



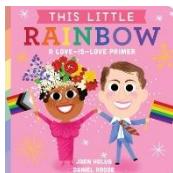
Inclusive Literature Lists

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 2023 Inclusive Literature



This Little Rainbow: A Love-Is-Love Primer

By [Holub, Joan](#)

Illustrator [Roode, Daniel](#)

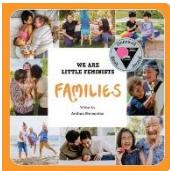
2021-10 - Little Simon

9781534475601 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Learn all about important leaders who represent, empower, and support the LGBTQIA+ community in this engaging board book perfect for proud leaders-in-training

Now even the youngest readers can learn all about important people who are from or helped support the LGBTQIA+ community. Highlighting ten memorable people who paved the way, parents and little ones alike will love this discovery

[...More](#)



We Are Little Feminists: Families

By [Shrivastav, Archaa](#)

2022-03 - Little Feminist Press

9781734182460 [Check Our Catalog](#)

2021 Stonewall Award Winner! The first ever board book to win an American Library Association medal - now includes discussion guide with age-appropriate questions for parents and educators.

Beautiful, full-color photos of real LGBTQ and ally families showcase all the wonderful forms of family, gender, and sexuality in this fun and award-winning board book. Each spread [...More](#)



My Family, Your Family!

By [Cole, Kathryn](#)

Illustrator [Li, Cornelia](#)

2020-09 - Second Story Press

9781772601336 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This book includes a diverse array of characters and celebrates gay parents, single parents, blended families, and other family groups rarely seen in board books.

[...More](#)



Together: A First Conversation about Love

By [Madison, Megan](#)

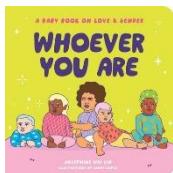
Author [Ralli, Jessica](#)

Illustrator [Passchier](#)

2022-12 - Rise X Penguin Workshop

9780593520963 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Whoever You Are: A Baby Book on Love & Gender

By [Wai Lin, Josephine](#)

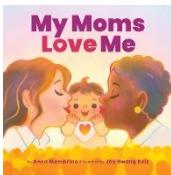
Illustrator [Lopez, Sandy](#)

2022-09 - Collective Book Studio

9781951412944 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"With effusively inclusive rhyming language...this affectionate volume imbues a classic 'be yourself' narrative with gender-expansive affirmations, positioning guardians as partners in their children's journey to 'find what's authentic & true.'" --*Publishers Weekly*

Quiet and loud, soft and strong. You being you, there's no way to be [...More](#)



My Moms Love Me

By [Membrino, Anna](#)

Illustrator [Hwang Ruiz, Joy](#)

2022-03 - Orchard Books

9781338811964 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Cuddle up and celebrate love in this picture book that shines a spotlight on LGBTQ+ moms!

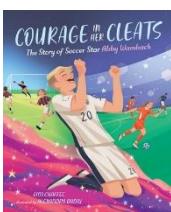
"A hug from Mommy, warm and tight.

A squeeze from Mama feels just right.

This is how my mommies say,

'We love you, baby, night and day!"'

Two mommies share a perfect day with their little one in this joyful picture book! From visiting animals on a farm [...More](#)



Courage in Her Cleats: The Story of Soccer Star Abby Wambach

By [Chaffee, Kim](#)

Illustrator [Badiu, Alexandra](#)

2023-01 - Page Street Kids

9781645676294 [Check Our Catalog](#)

As a child, Abby Wambach was loud and clear about what she wanted and what she didn't, and she didn't want to be left out of any competition--especially soccer.

In this powerful biography, readers will dance and dart down fields with Abby as she slingshots--balls thwump... whiz... whoosh--straight into goals, sweating and scoring her way from school league leader to U.S. Women's National [...More](#)



No One Owns the Colors

By [Davy, Gianna](#)

Illustrator [Rodriguez, Brenda](#)

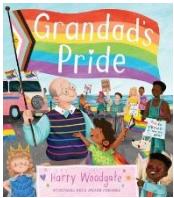
2023-02 - Collective Book Studio

9781951412968 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Bookstagang Best of 2023 Picture Book Award Winner Best Read Aloud

For every young artist scolded for using the "wrong" color crayon, every boy teased for wearing a pastel shirt, every girl denied blue shoes, here's the perfect response: All colors are for everyone. Just ask Nature!

No One Owns the Colors is a lively celebration of self-expression and a bolstering [...More](#)



Grandad's Pride

By [Woodgate, Harry](#)

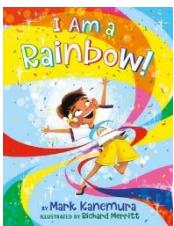
2023-04 - Little Bee Books

9781499814613 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Grandad and Milly are back for another adventure, this time honoring the past and celebrating the future with a pride parade. This heartwarming tale continues to wonderful journey that began with the Stonewall Honoree, British Book Award winner, and Waterstones Best Illustrated Book, *Grandad's Camper*.

Top Ten Titles for Young Readers - ALA Rainbow List

<="" font=""> [...More](#)



I Am a Rainbow!

By [Kanemura, Mark](#)

Illustrator [Merritt, Richard](#)

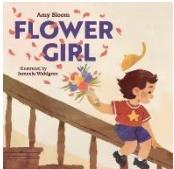
With [Foxe, Steve](#)

2023-05 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316167789 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A professional dancer, LGBTQIA+ advocate, and social media star shares this inspiring picture book based on his childhood in Hawaii and encourages readers to find safe spaces that allow them to shine bright.

Mark loves putting on shows, dressing up, and dancing! But what makes him happy at home gets him teased at school. To remind Mark that his unique light makes the world a [...More](#)



Flower Girl

By [Bloom, Amy](#)

Illustrator [Wahlgren, Jameela](#)

2023-05 - Norton Young Readers

9781324030355 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



The Good Hair Day

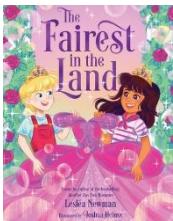
By [Trimmer, Christian](#)

Illustrator [Yang, J.](#)

2023-05 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419745881 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



The Fairest in the Land

By [Newman, Lesléa](#)

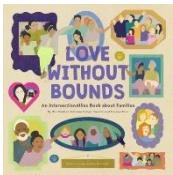
Illustrator [Heinsz, Joshua](#)

2023-05 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419757099 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Fairest in the Land is a heartwarming, inclusive picture-book story about self-expression and friendship, from Stonewall Honor-winning author Lesléa Newman with full-color illustrations by Joshua Heinsz.

When it comes to playing dress-up, best friends Annabelle and Benjamin both want to be the bride, the ballerina, and the princess. Can they both be the fairest in the land? [...More](#)



Intersectionallies: Love Without Bounds

By [Johnson, Chelsea](#)

Author [Council, Latoya](#)

Author [Choi, Carolyn](#)

2023-01 - Dottir Press

9781948340519 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This follow-up to the critically acclaimed *IntersectionAllies: We Make Room for All* honors the diversity of family life and what family can mean based on our intersecting identities and experiences.

Written by three celebrated women of color sociologists, ***Love without Bounds: An IntersectionAllies Book about Families*** is a joyful, [...More](#)



The You Kind of Kind

By [West, Nina](#)

Illustrator [Evans, Hayden](#)

2022-10 - Princeton Architectural Press

9781616899943 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Queerty Award Nominee for "Best Read"

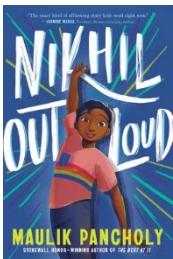
Go Big!

Be Kind!

Be You!

Welcome to a magical adventure to discover kindness in the world--especially the kind inside you.

In this heartfelt and joyous story, little Nina embarks on a boisterous day of exploration, a colorful day where she sets out to find, well, Kind. With a backpack full of her favorite things, Nina guides [...More](#)



Nikhil Out Loud

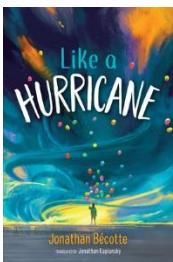
By [Pancholy, Maulik](#)

2022-10 - Balzer & Bray/Harperteen

9780063091924 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Lambda Literary Award Winner for LGBTQ+ Middle Grade

From the acclaimed actor and Stonewall Honor-winning author of *The Best at It*, Maulik Pancholy, comes a new middle grade novel about a gay Indian American boy who learns the power of using his voice. For fans of *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* and *Better Nate Than ...*[More](#)



Like a Hurricane

By [Bécotte, Jonathan](#)

Translator [Kaplansky, Jonathan](#)

2023-02 - Orca Book Publishers

9781459835238 [Check Our Catalog](#)

★"Immediately takes one's breath away with its poetry and power...Deeply affecting. An ideal tool to illustrate poetic elements or emphasize stories of sharing scary yet necessary truths."--*School Library Journal*, starred review

A young teen's secret is tearing him apart.

He knows he is gay but is afraid to share this knowledge with his parents or [...More](#)



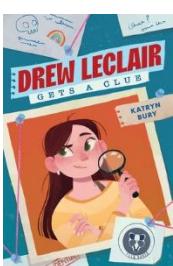
Juniper Harvey and the Vanishing Kingdom

By [Varela, Nina](#)

2023-02 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316706780 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Drew LeClair Gets a Clue

By [Bury, Kathryn](#)

2022-03 - Clarion Books

9780358639602 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this modern take on *Harriet the Spy*, twelve-year-old Drew uses her true crime expertise to catch the cyberbully in her school--only to discover that family, friendship, and identity are the hardest mysteries to solve.

Drew Leclair knows what it takes to be a great detective. She's pored over the cases solved by her hero, criminal profiler Lita Miyamoto. She [...More](#)



Flor Fights Back: A Stonewall Riots Survival Story

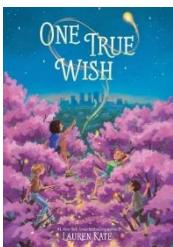
By [Ellison, Joy Michael](#)

Illustrator [Ficorilli, Francesca](#)

2023-01 - Stone Arch Books

9781669013945 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



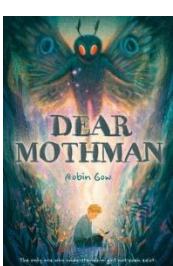
One True Wish

By [Kate, Lauren](#)

2023-04 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781665910569 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Dear Mothman

By [Gow, Robin](#)

2023-03 - Harry N. Abrams

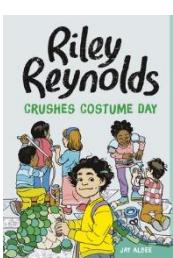
9781419764400 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Winner, LGBTQ+ Middle Grade Lammy Award (Lambda Literary Award)

Robin Gow's acclaimed middle grade novel in verse about a young trans boy dealing with the loss of his friend by writing to his favorite cryptid, Mothman

Moving and lyrical, *Dear Mothman* is a story about finding belonging and hope in the most unexpected places.

A few months ago, Noah's best friend [...More](#)



Riley Reynolds Crushes Costume Day

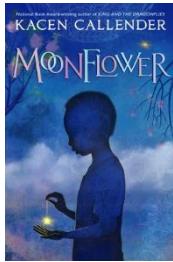
By [Albee, Jay](#)

Illustrator [Albee, Jay](#)

2022-08 - Stone Arch Books

9781666344080 [Check Our Catalog](#)

It's book week at school, and nonbinary fourth grader Riley and their best friends craft hard for the Dress Like Your Favorite Character Day. Colorful fabric! Paint! Glitter! They are ready to make the biggest and best group costume ever! But most of the other kids are having trouble coming up with costumes. Riley is ready to use their creativity and vision to help as many kids as possible so [...More](#)



Moonflower

By [Callender, Kacen](#)

2022-09 - Scholastic Press

9781338636598 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Kacen Callender, National Book Award winner of King and the Dragonflies, delivers a stunning novel that invites readers into a child's struggles with mental health, and their journey to wholeness.

Moon's depression is overwhelming. Therapy doesn't help, and Moon is afraid that their mom hates them because they're sad. Moon's only escape is traveling to the spirit realms every [...More](#)



Sir Callie and the Champions of Helston

By [Symes-Smith, Esme](#)

2022-11 - Labyrinth Road

9780593485774 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In a magical medieval world filled with dragons, shape-shifters, and witches, a twelve-year-old nonbinary hopeful knight battles for the heart of their kingdom. This *USA Today* bestselling series explores identity and gender amid sword fights and magic, and proves anyone can be a hero.

"These heroes come in all shapes and skills--I cheered for them throughout their exciting journey." [...More](#)

Welcome to Chinatown

By [Low, William](#)

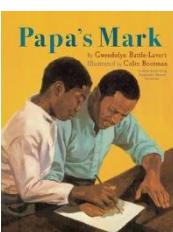
Illustrator [Low, William](#)

2023-01 - Godwin Books

9781250841995 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Welcome to Chinatown. There is so much to see. People practicing tai-chi, shoe cobblers, rows of herbs, outdoor fish markets, and more. And best of all, when the Lunar New Year begins, there's a New Year's Day parade, complete with a lion dance.

This bilingual board book adaptation of William Low's *Chinatown* is a feast for the eyes and a celebration of the ordinary and the [...More](#)



Papa's Mark

By [Battle-Lavert, Gwendolyn](#)

Illustrator [Bootman, Colin](#)

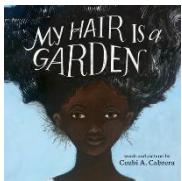
2023-01 - Holiday House

9780823453702 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this timely reissue, a father and son help their community claim the right to vote in the post Civil-War South.

A son teaches his father how to write his name so he can vote for the first time in this historical tale filled with warmth and strength by Coretta Scott King Honor winner Colin Bootman's expressive oil paintings.

In a new author's note, veteran teacher and [...More](#)



My Hair Is a Garden

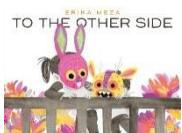
By [Cabrera, Cozbi A.](#)

Illustrator [Cabrera, Cozbi A.](#)

2018-04 - Albert Whitman & Company

9780807509234 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Taunted for her unruly hair, Mackenzie seeks guidance from her wise and comforting neighbor, Miss Tillie. Using the beautiful garden in the backyard as a metaphor, Miss Tillie shows Mackenzie that natural black hair is beautiful. Full color.. [...More](#)



To the Other Side

By [Meza, Erika](#)

Illustrator [Meza, Erika](#)

2023-03 - Katherine Tegen Books

9780063073166 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Author-illustrator Erika Meza delivers a stunning and emotionally rich book from the viewpoint of those most impacted by border walls: young refugee children. This powerfully told tale highlights the spirit and strength of those embarking on a dangerous trek, and what awaits them on the other side.

Yoto Carnegie Medal Shortlist * New York Public Library Best Book [...More](#)



Still Dreaming / Seguimos Soñando

By [Martínez, Claudia Guadalupe](#)

Illustrator [Mora, Magdalena](#)

Translator [Crosthwaite, Luis Humberto](#)

2022-10 - Children's Book Press (CA)

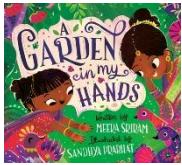
9780892394340 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

Pura Belpré Illustrator Award Honor 2023 - American Library Association (ALA)

A 2023 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award Honor

In the first children's book to describe the long-forgotten chapter of US history known as Mexican Repatriation, a boy and his family leave their beloved home to avoid being separated by the government.

En el primer libro infantil que [...More](#)



A Garden in My Hands

By [Sriram, Meera](#)

Illustrator [Prabhat, Sandhya](#)

2023-04 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9780593427101 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



A Dupatta Is...

By [Abbas, Marzieh](#)

Illustrator [Chouhan, Anu](#)

2023-04 - Feiwel & Friends

9781250820945 [Check Our Catalog](#)

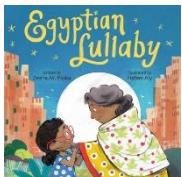
A Dupatta Is..., written by Marzieh Abbas and vividly brought to life by the artwork of Anu Chouhan, is a loving and lyrical ode to the dupatta.

A dupatta is so much more than a beautiful piece of fabric.

A dupatta is sound--swooshing and swashing like a superhero cape.

A dupatta is scent--cinnamon and cardamom, crushed coriander and peppermint oil.

A dupatta [...More](#)



Egyptian Lullaby

By [Pliska, Zeena M.](#)

Illustrator [Aly, Hatem](#)

2023-04 - Roaring Brook Press

9781250222497 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A rich, beautifully layered ode to the great city of Cairo, Egypt, its people, and culture.

Every night, my Ametti Fatma sings the sounds of Egypt to me as I fall asleep.

This is the Nile,

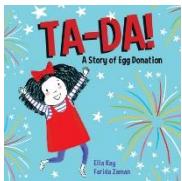
that flows through the city.

Swish, swoosh, swish.

This is the boat,

that glides on the Nile,

<="" font=""> [...More](#)



Ta-Da! a Story of Egg Donation

By [Kay, Ella](#)

Illustrator [Zaman, Farida](#)

2022-09 - Second Story Press

9781772602470 [Check Our Catalog](#)

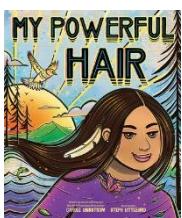
Life was great.

But we asked, "what could make it better?"

...and the answer was you!

A curious little girl loves to ask questions. Most of all, she loves to hear how she was made with the help of an egg donor! A quirky, funny, and celebratory story that teaches kids about one of the many ways babies join a family.

[...More](#)



My Powerful Hair

By [Lindstrom, Carole](#)

Illustrator [Littlebird, Steph](#)

2023-03 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419759437 [Check Our Catalog](#)

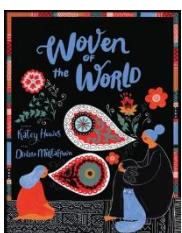
From the award-winning and bestselling author of *We Are Water Protectors* comes an empowering picture book about family history, self-expression, and reclaiming your identity

Our ancestors say our hair is our memories,

our source of strength and power,

a celebration of our lives.

Mom never had long hair-she was told it was too wild. [...More](#)



Woven of the World

By [Howes, Katey](#)

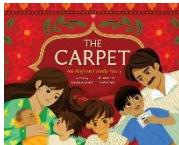
Author [Mirtalipova, Dinara](#)

2023-02 - Chronicle Books

9781452178066 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Told from the perspective of a young girl learning to weave, *Woven of the World* is a lyrical meditation on the ancient art of weaving and what this beautiful craft can teach us.

As rhythmic as the swish of a loom, and as vibrant as a skein of brightly dyed wool, this lyrical picture book shares the history and practice of weaving through the centuries and around the world, as [...More](#)



The Carpet: An Afghan Family Story

By [Azaad, Dezh](#)

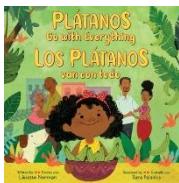
Illustrator [Cao, Nan](#)

2023-04 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419763618 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This poignant story, about an Afghan refugee child and the family carpet that connects them to home, inspires readers to live and learn in love, not fear

The Carpet follows a day in the life of an Afghan refugee child, where every moment revolves around love, family, and the carpet that connects them to home. The carpet is the centerpiece of family life, where meals, stories, [...More](#)



Plátanos Go with Everything: Bilingual Edition

By [Norman, Lissette](#)

Illustrator [Palacios, Sara](#)

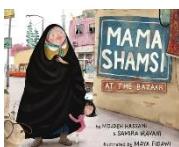
2023-01 - HarperCollins

9780063247789 [Check Our Catalog](#)

With the English and Spanish text side by side on the page, this bilingual edition of the vibrant picture book celebrating the strength of community and the versatility of plátanos is ideal for bilingual readers as well as Spanish speakers learning English and vice versa.

A 2024 Bank Street Best Spanish Language Picture Book!

Paletero Man [...More](#)



Mama Shamsi at the Bazaar

By [Hassani, Mojdeh](#)

Author [Iravani, Samira](#)

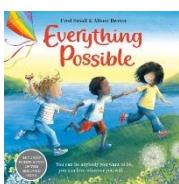
Illustrator [Fidawi, Maya](#)

2023-02 - Dial Books

9780593110614 [Check Our Catalog](#)

It's market day for Samira and her grandma! The bazaar is crowded, but this sweet pair knows how to stick together in this silly picture book set in Iran.

Mama Shamsi is off to the market, and today, Samira gets to go with her! Samira loves spending time with her grandmother, and she especially loves her chador, which Mama Shamsi wraps around herself every time they leave the house. As [...More](#)



Everything Possible

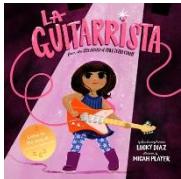
By [Small, Fred](#)

Illustrator [Brown, Alison](#)

2023-05 - Nosy Crow
9798887770222 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A joyful and inclusive lullaby about love, acceptance, and following your heart . . .

Strong and bold, or quiet and kind, every child is unique and their future filled with possibilities. Based on Fred Small's iconic folk song that became an anthem for generations, *Everything Possible* celebrates love and friendship, gently encouraging children to dream their own dream and choose [...More](#)



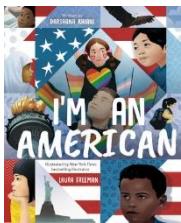
La Guitarrista

By [Diaz, Lucky](#)
Illustrator [Player, Micah](#)
2023-05 - HarperCollins
9780063254152 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From the creators of *Paletero Man*-Latin Grammy-winning musician Lucky Diaz and celebrated artist Micah Player-comes a story about a tenacious girl who achieves her wildest dreams with a little help from her community and a broken guitar.

Strum! Strum! Strum! Get ready to rock with la guitarrista!

When Canta finds a guitar in the trash, she is one step closer [...More](#)



I'm an American

By [Khiani, Darshana](#)
Illustrator [Freeman, Laura](#)
2023-05 - Viking Books for Young Readers
9780593464724 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A breathtaking, eye-opening look at the patchwork of cultures that make up our nation and the many ways we define what it means to be an American.

One of Chicago Public Library's Best Books of 2023!

What does it mean to be American?

A classroom of children across many races, cultures, and origins explores the concept of Americanness as they each share bits of their family [...More](#)

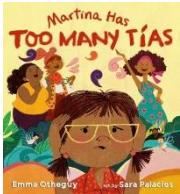


Salat in Secret

By [Thompkins-Bigelow, Jamilah](#)
Illustrator [Aly, Hatem](#)
2023-06 - Random House Studio
9781984848093 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From the critically acclaimed author of *Your Name Is a Song* and the bestselling illustrator of *The Proudest Blue* comes a story about a Muslim boy who receives a salat (prayer) rug on his seventh birthday and becomes empowered about his faith.

In this beautiful story of community, family, and acceptance, a boy named Muhammad receives a special salat rug on his seventh [...More](#)



Martina Has Too Many Tías

By [Otheguy, Emma](#)

Illustrator [Palacios, Sara](#)

2023-06 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781534445369 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



We Are One

By [Kramer, Jackie Azúa](#)

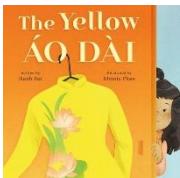
Illustrator [Figueroa, Raissa](#)

Illustrator [Mata, Niña](#)

2023-05 - Two Lions

9781542016940 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



The Yellow Áo Dài

By [Bui, Hanh](#)

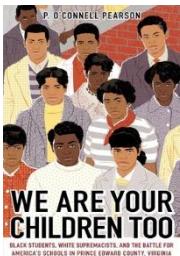
Illustrator [Phan, Minnie](#)

2023-04 - Feiwel & Friends

9781250842060 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Lovingly illustrated by Minnie Phan, Hanh Bui's debut picture book, *The Yellow Áo Dai*, is a warm story of family, identity, and remembering those who came before.

Naliah is excited to perform a traditional Vietnamese Fan Dance at her school's International Day. When she finds that her special áo dai no longer fits right, she goes to her mom's closet to find [...More](#)



We Are Your Children Too: Black Students, White Supremacists, and the Battle for America's Schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia

By [Pearson](#)

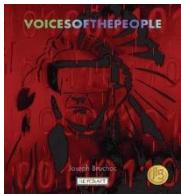
2023-01 - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

9781665901390 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This "detailed, fascinating" (*Booklist*, starred review) nonfiction middle grade book explores a deeply troubling chapter in American history that is still playing out today: the strange case of Prince Edward County, Virginia,

the only place in the United States to ever formally deny its citizens a public education, and the students who pushed back.

In 1954, after the passing of [...More](#)



Voices of the People

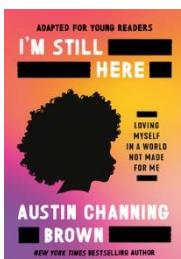
By [Bruchac, Joseph](#)

With [Various Artists](#)

2022-11 - Reycraft Books

9781478875161 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This critically reviewed and award-winning biographical poetry book will take you on a beautifully illustrated journey through time, while these poems capture the essence of each person's life. Acclaimed Native American writer, Joseph Bruchac, introduces readers to famous indigenous leaders, from The Peacemaker in 1000 A.D. to modern day dancer Maria Tallchief and Cherokee chief Wilma Mankiller. [...More](#)



I'm Still Here (Adapted for Young Readers)

By [Channing Brown, Austin](#)

2023-04 - Convergent Books

9780593240182 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An adaptation of the powerful, *New York Times* bestselling account of growing up Black and female in America, completely rewritten with new stories for young readers.

Austin Channing Brown's first encounter with race in America came at age seven, when she discovered her parents named her Austin to trick future employers into thinking she was a white man. Growing up in [...More](#)



Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy

By [Thomas, Angie](#)

2023-04 - Balzer & Bray/HarperTeen

9780063225138 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Instant #1 *New York Times* bestseller!

Internationally bestselling superstar author Angie Thomas makes her middle grade debut with the launch of an inventive, hilarious, and suspenseful new contemporary fantasy trilogy inspired by African American history and folklore.

It's not easy being a Remarkable in the Unremarkable world. Some things [...More](#)



Controlled Burn

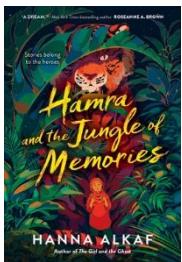
By [Downing, Erin](#)

2022-11 - Scholastic Press

9781338776027 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From acclaimed middle-grade and chapter-book author, Erin Soderberg Downing, *Controlled Burn* is a story that blends family, friendship, fire, and the rocky path toward healing our deepest fears.

Twelve-year-old Maia's parents say she's lucky she noticed something as early as she did. Lucky to have smelled the smoke, lucky to have pulled her sister, Amelia, out of their [...More](#)



Hamra and the Jungle of Memories

By [Alkaf, Hanna](#)

2023-03 - HarperCollins

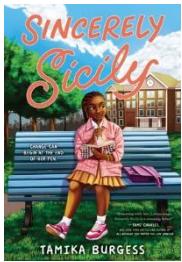
9780063207950 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A Malaysian spin on *Little Red Riding Hood* from the critically acclaimed author of *The Girl and the Ghost*, Hanna Alkaf.

Courage is the strongest magic there is.

On Hamra's thirteenth birthday, she receives nothing but endless nagging and yet another errand to run in the Langkawi jungle that looms behind her home.

No one has remembered her special [...More](#)



Sincerely Sicily

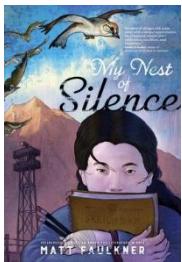
By [Burgess, Tamika](#)

2023-01 - HarperCollins

9780063159600 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From debut author Tamika Burgess comes the captivating and empowering story of Sicily Jordan-a Black Panamanian fashionista who rocks her braids with pride-who learns to use her voice and take pride in who she is while confronting prejudice in the most unexpected of places.

Sicily Jordan's worst nightmare has come true! She's been enrolled in a new school, with zero of her friends and [...More](#)



My Nest of Silence

By [Faulkner, Matt](#)

Illustrator [Faulkner, Matt](#)

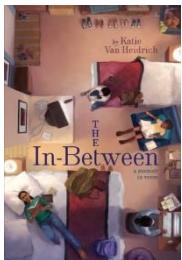
2022-10 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781534477629 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Evocative prose and illustrations bring to life...[the] heart-wrenching decisions and considerations that Japanese Americans had to face...[and] their endurance, sacrifices, and resilience, even as their loyalty was

questioned without cause." --Susan H. Kamei, author of *When Can We Go Back to America?*

Told in a brilliant blend of prose and graphic novel, this unforgettable
[...More](#)



The In-Between

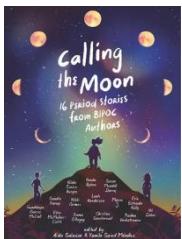
By [Wingate, Katie](#)

2023-01 - Aladdin Paperbacks

9781665920124 [Check Our Catalog](#)

For fans of *Enchanted Air* by Margarita Engle and *Life in Motion* by Misty Copeland, this middle grade memoir in verse with "stellar writing [and] perfect pacing" (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review) chronicles a young girl and her family who must start over after losing their home.

In the early 2000s, thirteen-year-old Katie Van Heidrich has moved more times than she can [...More](#)



My New Gift: 16 Period Stories from BIPOC Authors

By [Salazar, Aida](#)

Editor [Salazar, Aida](#)

Contribution by [Burgos, Hilda E.](#)

2023-03 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9781536216349 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An essential, highly relatable collection of short fiction and poems around the topic of menstruation, written exclusively by authors who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color

For Angela, it came on the basketball court--while playing on the boys' team. For Penny, it came on a school field trip to the lake (making for some cringeworthy moments of humor). And to Layla's [...More](#)



Mirror to Mirror

By [Larocca, Rajani](#)

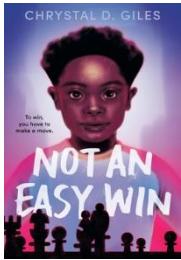
2023-03 - Quill Tree Books

9780063047471 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Rajani LaRocca, recipient of a Newbery Honor and Walter Award for *Red, White, and Whole*, is back with an evocative novel in verse about identical twin sisters who do everything together--until external pressures threaten to break them apart.

Maya is the pragmatic twin, but her secret anxiety threatens to overwhelm her.

Chaya is the outgoing twin. When she sees her [...More](#)



Not an Easy Win

By [Giles, Chrystal D.](#)

2023-02 - Random House Books for Young Readers

9780593175217 [Check Our Catalog](#)

FOUR STARRED REVIEWS!

Twelve-year old Lawrence is new to chess--can he find a way to get on the board, even though the odds are stacked against him?

Find out in this powerful novel about family, forgiveness, and figuring out who you are when you don't make the rules--just right for middle-grade fans of Nic Stone and Jason Reynolds.

****Essential middle grade and tween [...More](#)**



The Enchanted Life of Valentina Mejia

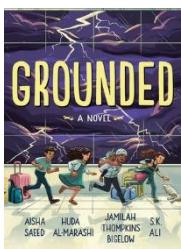
By [Alessandri, Alexandra](#)

2023-02 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781665917056 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Encanto meets The Chronicles of Narnia by way of Colombian folklore in this middle grade fantasy adventure. To save their father's life, a brother and sister must journey across a land full of mythical creatures and find the most powerful and dangerous of them all: the madremonte.

Twelve-year-old Valentina wants to focus on drawing the real world around her and hopefully get [...More](#)



Grounded

By [Saeed, Aisha](#)

Author [Ali, S. K.](#)

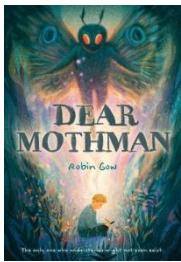
Author [Thompkins-Bigelow, Jamilah](#)

2023-05 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419761751 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Four kids meet at an airport for one unforgettable night in this middle-grade novel by four bestselling and award-winning authors--Aisha Saeed, Huda Al-Marashi, Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, and S. K. Ali.

When a thunderstorm grounds all flights following a huge Muslim convention, four unlikely kids are thrown together. Feek is stuck babysitting his younger sister, but he'd rather be [...More](#)



Dear Mothman

By [Gow, Robin](#)

2023-03 - Harry N. Abrams

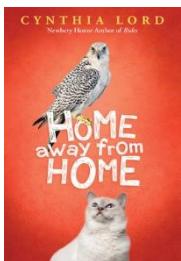
9781419764400 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Winner, LGBTQ+ Middle Grade Lammy Award (Lambda Literary Award)

Robin Gow's acclaimed middle grade novel in verse about a young trans boy dealing with the loss of his friend by writing to his favorite cryptid, Mothman

Moving and lyrical, *Dear Mothman* is a story about finding belonging and hope in the most unexpected places.

A few months ago, Noah's best friend [...More](#)



Home Away from Home

By [Lord, Cynthia](#)

2023-04 - Scholastic Press

9781338726114 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From Newbery Honor Winner Cynthia Lord, a brilliant story about how to find home when everything around us is changing.

Mia and her mom visit Grandma in Maine every summer, but this year Mia is going alone. Her mom will stay behind to get their house ready to sell. It'll be a new start, she says, after the divorce.

Mia doesn't want a new start. She'd rather everything just [...More](#)



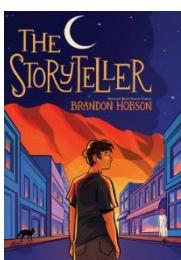
Creatures of the in Between

By [Lin, Cindy](#)

2023-04 - HarperCollins

9780063064799 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Storyteller

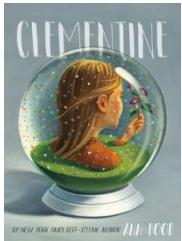
By [Hobson, Brandon](#)

2023-05 - Scholastic Press

9781338797268 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From National Book Award finalist Brandon Hobson, a kaleidoscopic middle-grade adventure that mixes the anxieties, friendships, and wonders of a Cherokee boy's life with Cherokee history and lore.

Ziggy has ANXIETY. Partly this is because of the way his mind works, and how overwhelmed he can get when other people (especially his classmate Alice) are in the room. And partly it's [...More](#)



Clementine

By [Hood, Ann](#)

2023-05 - Penguin Workshop

9780593094105 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)