



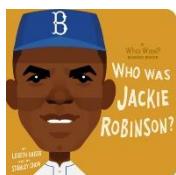
Inclusive Literature Lists

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 2021: Sports



Who Was Jackie Robinson?: A Who Was? Board Book

By [Kaiser, Lisbeth](#)

Author [Who Hq](#)

Illustrator [Chow, Stanley](#)

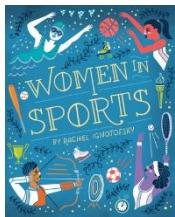
2021-03 - Rise X Penguin Workshop

9780593223437 [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 Jackie Robinson's meaningful life [...More](#)



Women in Sports: Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win

By [Rachel Ignotofsky](#)

2021-06 - Crown Books for Young Readers

9780593377659 [Check Our Catalog](#)

New York Times bestseller Rachel Ignotofsky's *Women in Sports* comes to the youngest readers in board format!

Highlighting the pioneering efforts of women athletes, this board book edition of the adult bestseller features simpler text and Rachel Ignotofsky's signature beautiful illustrations to give young girls the perfect role models to grow up with while inspiring a [...More](#)



Look at Her Go: Women Athletes Who Play to Win - Board Book

By [Editors of Phoenix International Publica](#)

Illustrator [Medeiros, Giovana](#)

2020-02 - Pi Kids

9781503752788 [Check Our Catalog](#)

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. [...More](#)



Life of - La Vida de Pelé, the

By [Rodriguez, Patty](#)

Author [Stein, Ariana](#)

Illustrator [Reyes, Citlali](#)

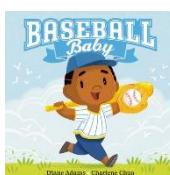
2020-09 - Lil' Libros

9781947971530 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

Introduce little ones to the life of legendary soccer player, Pelé, in both English and Spanish

Born October 23, 1940 in Brazil, Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pelé, is widely regarded as one of the greatest soccer players of all time.

Patty Rodriguez is the co-founder of Lil' Libros, a publisher of bilingual children's books and co-author of more than [...More](#)



Baseball Baby

By [Adams, Diane](#)

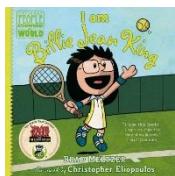
Illustrator [Chua, Charlene](#)

2021-01 - Viking Books for Young Readers

9780593202432 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This original board book series, which begins with America's favorite pastime--baseball--is sure to be a homerun with the youngest of readers and the sports-loving grown-ups in their lives.

A toddler spends an afternoon at the park with his family where he is introduced to baseball for the first time. He makes a few mistakes as he warms up, takes the field, and goes to bat, but he [...More](#)



I Am Billie Jean King

By [Meltzer, Brad](#)

Illustrator [Eliopoulos, Christopher](#)

2019-02 - Dial Books

9780735228740 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Billie Jean King is one of the greatest tennis players of all time. Read about this amazing woman athlete in the seventeenth picture book in the *New York Times* bestselling series of biographies about heroes.

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 [...More](#)



When I Grow Up...Sports Heroes: Kids Like You That Became Superstars

By [DK](#)

2020-03 - DK Publishing (Dorling Kindersley)

9781465490933 [Check Our Catalog](#)

How do little kids become sporting superstars? Find out in this inspiring board book for little ones.

Everyone, from Usain Bolt to Simone Biles, was once a small child learning about the world. Read how a diverse array of sporty kids found what they loved to do, worked hard, and followed their passions all the way into adulthood.

With adorable illustrations of top sports stars as [...More](#)



Baby Loves: Yoga

By [Eckford, Jennifer](#)

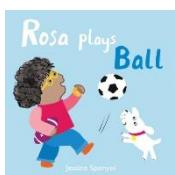
Author [Eckford, Jennifer](#)

2021-05 - Frances Lincoln Ltd

9780711253278 [Check Our Catalog](#)

B is for Bow, C is for Cat pose, and D is for Downward Dog in this beautiful ABC book designed to teach very young children the basic concepts of yoga.

Baby Loves is a new range of giftable preschool ABC books that taps into the trends that matter. Stunningly illustrated with a cut-to-white aesthetic, each pocket-sized book is a perfect introduction to a key topic for babies. [...More](#)



Rosa Plays Ball

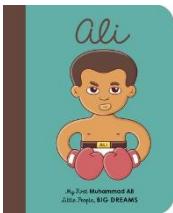
By [Spanyol, Jessica](#)

Illustrator [Spanyol, Jessica](#)

2018-10 - Child's Play International

9781786281265 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Muhammad Ali: My First Muhammad Ali

By [Sanchez Vegara, Isabel](#)

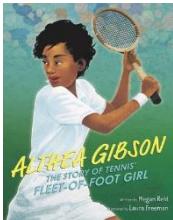
Author [Brosmind](#)

2020-02 - Frances Lincoln Ltd

9780711245891 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This board book version of *Muhammad Ali*--from the critically acclaimed, multimillion-copy best-selling Little People, BIG DREAMS series--introduces the youngest dreamers to the incredible life of "the greatest" boxer of all time.

When he was little, Muhammad Ali had his bicycle stolen. He wanted to fight the thief, but a policeman told him him to learn how to box first. After [...More](#)



Althea Gibson: The Story of Tennis' Fleet-Of-Foot Girl

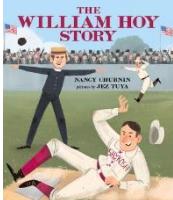
By [Reid, Megan](#)

Illustrator [Freeman, Laura](#)

2020-01 - Balzer & Bray/HarperTeen

9780062851093 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A spirited picture book biography about Althea Gibson, the first black Wimbledon, French, and U.S. Open tennis champion, from debut author Megan Reid and Coretta Scott King Honor-winning illustrator Laura Freeman. *Althea Gibson: The Story of Tennis' Fleet-of-Foot Girl* chronicles this trailblazing athlete's journey--and the talent, force of spirit, and energy that made it [...More](#)



The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game

By [Churnin, Nancy](#)

Illustrator [Tuya, Jez](#)

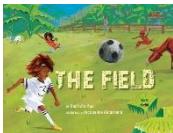
2016-03 - Albert Whitman & Company

9780807591925 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Winner - 2017 Storytelling World Resource Award Honor Book

Finalist - 2017 North Texas Book Festival Best Children's Books

All William Ellsworth Hoy wanted to do was play baseball. After losing out on a spot on the local deaf team, William practiced even harder--eventually earning a position on a professional team. But his struggle was far from over. In addition to the [...More](#)



The Field

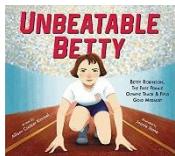
By [Paul, Baptiste](#)

Illustrator [Alcántara, Jacqueline](#)

2018-03 - Northsouth Books

9780735843127 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The world's most popular and inclusive sport has found its spirited, poetic, and authentic voice in Paul's debut picture book, highlighting its universal themes: teamwork, leadership, diversity, and acceptance. Creole words (as spoken in St. Lucia, the author's birthplace island in the Caribbean) add spice to the story. Full color. [...More](#)



Unbeatable Betty: Betty Robinson, the First Female Olympic Track & Field Gold Medalist

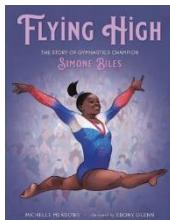
By [Kimmel, Allison Crotzer](#)

Illustrator [Stone, Joanie](#)

2020-06 - HarperCollins

9780062896070 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An inspiring picture book biography of the first woman to win a gold medal in track and field. Young readers intrigued by the Summer 2021 Olympics in Tokyo will be inspired by this story. This nonfiction picture book is an excellent choice to share during homeschooling, in particular for children ages 4 to 6. It's a fun way to learn to read and as a supplement for [...More](#)



Flying High: The Story of Gymnastics Champion Simone Biles

By [Meadows, Michelle](#)

Illustrator [Glenn, Ebony](#)

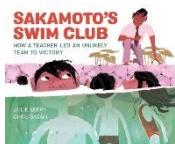
2020-12 - Henry Holt & Company

9781250205667 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A lyrical picture book biography of Simone Biles, gymnastics champion and Olympic superstar.

Before she was a record-breaking gymnast competing on the world stage, Simone Biles spent time in foster care as a young child. Nimble and boundlessly energetic, she cherished every playground and each new backyard.

When she was six years old, Simone's family took shape in a different [...More](#)



Sakamoto's Swim Club: How a Teacher Led an Unlikely Team to Victory

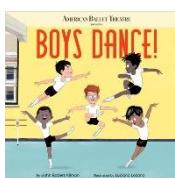
By [Abery, Julie](#)

Illustrator [Sasaki, Chris](#)

2021-05 - Kids Can Press

9781525300318 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The inspirational and little-known story of a dedicated teacher who coached Hawaiian swimmers all the way to the Olympics, beautifully told in simple rhyme. When the children of workers on a 1930s Maui sugar plantation were chased away from playing in the nearby irrigation ditches, local science teacher Soichi Sakamoto had an idea. He offered to take responsibility for the children --- and then he [...More](#)



Boys Dance! (American Ballet Theatre)

By [Allman, John Robert](#)

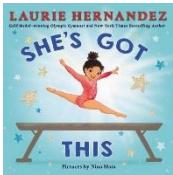
Illustrator [Lozano, Luciano](#)

2020-09 - Doubleday Books for Young Readers

9780593181140 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A lively and encouraging picture book celebrating boys who love to dance, from the renowned American Ballet Theatre.

Boys who love to dance are center stage in this encouraging, positive, rhyming picture book about guys who love to *pirouette*, *jet*, and *pli*. Created in partnership with the American Ballet Theatre and with the input of their company's male dancers, [...More](#)



She's Got This

By [Hernandez, Laurie](#)

Illustrator [Mata, Nina](#)

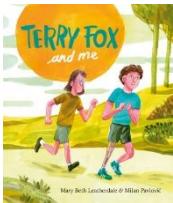
2018-10 - HarperCollins

9780062840585 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A New York Times bestseller

From gold-medal-winning Olympic gymnast and bestselling author Laurie Hernandez comes a picture book about chasing your dreams and never giving up.

Even Olympians have to start somewhere. And in this charming illustrated book, Laurie Hernandez tells the story of Zoe, a little girl who dreams of flying--and [...More](#)



Terry Fox and Me

By [Leatherdale, Mary Beth](#)

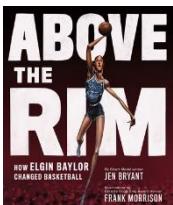
Illustrator [Pavlovic, Milan](#)

2020-08 - Tundra Books (NY)

9780735267688 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, this picture book biography tells the story of a friendship defined by strength and love.

Before Terry Fox became a national hero and icon, he was just a regular kid. But even then, his characteristic strength, determination and loyalty were apparent and were the foundation for his friendship with Doug. The two first [...More](#)



Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball

By [Bryant, Jen](#)

Illustrator [Morrison, Frank](#)

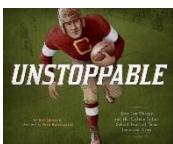
2020-10 - Abrams Books for Young Readers

9781419741081 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Winner of 2021 Orbis Pictus Award

The story of Elgin Baylor, basketball icon and civil rights advocate, from an all-star team

Hall-of-famer Elgin Baylor was one of basketball's all-time-greatest players--an innovative athlete, team player, and quiet force for change. One of the first professional African-American players, he inspired others on and off the court. But when [...More](#)



Unstoppable: How Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Defeated the Army

By [Coulson, Art](#)

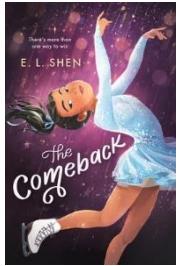
Illustrator [Hardcastle, Nick](#)

2018-08 - Capstone Editions

9781543504064 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In the autumn of 1912, the football team from Carlisle Indian Industrial School took the field at the U.S. Military Academy, home to the bigger, stronger, and better-equipped West Points Cadets. Sportswriters billed the game as a sort of rematch, pitting against

each other the descendants of U.S. soldiers and American Indians who fought on the battlefield only 20 years earlier. But for [...More](#)



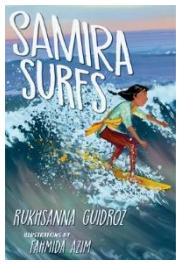
The Comeback

By [Shen, E. L.](#)

2021-01 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)
9780374313791 [Check Our Catalog](#)

E. L. Shen's *The Comeback* is a heartfelt, #OwnVoices middle-grade debut about a young girl trying to be a champ--in figure skating and in life.

Twelve-year-old Maxine Chen is just trying to nail that perfect landing: on the ice, in middle school, and at home, where her parents worry that competitive skating is too much pressure for a budding tween. Maxine isn't concerned, [...More](#)



Samira Surfs

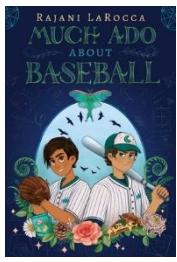
By [Guidroz, Rukhsanna](#)

Illustrator [Azim, Fahmida](#)

2021-06 - Kokila
9781984816191 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A middle grade novel in verse about Samira, an eleven-year-old Rohingya refugee living in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, who finds strength and sisterhood in a local surf club for girls.

Samira thinks of her life as before and after: before the burning and violence in her village in Burma, when she and her best friend would play in the fields, and after, when her family was forced to flee. [...More](#)



Much Ado about Baseball

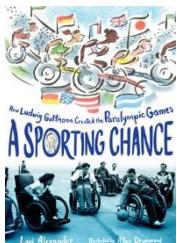
By [Larocca, Rajani](#)

2021-06 - Yellow Jacket
9781499811018 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"A moving tale of baseball, magic, and former rivals who come together to solve a problem." -Kirkus Reviews, STARRED REVIEW

In this companion novel to *Midsummer's Mayhem*, math and baseball combine with savory snacks to cause confusion and calamity in the town of Comity.

Twelve-year-old Trish can solve tough math problems and throw a [...More](#)



A Sporting Chance: How Ludwig Guttmann Created the Paralympic Games

By [Alexander, Lori](#)

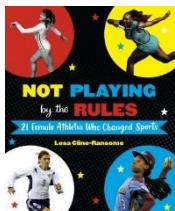
Illustrator [Drummond, Allan](#)

2020-04 - Houghton Mifflin
9781328580795 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Telling the inspiring human story behind the creation of the Paralympics, this young readers biography artfully combines archival photos, full-color

illustrations, and a riveting narrative to honor the life of Ludwig Guttmann, whose work profoundly changed so many lives.

Dedicating his life to helping patients labeled "incurables," Ludwig Guttmann fought for the rights of paraplegics [...More](#)



Not Playing by the Rules: 21 Female Athletes Who Changed Sports

By [Cline-Ransome, Lesa](#)

2020-04 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9781524764531 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This powerful and inspiring collection features 21 female trailblazers in their sport, perfect for fans of *Women in Sports* and *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls*

Before girls wore pants or women were permitted to swim in bathing suits at public beaches, who paved the way for women in sports? And who's breaking new ground today?

This anthology introduces 21 [...More](#)



The Adventures of Team Pom: Squid Happens: Book 1

By [Roxas, Isabel](#)

2021-06 - Nobrow Press

9781912497256 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When oddballs Agnes, Roberta and Ruby discover a shared passion for synchronized swimming, the trio become Team Pom. But between snack time, their favorite TV show, and raising pigeons, it can be hard to find time to practice.

This crew of self-proclaimed weirdos are tired of their loser status in the pool. But on their way to gain the respect and free snacks they deserve, they stumble [...More](#)



The Lady and Her Diamond

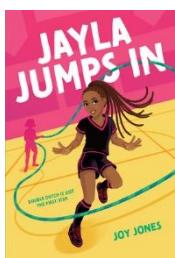
By [Williams, Andrea](#)

2021-01 - Roaring Brook Press

9781250623720 [Check Our Catalog](#)

For fans of *Hidden Figures* and Steve Sheinkin's *Undefeated*, Andrea Williams's *Baseball's Leading Lady* is the powerful true story of Effa Manley, the first and only woman inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Before Jackie Robinson broke Major League Baseball's color barrier in 1947, Black athletes played in the Negro Leagues--on teams coached by Black [...More](#)



Jayla Jumps in

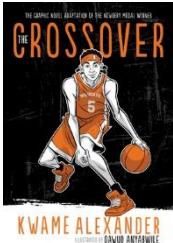
By [Jones, Joy](#)

2020-09 - Albert Whitman & Company

9780807560761 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When eleven-year-old Jayla finds out that her mother used to be a Double Dutch champion, she's stunned. Her mom, who's on doctor's orders to lower her blood pressure, could move like that? Jayla decides to follow in her mom's footsteps,

thinking that maybe double Dutch can make her stand out in her big, quirky family. As she puts together a team at school and prepares to compete, Jayla finds [...More](#)



The Crossover (Graphic Novel)

By [Alexander, Kwame](#)

Illustrator [Anyabwile, Dawud](#)

2019-09 - Etch/Hmh Books for Young Readers

9781328960016 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Winner of the Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award, and a *New York Times* bestseller. *Basketball and heartache share the court in this slam-dunk novel in verse by National Book Award nominee Alexander.* [...More](#)



Tag Team

By [Raúl the Third](#)

2021-05 - Versify

9780358380399 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Luchadores El Toro and La Oink Oink are the perfect tag team as they clean up together in this playful and visually stunning early reader. Perfect for fans of Elephant and Piggie, comic book fans, and kids looking to practice both Spanish and English.

After last night's match, the stadium is a mess. There is so much work to be done and Mexican wrestling star El Toro feels [...More](#)