Check Our Catalog](#)

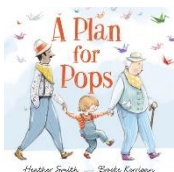
An unapologetic celebration of friendship and first crushes

"Archie loves Zack "

"Zack loves Archie "

Everyone said it was so.

But Archie hasn't told Zack yet. And Zack hasn't told Archie. They spend just about every minute together: walking to and from school, doing science and art projects, practicing for marching band, learning to ride bikes, and [...More](#)



A Plan for Pops

By [Smith, Heather](#)

Illustrator [Kerrigan, Brooke](#)

2019-02 - Orca Book Publishers

9781459816145 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Lou's great-grandfather Pops has a fall and is confined to a wheelchair. Unable to cope, Pops becomes withdrawn and shuts himself in his room. Hearing Grandad trying to cheer up Pops inspires Lou to help Pops deal with his new circumstances. Full color. [...More](#)



Over the Shop

By [Lawson, Jonarno](#)

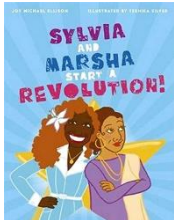
Illustrator [Leng, Qin](#)

2021-01 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9781536201475 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In a beautifully detailed wordless picture book, a tumbledown building becomes home sweet home for a found family.

A lonely little girl and her grandparent need to fill the run-down apartment in their building. But taking over the quarters above their store will mean major renovations for the new occupants, and none of the potential renters can envision the possibilities of the [...More](#)



Sylvia and Marsha: A Picture Book about the Trans Women of Color Who Started an Lgbtq+ Revolution!

By [Ellison, Joy](#)

Illustrator [Silver, Teshika](#)

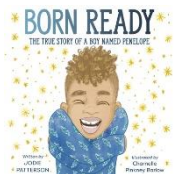
2020-11 - Jessica Kingsley Publishers

9781787755307 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Someday girls like us will be able to wear whatever we want. People will call us by the names we choose. They'll respect that we are women. The cops will leave us alone and no one will go hungry."

Sylvia and Marsha are closer than sisters. They are kind and brave and not afraid to speak their truth, even when it makes other people angry.

This illustrated book introduces children [...More](#)



Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope

By [Patterson, Jodie](#)

Illustrator [Barlow, Charnelle Pinkney](#)

2021-04 - Crown Books for Young Readers

9780593123638 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Jodie Patterson, activist and Chair of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation Board, shares her transgender son's experience in this important picture book about identity and acceptance.

Penelope *knows* that he's a boy. (And a ninja.) The problem is getting everyone else to realize it.

In this exuberant companion to Jodie Patterson's adult memoir, *The Bold World*, [...More](#)



Max and the Talent Show (Max and Friends Book 2)

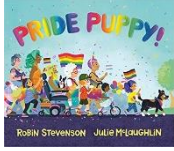
By [Lukoff, Kyle](#)

Illustrator [Lozano, Luciano](#)

2019-10 - Reycraft Books

9781478867890 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Pride Puppy!

By [Stevenson, Robin](#)

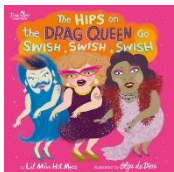
Illustrator [McLaughlin, Julie](#)

2021-05 - Orca Book Publishers

9781459824843 [Check Our Catalog](#)

★ "[A] sheer delight and will be a welcome addition to shelves everywhere. Highly--and proudly--recommended."--Kirkus Reviews, starred review

A young child and their family are having a wonderful time together celebrating Pride Day--meeting up with Grandma, making new friends and eating ice cream. But then something terrible happens: their dog gets lost in the [...More](#)



The Hips on the Drag Queen Go Swish, Swish, Swish

By [Hot Mess, Lil Miss](#)

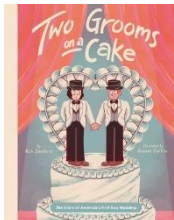
Illustrator [de Dios Ruiz, Olga](#)

2020-05 - Running Press Kids

9780762467655 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Playing off *The Wheels on the Bus*, this nursery rhyme book from a founder of Drag Queen Story Hour is a fun, freewheeling celebration of being your most fabulous self.

The Hips on the Drag Queen Go Swish, Swish, Swish encourages readers to boldly be exactly who they are. Written by a founding member of the nationally recognized Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH), this [...More](#)



Two Grooms on a Cake: The Story of America's First Gay Wedding

By [Sanders, Rob](#)

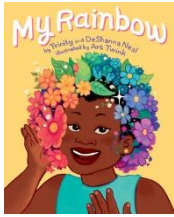
Illustrator [Cathro, Robbie](#)

2021-05 - Little Bee Books

9781499809565 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Sanders tells the tale in easy-to-understand language, sweet as the frosting on the cake. . . . As beautiful as it is informative about this little-known battle in the fight for equality." -Kirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEW

"Their heartwarming story-accessible to young readers-demonstrates that the essential ingredient in a cake and a marriage is [...More](#)



My Rainbow

By [Neal, Deshanna](#)

Author [Neal, Trinity](#)

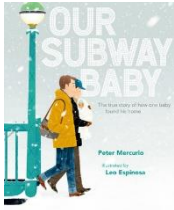
Illustrator [Art Twink](#)

2020-10 - Kokila

9781984814609 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A dedicated mom puts love into action as she creates the perfect rainbow-colored wig for her transgender daughter, based on the real-life experience of mother-daughter advocate duo Trinity and DeShanna Neal.

Warm morning sunlight and love fill the Neal home. And on one quiet day, playtime leads to an important realization: Trinity wants long hair like her dolls. She needs it to express [...More](#)



Our Subway Baby

By [Mercurio, Peter](#)

Illustrator [Espinosa, Leo](#)

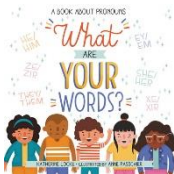
2020-09 - Dial Books

9780525427544 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This gentle and incredibly poignant picture book tells the true story of how one baby found his home.

Some babies are born into their families. Some are adopted. This is the story of how one baby found his family in the New York City subway.

So begins the true story of Kevin and how he found his Daddy Danny and Papa Pete. Written in a direct address to his son, Pete's moving and [...More](#)



What Are Your Words?: A Book about Pronouns

By [Locke, Katherine](#)

Illustrator [Passchier, Anne](#)

2021-05 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316542067 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Follow Ari through their neighborhood as they try to find their words in this sweet, accessible introduction to gender-inclusive pronouns that is perfect for readers of all ages. Whenever Ari's Uncle Lior comes to visit, they ask Ari one question: "What are your words?" Some days Ari uses she/her. Other days Ari uses he/him. But on the day of the neighborhood's big summer bash, Ari doesn't [...More](#)



Spin with Me

By [Polonsky, Ami](#)

2021-02 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

9780374313500 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From the author of the critically acclaimed *Gracefully Grayson* comes a thoughtful and sensitive middle-grade novel about non-binary identity and first love, Ami Polonsky's *Spin with Me*.

In this elegant dual narrative, Essie is a thirteen-year-old girl feeling glum about starting a new school after her professor dad takes a temporary teaching position in a different [...More](#)



Too Bright to See

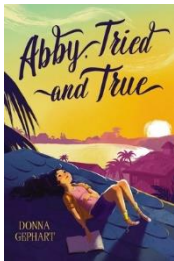
By [Lukoff, Kyle](#)

2021-04 - Dial Books

9780593111154 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A haunting ghost story about navigating grief, growing up, and growing into a new gender identity

It's the summer before middle school and eleven-year-old Bug's best friend Moira has decided the two of them need to use the next few months to prepare. For Moira, this means figuring out the right clothes to wear, learning how to put on makeup, and deciding which boys are cuter in their [...More](#)



Abby, Tried and True

By [Gephart, Donna](#)

2021-03 - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

9781534440890 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Fans of *The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* and *Shouting at the Rain* will love this heartwarming story of the bond between siblings from the award-winning author of *Lily and Dunkin* and *The Paris Project*.

When Abby Braverman's best friend, Cat, moves to Israel, she's sure it's the worst thing that could happen. But then her older brother, Paul, is [...More](#)



Love Around the World

By [Pierets, Fleur](#)

Illustrator [Ramos, Fatinha](#)

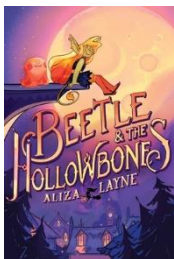
2019-11 - Six Foot Press

9781644420058 [Check Our Catalog](#)

2020 Rainbow Book List Selection

Inspired by a true story, *Love Around the World* is the beautiful and heartwarming adventure of two women's journey to marry each other in every country where same-sex marriage is legal. Moving and inspiring. - Kirkus Reviews

Fleur and Julian are two women very much in love. When they decide to get married, however, they discover that in [...More](#)



Beetle & the Hollowbones

By [Layne, Aliza](#)

Illustrator [Layne, Aliza](#)

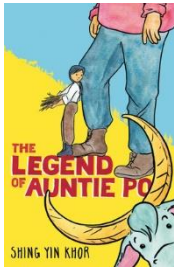
2020-08 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781534441538 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A Stonewall Honor Book

An enchanting, riotous, and playfully illustrated debut graphic novel following a young goblin trying to save her best friend from the haunted mall--perfect for fans of *Steven Universe* and *Adventure Time*.

In the eerie town of 'Allows, *some* people get to be magical sorceresses, while *other* people have their spirits trapped in [...More](#)



The Legend of Auntie Po

By [Khor, Shing Yin](#)

2021-06 - Kokila

9780525554899 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Part historical fiction, part magical realism, and 100 percent adventure. Thirteen-year-old Mei reimagines the myths of Paul Bunyan as starring a Chinese heroine while she works in a Sierra Nevada logging camp in 1885.

Aware of the racial tumult in the years after the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, Mei tries to remain blissfully focused on her job, her close friendship with the [...More](#)



Nothing Ever Happens Here

By [Hagger-Holt, Sarah](#)

2021-05 - Yellow Jacket

9781499811810 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"This title is well written and realistic, with important messages about acceptance, honesty, and family dynamics. Readers will empathize with Izzy and her struggles and will enjoy watching her realize that Danielle is still the same person she always was...The experiences of the characters feel authentic, and the writing style and vocabulary are perfect for middle grade readers...A delightful [...More](#)



Both Can Be True

By [Machias, Jules](#)

2021-06 - Quill Tree Books

9780063053892 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Debut author Jules Machias explores identity, gender fluidity, and the power of friendship and acceptance in this dual-narrative Own Voices story about two kids who join forces to save a dog . . . but wind up saving each other.

Ash is no stranger to feeling like an outcast. For someone who cycles through genders, it's a daily struggle to feel in control of how [...More](#)



Thanks a Lot, Universe

By [Lucas, Chad](#)

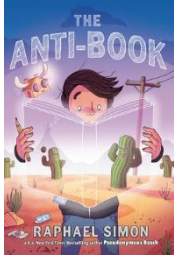
2021-05 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419751028 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A moving middle-grade debut for anyone who's ever felt like they don't belong

Brian has always been anxious, whether at home, or in class, or on the basketball court. His dad tries to get him to stand up for himself and his mom helps as much as

she can, but after he and his brother are placed in foster care, Brian starts having panic attacks. And he doesn't know if things will ever be [...More](#)



The Anti-Book

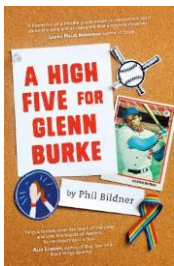
By [Simon, Raphael](#)

2021-04 - Dial Books

9780525552413 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Secret Series* comes a darkly funny story about a boy who wants the world to disappear. This fantastical quest for comfort and belonging is perfect for fans of classics like *The Phantom Tollbooth* and *Coraline*.

Mickey is angry all the time: at his divorced parents, at his sister, and at his two new stepmoms, both named [...More](#)



A High Five for Glenn Burke

By [Bildner, Phil](#)

2020-02 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

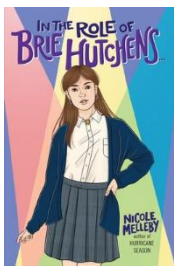
9780374312732 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A 2021 NCTE Charlotte Huck Award Honor Book

A Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2020

A 2021 ALA Rainbow Book

A heartfelt and relatable novel from Phil Bildner, weaving the real history of Los Angeles Dodger and Oakland Athletic Glenn Burke--the first professional baseball player to come out as gay--into the story of a middle-school kid [...More](#)



In the Role of Brie Hutchens...

By [Melleby, Nicole](#)

2020-06 - Algonquin Young Readers

9781616209070 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Middle Grade Book of 2020

An own-voices LGBTQ novel from the acclaimed author of *Hurricane Season*, about eighth grader Brie, who learns how to be true to herself and to her relationships with family, friends, and faith.

Introducing Brie Hutchens: soap opera super fan, aspiring actor, and so-so student at her small Catholic school. Brie has big [...More](#)



Snapdragon

By [Leyh, Kat](#)

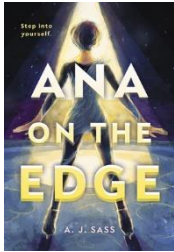
2020-02 - First Second

9781250171122 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Kat Leyh's *Snapdragon* is a magical realist graphic novel about a young girl who befriends her town's witch and discovers the strange magic within herself.

Snap's town had a witch.

At least, that's how the rumor goes. But in reality, Jacks is just a crocks-wearing, internet-savvy old lady who sells roadkill skeletons online--after doing a little ritual to put their spirits [...More](#)



Ana on the Edge

By [Sass, A. J.](#)

2020-10 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316458610 [Check Our Catalog](#)

For fans of *George and Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World*, a heartfelt coming of age story about a nonbinary character navigating a binary world.

Twelve-year-old Ana-Marie Jin, the reigning US Juvenile figure skating champion, is *not* a frilly dress kind of kid. So, when Ana learns that next season's program will be princess themed, doubt forms fast. Still, Ana tries [...More](#)



Almost Flying

By [Arlow, Jake](#)

2021-06 - Dial Books

9780593112939 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this unabashedly queer middle grade debut, a week-long amusement park road trip becomes a true roller coaster of emotion when Dalia realizes she has more-than-friend feelings for her new bestie.

Dalia's journey to self-discovery is refreshingly honest, and this entire cast of characters will steal your heart." - Maulik Pancholy, actor and Stonewall Honor-winning author of *The Best* [...More](#)