



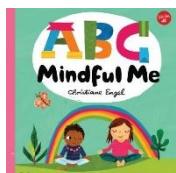
Inclusive Literature Lists

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.

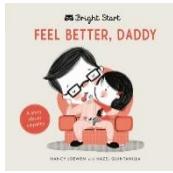
January 2020: Mental Health and Wellness



ABC for Me: ABC Mindful Me: ABCs for a Happy, Healthy Mind & Body
By [Walter Foster Jr Creative Team](#)
2018-03 - Walter Foster Jr
9781633225107 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Pairing simplified mindfulness principles with each letter of the alphabet, *ABC Mindful Me* features colorful illustrations of children and animals, as well as playful rhymes to explain each concept to toddlers (and their parents).

A fun read for the entire family, *ABC Mindful Me* is not only perfect for teaching toddlers their ABCs, but also for [...More](#)



Bright Start - Feel Better Daddy

By [Loewen, Nancy](#)

Author [Quintanilla, Hazel Michelle](#)

2019-03 - Words & Pictures

9781786033048 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Daddy's nose is red. His eyes are sleepy. How can we make him feel better? Part of the Bright Start series, *Feel Better, Daddy* introduces and helps develop the idea of empathy for children aged 1-3.

A big pot of "soup," a beautiful drawing, a snuggle--a girl explores the different ways she can show empathy when her daddy is sick.

With simple stories and engaging [...More](#)



Bright Start - A Thank You Walk

By [Loewen, Nancy](#)

Illustrator [Quintanilla, Hazel Michelle](#)

2019-03 - Words & Pictures

9781786033024 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Let's all go on a thank you walk together. How many ways can you say thank you? Part of the Bright Start series, *A Thank You Walk* introduces and helps develop the idea of gratitude in children aged 1-3.

A dog's tail wagging, a bird's chirping, a horse's neighs, a child's smile--a mother and daughter discover different ways of expressing gratitude as they take the family [...More](#)



Bright Start - One More Time

By [Loewen, Nancy](#)

Author [Quintanilla, Hazel Michelle](#)

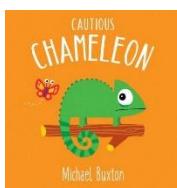
2019-09 - Words & Pictures

9780711244412 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Whee Whoa Whoops Ready to try again? *One More Time* introduces and develops the idea of perseverance for children aged 1-3.

A boy gets a beautiful, blue scooter for his birthday. At first he falls, but after about "a bazillion" tries, he learns the benefits of perseverance.

With simple stories and engaging illustrations, the **Bright Start** series of board [...More](#)



Cautious chameleon

Author:

[Buxton, Michael, author, illustrator.](#)

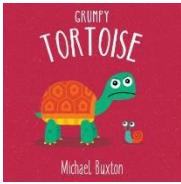
ISBN: 9781610678926

Subject: [Chameleons -- Juvenile fiction.](#)

[Individuality -- Juvenile fiction.](#)

[Picture books for children.](#)

[Board books.](#)



Grumpy tortoise

Author:

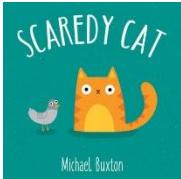
[Buxton, Michael, illustrator.](#)

ISBN: 9781610678902

Subject: [Testudinidae -- Juvenile fiction.](#)

[Mood \(Psychology\) -- Juvenile fiction.](#)

[Board books.](#)



Scaredy Cat

Author:

[Buxton, Michael \(Artist\), author, illustrator.](#)

ISBN: 9781610678933

Subject: [Cats -- Juvenile fiction.](#)

[Fear -- Juvenile fiction.](#)

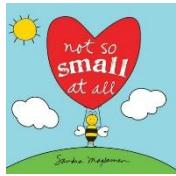
[Friendship -- Juvenile fiction.](#)

[Cats -- Fiction.](#)

[Fear -- Fiction.](#)

[Emotions -- Fiction.](#)

[Friendship -- Fiction](#)



Not So Small at All

By [Magsamen, Sandra](#)

2018-01 - Sourcebooks Wonderland

9781492660811 [Check Our Catalog](#)

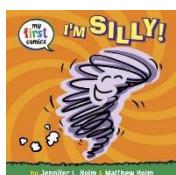
Have you ever felt like you're just too small

to do important stuff in the world at all?

Well, take a closer look, and then you'll see

that the smallest of things are as AMAZING as can be

Little things are capable of giant accomplishments. Bees, butterflies, and little children too may seem small but are actually full of great strength and [...More](#)



I'm Silly! (My First Comics)

By [Holm, Jennifer L.](#)

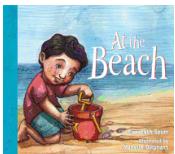
Illustrator [Holm, Matthew](#)

2017-05 - Random House Books for Young Readers

9780553533484 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Parents looking for funny books to read to their babies and toddlers have something to cheer about--a new comic board-book series about feelings from Jennifer and Matthew Holm

In *I'm Silly*, a hyperactive tornado gets a bit TOO goofy and ruins his friends' tea party. A sweet, funny, and simple introduction to the impact that emotions can have on the people around you from the [...More](#)



At the Beach

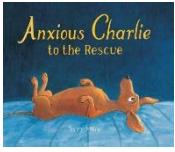
By [Spurr, Elizabeth](#)

Illustrator [Oliphant, Manelle](#)

2013-04 - Peachtree Petite

9781561455836 [Check Our Catalog](#)

During a day at the beach, a young boy digs in the sand and makes a sand birthday cake, then loses it to the waves. His mother distracts him with a picnic and he falls asleep at the end of a full and happy day. Full color. [...More](#)



Anxious Charlie to the Rescue

By [Milne, Terry](#)

Illustrator [Milne, Terry](#)

2019-10 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9781536209167 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A friend in need causes an anxious pup to confront his fear of change in this thoughtful and encouraging tale.

Charlie follows the same routine every day: he hops out of bed in the morning, walks the same route to the market, and lines up his stuffed animals just so in the evening. If anything is slightly different, Charlie worries that something bad might happen. But when friends call [...More](#)



My Big, Dumb, Invisible Dragon

By [Lucas, Angie](#)

Illustrator [Sif, Birgitta](#)

2019-07 - Sounds True

9781683641841 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When a young boy loses his mother, an invisible dragon swoops in and perches on top of his head. A most unwelcome guest, the dragon follows him to school, sleeps on his chest at night (making it hard for him to breathe), and even crashes his birthday party. As the boy comes to terms with his mother's death, however, his relationship with the dragon changes in surprising ways.

My Big, [...More](#)



In My Heart: A Book of Feelings

By [Witek, Jo](#)

Illustrator [Roussey, Christine](#)

2014-10 - Harry N. Abrams

9781419713101 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The team behind "Hello in There!" explores a full range of emotions through language that is lyrical but also direct. Toddlers will be empowered by this new vocabulary and can practice articulating and identifying their own emotions. Full color. [...More](#)



Maybe tomorrow?

Author: [Agell, Charlotte author](#)

ISBN: 9781338214888

Subject: [Grief -- Juvenile fiction.](#)

[Sadness -- Juvenile fiction.](#)

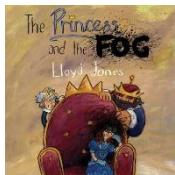
[Friendship -- Juvenile fiction.](#)

[Grief -- Fiction.](#)

[Sadness -- Fiction.](#)

[Friendship -- Fiction.](#)

[JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Friendship.](#)



The Princess and the Fog: A Story for Children with Depression

By [Jones, Lloyd](#)

Illustrator [Jones, Lloyd](#)

Contribution by [Edwards, Melinda](#)

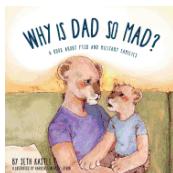
2015-06 - Jessica Kingsley Publishers

9781849056557 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Bronze Medal Winner in the Picture Books, Early Reader category of the 2015 Foreword Reviews' INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards

Once upon a time there was a Princess. She had everything a little girl could ever want, and she was happy. That is, until the fog came...

The Princess and the Fog is picture book to help sufferers of depression aged 5-7 cope with their difficult [...More](#)



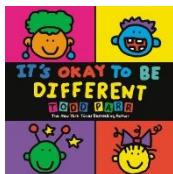
Why Is Dad So Mad?

By [Kastle, Seth](#)

2015-03 - Tall Tale Press

9780692402689 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The children's issues picture book Why Is Dad So Mad? is a story for children in military families whose father battles with combat related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). After a decade fighting wars on two fronts, tens of thousands of service members are coming home having trouble adjusting to civilian life; this includes struggling as parents. Why Is Dad So Mad? Is a narrative story told [...More](#)



It's Okay to Be Different

By [Parr, Todd](#)

2009-04 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316043472 [Check Our Catalog](#)

It's okay to need some help.

It's okay to be a different color.

It's okay to talk about your feelings.

It's okay to make a wish...

It's Okay to Be Different cleverly delivers the important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence in an accessible, child-friendly format featuring Todd Parr's trademark bold, bright colors and [...More](#)



Brontorina

By [Howe, James](#)

Illustrator [Cecil, Randy](#)

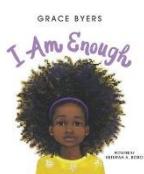
2010-08 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9780763644376 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Beehive Awards (2012)

Brontorina wants nothing more than to dance ballet, but she's much too big for the dance studio. A joyful celebration of community and inclusion, "Brontorina" is sure to dance into hearts of all sizes. [...More](#)



I Am Enough

By [Byers, Grace](#)

Illustrator [Bobo, Keturah A.](#)

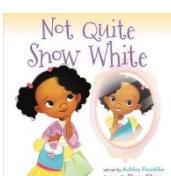
2018-03 - Balzer & Bray/HarperTeen

9780062667120 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A New York Times bestseller and Goodreads Choice Awards picture book winner

This is a gorgeous, lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another--from *Empire* actor and activist Grace Byers and talented newcomer artist Keturah A. Bobo.

This is the perfect gift for mothers and daughters, baby showers, and [...More](#)



Not Quite Snow White

By [Franklin, Ashley](#)

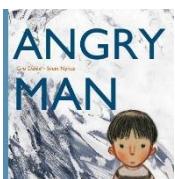
Illustrator [Glenn, Ebony](#)

2019-07 - HarperCollins

9780062798602 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A picture book for magical yet imperfect girls everywhere, written by debut author Ashley Franklin and perfect for fans of such titles as *Mary Had a Little Glam* by Tammi Sauer and the classic *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman.

Tameika is a girl who belongs on the stage. She loves to act, sing, and dance--and she's pretty good at it, too. So [...More](#)



Angryman

By [Dahle, Gro](#)

Illustrator [Nyhus, Svein](#)

2019-03 - Northsouth Books

9780735843400 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book of 2019

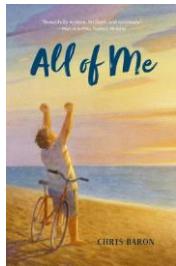
There's someone in the living room.

It's Dad.

It is Angryman.

Boj's father can be very angry and violent. Boj calls this side of his father's personality "Angryman." When Angryman comes no one is safe. Until something powerful happens...

Gro Dahle's astute text and Svein Nyhus's bold, evocative art [...More](#)



All of Me

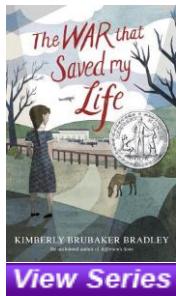
By [Baron, Chris](#)

2019-06 - Feiwel & Friends

9781250305985 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Beautifully written, brilliant, and necessary," (Matt de la Pena, Newbery Medalist), here is a body-positive book about how a boy deals with fat-shaming.

Ari has body-image issues. After a move across the country, his parents work selling and promoting his mother's paintings and sculptures. Ari's bohemian mother needs space to create, and his father is gone for long stretches of [...More](#)



The War That Saved My Life

By [Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker](#)

2015-01 - Dial Books

9780803740815 [Check Our Catalog](#)

1st book in The war that saved my life series

Awards:

Children's Book Committee Award (2016), E.B. White Read Aloud Award (2015), Georgia Children's Book Award (2017), Great Stone Face Book Award (2016), Isinglass Teen Read Award (2016), Newbery Medal (2016), Parents Choice Awards (Spring) (2008-Up) (2015)

#1 New York Times Bestseller

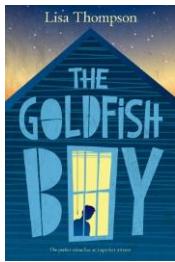
Newbery Honor Book

Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award (Middle School)

Wall Street Journal Best Children's Books of 2015

New York Public Library's 100 Books for Reading and Sharing

An exceptionally moving story of triumph against all odds set during World War II, from the acclaimed author [...More](#)



The Goldfish Boy

By [Thompson, Lisa](#)

2017-02 - Scholastic Press

9781338053920 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Lisa Thompson's debut novel is a page-turning mystery with an emotionally-driven, complex character study at its core -- like *Rear Window* meets *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

Matthew Corbin suffers from severe obsessive-compulsive disorder. He hasn't been to school in weeks. His hands are cracked and bleeding from cleaning. He refuses to leave his bedroom. To [...More](#)



Hurricane Season

By [Melleby, Nicole](#)

2019-05 - Algonquin Young Readers

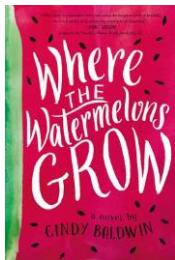
9781616209063 [Check Our Catalog](#)

For Fig's dad, hurricane season brings the music.

For Fig, hurricane season brings the possibility of disaster.

Fig, a sixth grader, loves her dad and the home they share in a beachside town. She does not love the long months of hurricane season. Her father, a once-renowned piano player, sometimes goes looking for the music in the middle of a storm.

Hurricane [...More](#)



Where the Watermelons Grow

By [Baldwin, Cindy](#)

2018-07 - HarperCollins

9780062665867 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Fans of *The Thing About Jellyfish* and *A Snicker of Magic* will be swept away by Cindy Baldwin's debut middle grade about a girl coming to terms with her mother's mental illness. An Oregon Spirit Award Honor book.

When twelve-year-old Della Kelly finds her mother furiously digging black seeds from a watermelon in the middle of the night [...More](#)



Some Kind of Happiness

By [Legrand, Claire](#)

2017-05 - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

9781442466029 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Reality and fantasy collide in this "beautiful and reflective tale" (*Booklist*, starred review) for fans of *Counting by 7s* and *Bridge to Terabithia*, about a girl who must save a magical make-believe world in order to save herself.

Things Finley Hart doesn't want to talk about:

-Her parents, who are having problems. (But they pretend like they're not.)

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



Guts

By [Telgemeier, Raina](#)
Author [Telgemeier, Raina](#)
2019-09 - Graphix
9780545852517 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A true story from Raina Telgemeier, the #1 *New York Times* bestselling, multiple Eisner Award-winning author of *Smile*, *Sisters*, *Drama*, and *Ghosts*

Raina wakes up one night with a terrible upset stomach. Her mom has one, too, so it's probably just a bug. Raina eventually returns to school, where she's dealing with the usual highs and lows: [...More](#)

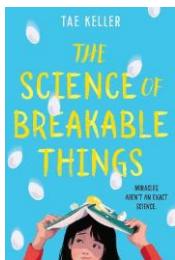


The Best at It

By [Pancholy, Maulik](#)
2019-10 - Balzer & Bray/HarperTeen
9780062866417 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From award-winning actor Maulik Pancholy comes a hilarious and heartfelt middle grade debut about a gay Indian American boy coming into his own. Perfect for fans of Tim Federle's *Nate* series.

Rahul Kapoor is heading into seventh grade in a small town in Indiana. The start of middle school is making him feel increasingly anxious, so his favorite person in the whole world, [...More](#)



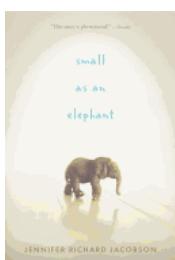
The Science of Breakable Things

By [Keller, Tae](#)
2018-03 - Random House Books for Young Readers
9781524715663 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Natalie's uplifting story of using the scientific process to "save" her mother from depression is what *Booklist* calls "a winning story full of heart and action."

Eggs are breakable. Hope is not.

When Natalie's science teacher suggests that she enter an egg drop competition, Natalie thinks that this might be the perfect solution to all of her [...More](#)



Small as an Elephant

By [Jacobson, Jennifer Richard](#)
2013-04 - Candlewick Press (MA)
9780763663339 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Sunshine State Young Reader's Award (2015)

Jack's mom is gone, leaving him all alone on a campsite in Maine. Can he find his way back to Boston before the authorities realize what happened? With nothing but a small toy elephant to keep him company, Jack begins the long journey south. [...More](#)

