



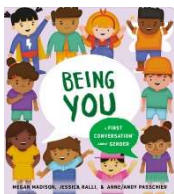
Inclusive Literature Lists

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.

Pride Month



Being You: A First Conversation about Gender

By [Madison, Megan](#)

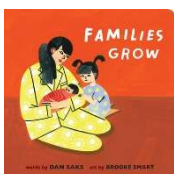
Author [Ralli, Jessica](#)

Illustrator [Passchier](#)

2021-08 - Rise X Penguin Workshop

9780593382646 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Families Grow

By [Saks, Dan](#)

Illustrator [Smart, Brooke](#)

2021-08 - Rise X Penguin Workshop

9780593223673 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A rhyming, light-hearted celebration of the different ways a family can grow.

A wish began your journey

And now that you are here

Our family has grown with love

With love for you, my dear.

This warm appreciation of love invites the youngest readers to share in the joy and excitement of expecting families. The lyrical, [...More](#)



Families Can

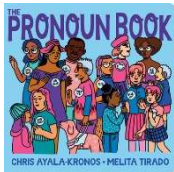
By [Saks, Dan](#)

Illustrator [Smart, Brooke](#)

2021-04 - Rise X Penguin Workshop

9780593223659 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



The Pronoun Book

By [Ayala-Kronos, Chris](#)

Illustrator [Tirado, Melita](#)

2022-04 - Clarion Books

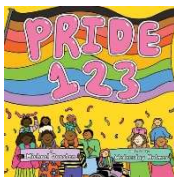
9780358653158 [Check Our Catalog](#)

They, she, he . . . all together, us! Join along in this vibrant board book's joyful celebration of people and their pronouns.

How do you know what someone wants to be called? Ask!

This lively board book features eye-catching illustrations of a diverse cast of people and simple text that introduces their pronouns, perfect for readers both young and old.

[...More](#)



Pride 1 2 3

By [Joosten, Michael](#)

Illustrator [Holmes, Wednesday](#)

2020-05 - Little Simon

9781534464995 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Celebrate and march along in the Pride Parade with this lively counting board book

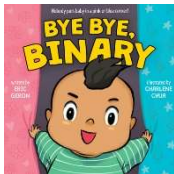
1 parade in the month of June

2 DJs spin fabulous tunes

3 families of all different types

4 activists fight the good fight

Teach your little ones about the Pride Parade with this colorful, energetic counting book Featuring a diverse cast of characters [...More](#)



Bye Bye Binary

By [Geron, Eric](#)

Illustrator [Chua, Charlene](#)

2022-05 - HarperFestival

9780063215146 [Check Our Catalog](#)

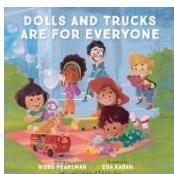
Fans of *Feminist Baby* by Loryn Brantz will love this board book about gender expression and being true to oneself.

Is it a boy? Or a girl?

"WHAT'S IT TO YA?!"

Our little bundle of joy has arrived--to dismantle gender norms!

A joyful baby refuses to conform to the gender binary and instead chooses toys, colors, and clothes that make [...More](#)



Dolls and Trucks Are for Everyone

By [Pearlman, Robb](#)

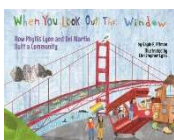
Illustrator [Kaban, Eda](#)

2022-05 - Running Press Kids

9780762478118 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From the author and illustrator of *Pink Is for Boys* comes an empowering board book that teaches kids and adults alike that gender cannot define who you are or want to become.

Dolls and trucks are for boys and girls and everyone, as are fabric and wood, flutes and drums, hockey and figure skating, and many more. This is a fun, playful, and important board book for parents and [...More](#)



When You Look Out the Window: How Phyllis Lyon and del Martin Built a Community

By [Lyles, Christopher](#)

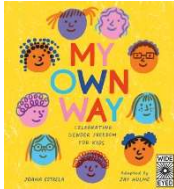
Illustrator [Lyles, Christopher](#)

2017-06 - Magination Press

9781433827365 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When You Look Out the Window tells the story of Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, one of San Francisco's most well-known and politically active lesbian couples. Describing the view from Phyllis and Del's window, this book shows how one couple's activism transformed their community -- and had ripple effects throughout the world.

Includes a Reading Guide that provides helpful historical [...More](#)



My Own Way: A Poem on Gender Freedom for Kids

By [Estrela, Joana](#)

Author [Hulme, Jay](#)

2022-03 - Wide Eyed Editions

9780711265868 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Small children are often asked to choose between a gendered binary- "boy" or "girl", "pink" or "blue". This colorful picture book smashes these stereotypes and encourages the reader to follow their own way!

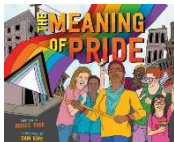
"Girl or Boy?"

What brings you joy?

"Pink or blue?"

It's up to you.

With **vibrant illustrations** and **concise, poetic text**, [...More](#)



The Meaning of Pride

By [Thor, Rosiee](#)

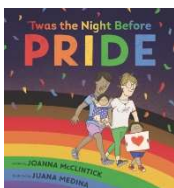
Illustrator [Kirk, Sam](#)

2022-04 - Versify

9780358401513 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A vibrant ode to the culture and achievements of the LGBTQ+ community, *The Meaning of Pride*, written by Rosiee Thor and illustrated by Sam Kirk, celebrates the beauty, significance, and many dimensions of the concept of Pride as celebrated by millions of people around the world!

Every year in June, we celebrate Pride! But what does Pride mean? And how [...More](#)



Twas the Night Before Pride

By [McClintick, Joanna](#)

Illustrator [Medina, Juana](#)

2022-05 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9781536213430 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A glittering celebration of queer families puts Pride gently in perspective--honoring those in the LGBTQ+ community who fought against injustice and inequality.

Pride's . . . a day that means "Together, we are strong!"

This joyful picture-book homage to a day of community and inclusion--and to the joys of anticipation--is also a comprehensive history. With bright, buoyant [...More](#)



The Big Book of Pride Flags

By [Jessica Kingsley](#)

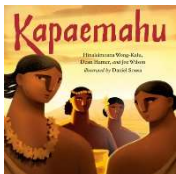
Illustrator [Milton, Jem](#)

2022-06 - Jessica Kingsley Publishers

9781839972584 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Celebrate and learn about the LGBTQIA+ community with this colourful book of Pride flags!

Featuring all the colours of the rainbow, this book teaches children about LGBTQIA+ identities through 17 different Pride flags. With fun facts, simple explanations and a short history of each flag accompanying beautiful illustrations, children will uncover the history of Pride and be introduced [...More](#)



Kapaemahu

By [Wong-Kalu, Hinaleimoana](#)

Author [Hamer, Dean](#)

Author [Wilson, Joe](#)

2022-06 - Kokila

9780593530061 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An Indigenous legend about how four extraordinary individuals of dual male and female spirit, or Mahu, brought healing arts from Tahiti to Hawaii, based on the Academy Award-contending short film.

In the 15th century, four Mahu sail from Tahiti to Hawaii and share their gifts of science and healing with the people of Waikiki. The islanders return this gift with a [...More](#)



Noodin's Perfect Day

By [Simpson, Ansley](#)

Illustrator [McGregor, Rhael](#)

2022-03 - Flamingo Rampant

9781999156251 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When Noodin's perfect day is interrupted, they decide to strike out for adventure instead - spending the day with their human, animal, and tree cousins in the city.

But will Noodin ever get the pancakes they're craving? Come along and find out!
[...More](#)



Big Wig

By [Hillman, Jonathan](#)

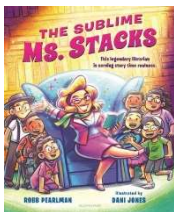
Illustrator [Hastings, Levi](#)

2022-02 - Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books

9781534487710 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In the spirit of *Julián Is a Mermaid*, this irrepressible picture book celebrates drag kids, individuality, and self-confidence from the perspective of a fabulous wig!

When a child dresses in drag to compete in a neighborhood costume competition, he becomes B. B. Bedazzle! A key part of B.B. Bedazzle's ensemble is a wig called Wig. Together they are an unstoppable drag queen
[...More](#)



The Sublime Ms. Stacks

By [Pearlman, Robb](#)

Illustrator [Jones, Dani](#)

2022-06 - Bloomsbury Publishing PLC

9781547607143 [Check Our Catalog](#)

***Miss Nelson is Missing* meets *Drag Race* in this vibrant picture book about a drag queen librarian from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Robb Pearlman.**

Librarian Mr. Stephen is great at helping people find their books. But when it comes to crafts and storytime . . . well, he tries his best. Luckily, there's a substitute librarian to liven up things-the [...More](#)



If You're a Drag Queen and You Know It

By [Hot Mess, Lil Miss](#)

Illustrator [de Dios Ruiz, Olga](#)

2022-05 - Running Press Kids

9780762475339 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Strike a pose. Blow a kiss. Mouth the words. A fun, sing-along book with a drag twist that encourage kids to embrace all the playfulness of drag culture written by a founding member of Drag Queen Story Hour.

If you're a drag queen and you know it, let it show by winking, shaking your bum, laughing real big, twirling around, and more! Join a cast of fabulous drag queens as you sing along [...More](#)



The Rainbow Parade

By [Neilson, Emily](#)

Illustrator [Neilson, Emily](#)

2022-05 - Dial Books
9780593326589 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A sweet and celebratory story of a family's first time at Pride

One day in June, Mommy, Mama, and Emily take the train into the city to watch the Rainbow Parade. The three of them love how all the people in the street are so loud, proud, and colorful, but when Mama suggests they join the parade, Emily feels nervous. Standing on the sidewalk is one thing, but walking in the parade? Surely [...More](#)



Strong

By [Kearney, Rob](#)

Author [Rosswood, Eric](#)

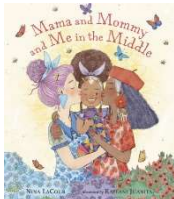
Illustrator [Chanani, Nidhi](#)

2022-05 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316292900 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A fresh, charming picture book that shows there are lots of ways to be STRONG.

Rob dreams of becoming a champion strongman. He wants to flip huge tires, lug boulders, and haul trucks -- and someday be the strongest man in the world! But he feels like he can't fit in with his bright leggings, unicorn T-shirts, and rainbow-dyed hair. Will Rob find a way to step into his true self and be a [...More](#)



Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle

By [Lacour, Nina](#)

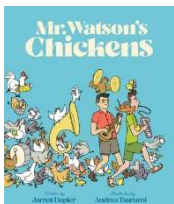
Illustrator [Juanita, Kaylani](#)

2022-03 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9781536211511 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A little girl stays home with Mama when Mommy goes off on a work trip in this tender, inviting story that will resonate with every child who has missed a parent.

For one little girl, there's no place she'd rather be than sitting between Mama and Mommy. So when Mommy goes away on a work trip, it's tricky to find a good place at the table. As the days go by, Mama brings her to the [...More](#)



Mr. Watson's Chickens

By [Dapier, Jarrett](#)

Illustrator [Tsurumi, Andrea](#)

2021-10 - Chronicle Books

9781452177144 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Interrupting Chicken meets Click, Clack, Moo in this zany classic-in-the-making!

With rollicking rhythms, nonsensical refrains, and too many chickens to count, this modern classic will inspire unstoppable giggles and endless rereads. Bawka-bawka!

Mr. Watson has 456 chickens in the sink, on the bed, in the bread box. When his partner, Mr. Nelson, threatens to leave, Mr. [...More](#)



They're So Flamboyant

By [Genhart, Michael](#)

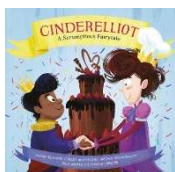
Illustrator [Neal, Tony](#)

2021-10 - Magination Press

9781433832789 [Check Our Catalog](#)

flam-boy-ant - (of a person-or bird!-or their behavior) tending to attract attention because of their confidence, exuberance, and stylishness

This fun and funny bird's-eye tome to individuality, community, and harmony follows the reactions of a neighborhood full of birds when a "flamboyance" of flamingos moves in. Each band of birds--a gaggle of geese, a dole of doves, a [...More](#)



Cinderelliot: A Scrumptious Fairytale

By [Ceilley, Mark](#)

Author [Smoka-Richardson, Rachel](#)

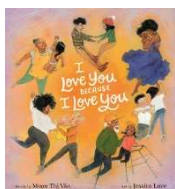
Illustrator [Laberis, Stephanie](#)

2022-05 - Running Press Kids

9780762499595 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A gay retelling of the classic fairy tale--a scrumptious love story featuring ungrateful stepsiblings, a bake-off, and a fairy godfather.

Cinderelliot is stuck at home taking care of his ungrateful stepsister and stepbrother. When Prince Samuel announces a kingdom-wide competition to join the royal staff as his baker, the stepsiblings insist that Cinderelliot bake their entries, leaving [...More](#)



I Love You Because I Love You

By [Van, Muon Thi](#)

Illustrator [Love, Jessica](#)

2022-01 - Katherine Tegen Books

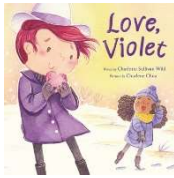
9780062894595 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Author Muon Thi Văn and Stonewall Book Award-winning artist Jessica Love detail all the big and small reasons why we love the people we do within a call-and-response picture book that features families across the spectrum.

"I love you because you tell the best stories."

Because I love you, my best story is you."

What are all the big [...More](#)



Love, Violet

By [Chua, Charlene](#)

Illustrator [Chua, Charlene](#)

2022-01 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

9780374313722 [Check Our Catalog](#)

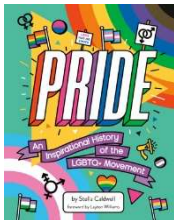
Perfect for Valentine's Day, *Love, Violet* by Charlotte Sullivan Wild and Charlene Chua is a touching picture book about friendship and the courage it takes to share your feelings.

A 2022 Lambda Literary Award Finalist

Only one person

makes Violet's heart skip

Of all the kids in Violet's class, only one leaves her speechless: [...More](#)



Pride: An Inspirational History of the LGBTQ+ Movement

By [Caldwell, Stella](#)

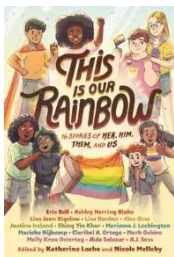
Foreword by [Williams, Layton](#)

2022-04 - Penguin Workshop

9780593382943 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Take pride in who you are! This inspiring history of the LGBTQ+ community enlightens young readers on the true timeline of LGBTQ+ history around the world, the lives of important figures like Harvey Milk, and iconic events like Stonewall.

The LGBTQ+ community is so much more than rainbow flags and the month of June. In this beautifully designed dynamic book, young readers will [...More](#)



This Is Our Rainbow: 16 Stories of Her, Him, Them, and Us

By [Locke, Katherine](#)

Editor [Melleby, Nicole](#)

2021-10 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9780593303948 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The first LGBTQ+ anthology for middle-graders featuring stories for every letter of the acronym, including realistic, fantasy, and sci-fi stories by authors like Justina Ireland, Marieke Nijkamp, Alex Gino, and more!

A boyband fandom becomes a conduit to coming out. A former bully becomes a first-kiss prospect. One nonbinary kid searches for an inclusive athletic community after [...More](#)



Manu: A Graphic Novel

By [Fernández, Kelly](#)

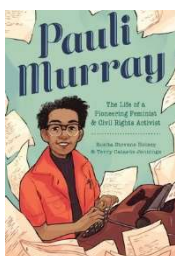
Illustrator [Fernández, Kelly](#)

2021-11 - Graphix

9781338264197 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A funny and heartwarming middle-grade graphic novel adventure about friendship, defying expectations, and finding your place.

Manu and her best friend, Josefina, live at a magical school for girls, and Manu is always getting into trouble. The headmistress believes that Manu has the potential to help people with her magic, but Manu would rather have fun than fall in line. One day, a prank [...More](#)



Pauli Murray: The Life of a Pioneering Feminist and Civil Rights Activist

By [Jennings, Terry Catasús](#)

Author [Stevens-Holsey, Rosita](#)

Illustrator [Fortson, Ashanti](#)

2022-02 - Yellow Jacket

9781499812510 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Pauli Murray was brilliant, outspoken, and committed to achieving dignity and equality for all under the law. Rising from poverty, Murray challenged pervasive race and sex discrimination and helped launch the two most important movements of the Twentieth Century: civil rights and women's rights. This new biography capsulizes important events and accomplishments of an iconoclast [...More](#)



Ellen Outside the Lines

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

2022-03 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780759556270 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Pink, Blue, and You!: Questions for Kids about Gender Stereotypes

By [Gravel, Elise](#)

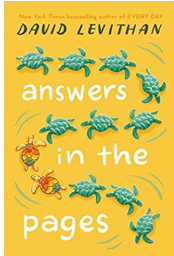
Author [Blais, Mykaell](#)

2022-03 - Anne Schwartz Books

9780593178645 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Simple, accessible, and direct, this picture book is perfect for kids and parents or teachers to read together, opening the door to conversations about gender stereotypes and everyone's right to be their true selves.

Is it okay for boys to cry? Can girls be strong? Should girls and boys be given different toys to play with and different clothes to wear? Should we all [...More](#)



Answers in the Pages

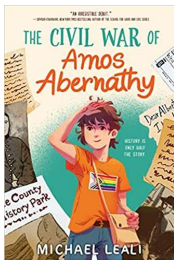
By [Levithan, David](#)

2022-05 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9780593484685 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A bold, timely novel about speaking up and coming out as parents lobby to ban a beloved book from the school curriculum by *New York Times*-bestselling author David Levithan.

When Donovan left his copy of *The Adventurers* on the kitchen counter, he didn't think his mom would read it--much less have a *problem* with it. It's just an adventure novel about two [...More](#)



The Civil War of Amos Abernathy

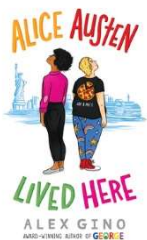
By [Leali, Michael](#)

2022-05 - HarperCollins

9780063119864 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A heartfelt debut novel about a boy's attempt to find himself in the history he loves--perfect for fans of *Dear Sweet Pea* and *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*.

Amos Abernathy lives for history. Literally. He's been a historical reenactor nearly all his life. But when a cute new volunteer arrives at his Living History Park, Amos finds himself wondering if [...More](#)



Alice Austen Lived Here

By [Gino, Alex](#)

2022-04 - Scholastic Press

9781338733891 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From the award-winning author of *George*, a phenomenal novel about queerness past, present, and future.

Sam is very in touch with their own queer identity. They're nonbinary, and their best friend, TJ, is nonbinary as well. Sam's family is very cool with it... as long as Sam remembers that nonbinary kids are also required to clean their rooms, do their homework, and [...More](#)



Small Town Pride

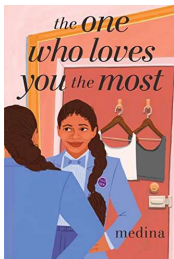
By [Stamper, Phil](#)

2022-05 - HarperCollins

9780063118782 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From acclaimed author Phil Stamper (*The Gravity of Us* and *As Far as You'll Take Me*) comes a poignant coming-of-age, contemporary middle grade debut novel about finding your place, using your voice, and the true meaning of pride. Perfect for fans of *Rick* by Alex Gino and *The Best at It* by Maulik Pancholy.

Jake is just starting to enjoy [...More](#)



The One Who Loves You Most

By [Medina](#)

2022-05 - Levine Querido

9781646140909 [Check Our Catalog](#)

I have never felt like I belonged to my body. Never in the way rhythm belongs to a song or waves belong to an ocean.

It seems like most people figure out where they belong by knowing where they came from. When they look in the mirror, they see their family in their eyes, in their sharp jawlines, in the texture of their hair. When they look at family photos, they see faces of people [...More](#)



Obie Is Man Enough

By [Bailar, Schuyler](#)

2021-10 - Crown Books for Young Readers

9780593379479 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A coming-of-age story about transgender tween Obie, who didn't think being himself would cause such a splash. For fans of Alex Gino's *George* and Lisa Bunker's *Felix Yz*.

Obie knew his transition would have ripple effects. He has to leave his swim coach, his pool, and his best friends. But it's time for Obie to find where he truly belongs.

As Obie dives into a new [...More](#)



In the Key of Us

By [Lockington, Mariama J.](#)

2022-04 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

9780374314101 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From the author of the critically acclaimed novel *For Black Girls Like Me*, Mariama J. Lockington, comes a coming-of-age story surrounding the

losses that threaten to break us and the friendships that make us whole again.

Thirteen-year-old Andi feels stranded after the loss of her mother, the artist who swept color onto Andi's blank canvas. When she is accepted to a music [...More](#)



Fight + Flight

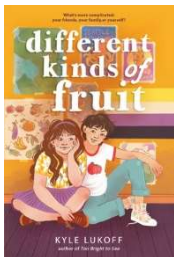
By [Machias, Jules](#)

2022-05 - Quill Tree Books

9780063053946 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Jules Machias, author of Indie Next List Pick *Both Can Be True*, delivers another inspiring story about how an unexpected friendship transforms the lives of two middle schoolers.

Avery Hart lives for the thrill and speed of her dirt bike and the pounding *thump* of her drum kit. But after she's diagnosed with hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, a disease [...More](#)



Different Kinds of Fruits

By [Lukoff, Kyle](#)

2022-04 - Dial Books

9780593111185 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this funny and hugely heartfelt novel from the Newbery Honor-winning author of *Too Bright to See*, a sixth-grader's life is turned upside down when she learns her dad is trans

Annabelle Blake fully expects this school year to be the same as every other: same teachers, same classmates, same, same, same. So she's elated to discover there's a new kid in town. To Annabelle, Bailey [...More](#)



Tiger Honor

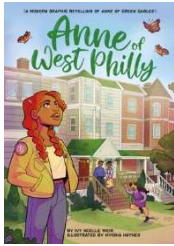
By [Lee, Yoon](#)

2022-01 - Rick Riordan Presents

9781368055543 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Best-selling author Rick Riordan presents Yoon Ha Lee's companion to the best-selling and award-winning *DRAGON PEARL*, another space opera inspired by Korean mythology, this time told from the point of view of a nonbinary tiger spirit.

A zesty mix of Korean folklore, magic, and science fiction that will leave you *longing* for more adventures in the Thousand [...More](#)



Anne of West Philly: A Modern Graphic Retelling of Anne of Green Gables

By [Weir, Ivy Noelle](#)

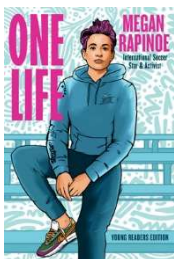
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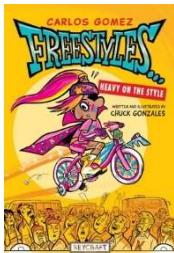
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