

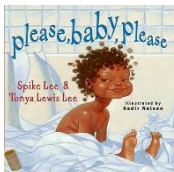


Inclusive Literature Lists

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.



Please, Baby, Please

By [Lee, Spike](#)

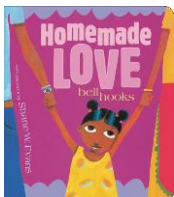
Author [Lee, Tonya Lewis](#)

Illustrator [Nelson, Kadir](#)

2007-09 - Little Simon

9781416949114 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Now in a board book edition, this exuberant bestseller by the Academy Award]-nominated director and his wife explodes with all the energy of childhood and concludes with the patience, understanding, and unconditional love of a parent. [...More](#)



Homemade Love [Board Book]

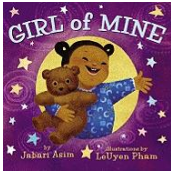
By [Hooks, Bell](#)

Illustrator [Evans, Shane W.](#)

2017-11 - Jump at the Sun

9781484799352 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Her Mama calls her Girlpie--a sweet treat, homemade with love. Evans' resplendent artwork teems with "homemade love," one of the tender nicknames award-winning author hooks gives her young heroine. Full color. [...More](#)



Girl of Mine

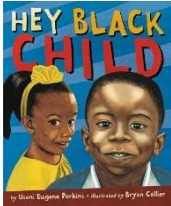
By [Asim, Jabari](#)

Illustrator [Pham, Leuyen](#)

2010-04 - LB Kids

9780316735780 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This companion to "Boy of Mine" shows a dazzling little girl enjoying playtime in the Moon's soft glow. As Daddy cradles his baby girl, she is suddenly whisked away on a fantastical adventure. Full color. [...More](#)



Hey Black Child

By [Perkins, Useni Eugene](#)

Illustrator [Collier, Bryan](#)

2019-12 - LB Kids

9780316360296 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Six-time Coretta Scott King Award winner and four-time Caldecott Honor recipient Bryan Collier brings this classic, inspirational poem to life, written by acclaimed poet Useni Eugene Perkins, now available in a board book format

Hey black child, Do you know who you are? Who really are?

Do you know you can be What ...[More](#)



Grandma's Purse

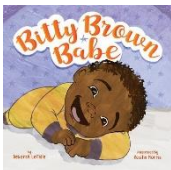
By [Brantley-Newton, Vanessa](#)

2019-04 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9781984849762 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Spend the day with a grandma and granddaughter in this charming picture book about the magic found in their favorite accessory, perfect for readers who love *How to Babysit a Grandma* The perfect gift for grandma this Mother's Day

When Grandma Mimi comes to visit, she always brings warm hugs, sweet treats...and her purse. You never know what she'll have in there--fancy jewelry, [...More](#)



Bitty Brown Babe

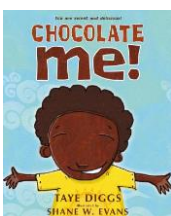
By [Lefalle, Deborah](#)

Illustrator [Morris, Keisha](#)

2019-09 - Beaming Books

9781506448534 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Chocolate Me!

By [Diggs, Taye](#)

Illustrator [Evans, Shane W.](#)

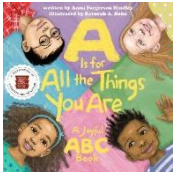
2019-05 - Feiwel & Friends

9781250207852 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Now available as a board book, this tender story of self-acceptance will resonate with readers of all ages. When a boy is teased for looking different than the other kids--his

skin is darker, his hair curlier--he tells his mother he wishes he could be more like everyone else. And she helps him to see how beautiful he really, truly is.

Here is a much-needed picture book that encourages all [...More](#)



A is for All the Things You Are: A Joyful ABC Book

By [Hindley, Anna Forgeron](#)

Author [Nat'l Mus Afr Am Hist Culture](#)

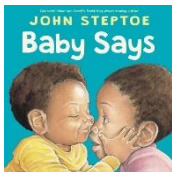
Illustrator [Bobo, Keturah A.](#)

2019-04 - Smithsonian Books

9781588346506 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An ABC book celebrating and inspiring diversity

A Is for All the Things You Are: A Joyful ABC Book is an alphabet board book developed by the National Museum of African American History and Culture that celebrates what makes us unique as individuals and connects us as humans. This lively and colorful book introduces young readers, from infants to age seven, to twenty-six key [...More](#)



Baby Says Board Book

By [Steptoe, John](#)

Illustrator [Steptoe, John](#)

2018-12 - HarperFestival

9780062847539 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The legendary Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Award-winning author and illustrator John Steptoe shares the story of a baby who desperately wants to get his older brother's attention. Now in board book

Spare text and lively illustrations tell the story of two brothers at opposite ends of a room. The older brother plays with blocks on the floor, while a curious baby [...More](#)



Dream Big, Little Leader

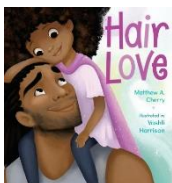
By [Harrison, Vashti](#)

2018-10 - LB Kids

9780316475099 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This beautifully illustrated board book edition of instant bestseller *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History* showcases women who changed the world and is the perfect goodnight book to inspire big dreams.

Featuring 18 trailblazing black women in American history, *Dream Big, Little One* is the irresistible board book adaptation of *Little Leaders: Bold* [...More](#)



Hair Love

By [Cherry, Matthew A.](#)

Illustrator [Harrison, Vashti](#)

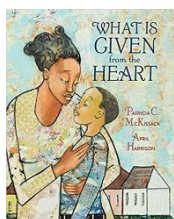
2019-05 - Kokila

9780525553366 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"I love that *Hair Love* is highlighting the relationship between a Black father and daughter. Matthew leads the ranks of new creatives who are telling unique stories of the Black experience. We need this."

- Jordan Peele, Actor & Filmmaker

It's up to Daddy to give his daughter an extra-special hair style in this ode to self-confidence and the love between fathers and [...More](#)



What Is Given from the Heart

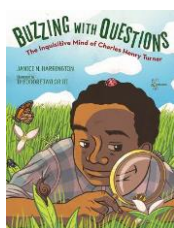
By [McKissack, Patricia C.](#)

Illustrator [Harrison, April](#)

2019-01 - Schwartz & Wade Books

9780375836152 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This final, magnificent picture book from three-time Coretta Scott King Award winner and Newbery Honoree McKissack is a poignant and uplifting celebration of the joy of giving. Full color. [...More](#)



Buzzing with Questions: The Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner

By [Harrington, Janice N.](#)

Illustrator [Taylor, Theodore](#)

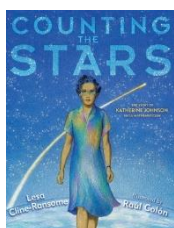
2019-11 - Calkins Creek Books

9781629795584 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A 2020 NSTA/CBC Best STEM Book

The curiosity of the first African American entomologist Charles Henry Turner--a scientist who studied bugs--shines in this nonfiction picture book, which showcases his ideas and discoveries about ants, bees, and other insects.

Charles Henry Turner's mind itched with questions. Fascinated by animals, bugs, and crustaceans, Turner studied their [...More](#)



Counting the Stars: The Story of Katherine Johnson, Amazing NASA Mathematician

By [Cline-Ransome, Lesa](#)

Illustrator [Colon, Raul](#)

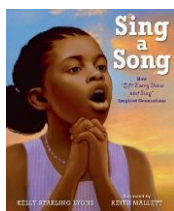
2019-10 - Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books

9781534404755 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"A detail-rich picture book." --*Kirkus Reviews*

"Straightforward and inviting." --*School Library Journal*

From award-winning author Lesa Cline-Ransome and acclaimed illustrator Raul Colon comes the sensitive, informative, and inspiring picture book biography of the remarkable mathematician Katherine Johnson, one of the NASA "human computers" whose work [...More](#)



Sing a Song

By [Lyons, Kelly Starling](#)

Illustrator [Mallett, Keith](#)

2019-08 - Nancy Paulsen Books

9780525516095 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Just in time for the 120th anniversary of the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing"-- this stirring book celebrates the Black National Anthem and how it inspired five generations of a family.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us.

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.

In Jacksonville, Florida, two brothers, [...More](#)



Juneteenth for Mazie

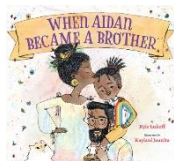
By [Cooper, Floyd](#)

Illustrator [Cooper, Floyd](#)

2015-02 - Picture Window Books

9781623701703 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Mazie is ready to celebrate liberty. She is ready to celebrate freedom. She is ready to celebrate a great day in American history -- the day her ancestors were no longer slaves. Mazie remembers the struggles and the triumph, as she gets ready to celebrate Juneteenth. This beautiful story by award-winning author and illustrator Floyd Cooper will captivate both children and adults. [...More](#)



When Aidan Became a Brother

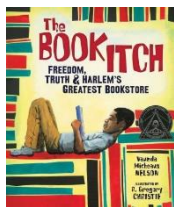
By [Lukoff, Kyle](#)

Illustrator [Juanita, Kaylani](#)

2019-06 - Lee & Low Books

9781620148372 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When Aidan was born, everyone thought he was a girl. His parents gave him a pretty name, his room looked like a girl's room, and he wore clothes that other girls liked wearing. After he realized he was a trans boy, Aidan and his parents fixed the parts of life that didn't fit anymore, and he settled happily into his new life. Then Mom and Dad announce that they're going to have another baby, [...More](#)



The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth, & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore

By [Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux](#)

Illustrator [Christie, R. Gregory](#)

2015-11 - Carolrhoda Books (R)

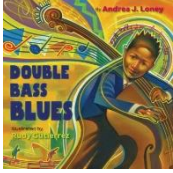
9780761339434 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Coretta Scott King Award (2016)

In the 1930s, Lewis's dad, Lewis Michaux Sr., had an itch he needed to scratch--a book itch. How to scratch it? He started a bookstore in Harlem and named it the National Memorial African Bookstore.

And as far as Lewis Michaux Jr. could tell, his father's bookstore was one of a kind. People from all over came to visit the store, even famous people--Muhammad Ali, Malcolm X, and [...More](#)



Double Bass Blues

By [Loney, Andrea](#)

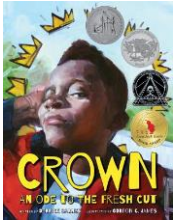
Illustrator [Gutierrez, Rudy](#)

2019-10 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9781524718534 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A joyous celebration of family, community, and the unifying power of music, perfect for fans of *Last Stop on Market Street*.

Nic is an aspiring musician whose life spans two different worlds--his suburban school where he wows his friends in orchestra, and the busy city streets of his home where he's jostled by the crowd. Nic makes his way home from a busy day at school with a [...More](#)



Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut

By [Barnes, Derrick](#)

Illustrator [James, Gordon C.](#)

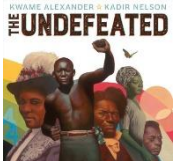
2017-10 - Agate Bolden

9781572842243 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Caldecott Medal (2018), Coretta Scott King Award (2018), Newbery Medal (2018)

Barnes' smooth, fresh words and James' lush, vibrant illustrations capture the confidence, pride, and magic black and brown boys feel the moment they get a new haircut and admire their own beautiful reflections in the mirror. Full color. 8 1/2 x 11. [...More](#)



The Undefeated

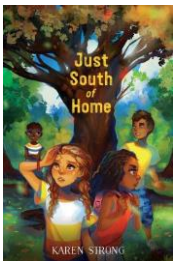
By [Alexander, Kwame](#)

Illustrator [Nelson, Kadir](#)

2019-04 - Versify

9781328780966 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The Newbery Award-winning author of "The Crossover" pens an ode to Black American triumph and tribulation, with art from a two-time Caldecott Honoree. Full color. [...More](#)



Just South of Home

By [Strong, Karen](#)

2019-05 - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

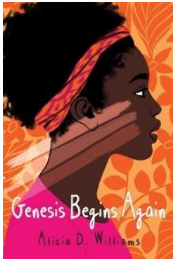
9781534419384 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A Kirkus Reviews Best Middle Grade Book of 2019

"A stirring Southern middle grade book that burns brighter than fireworks on the Fourth." --Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

"A must for readers who appreciate a heartfelt mystery." --Booklist (starred review)

"An intricate mix of Southern mystery, history, and a ghost story that [...More](#)



Genesis Begins Again

By [Williams, Alicia](#)

2019-01 - Atheneum Books

9781481465809 [Check Our Catalog](#)

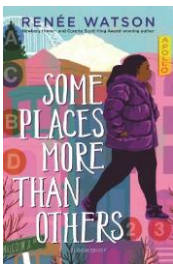
An NPR Favorite Book of 2019

A *School Library Journal* Best Middle Grade Book of 2019

A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Middle Grade Book of 2019

This deeply sensitive and powerful debut novel tells the story of a thirteen-year-old who must overcome internalized racism and a verbally abusive family to finally learn to love herself.

There [...More](#)



Some Places More Than Others

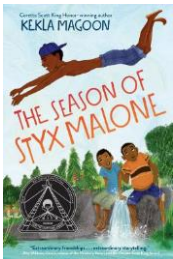
By [Watson, Renee](#)

2019-09 - Bloomsbury Publishing PLC

9781681191089 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From Newbery Honor- and Coretta Scott King Author Award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author Ren e Watson comes a heartwarming and inspiring middle-grade novel about finding deep roots and exploring the past, the present, and the places that make us who we are.

All Amara wants for her birthday is to visit her father's family in New York City--Harlem, to be exact. She [...More](#)



The Season of Styx Malone

By [Magoon, Kekla](#)

2018-10 - Wendy Lamb Books

9781524715953 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Coretta Scott King Award (2019)

A CORETTA SCOTT KING HONOR BOOK AND THE WINNER OF THE BOSTON GLOBE HORN BOOK AWARD FOR FICTION

"Extraordinary friendships . . . extraordinary storytelling." --Rita Williams-Garcia, Newbery Honor and Coretta Scott King Award-Winning author of *One Crazy Summer*

Meet Caleb and Bobby Gene, two brothers [...More](#)



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky

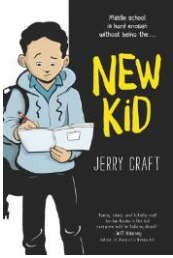
By [Mbalia, Kwame](#)

2019-10 - Rick Riordan Presents

9781368039932 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Best-selling author Rick Riordan presents Kwame Mbalia's epic fantasy, a middle grade *American Gods* set in a richly-imagined world populated with African American folk heroes and West African gods.

Seventh grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal [...More](#)



New Kid

By [Craft, Jerry](#)

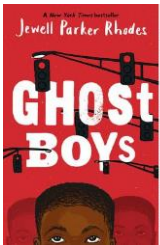
Illustrator [Craft, Jerry](#)

2019-02 - Quill Tree Books

9780062691194 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A *New York Times* bestseller Winner of the 2019 Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature

Perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Gene Luen Yang, *New Kid* is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft. [...More](#)



Ghost Boys

By [Rhodes, Jewell Parker](#)

2019-09 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316262262 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A heartbreaking and powerful story about a black boy killed by a police officer, drawing connections through history, from award-winning author Jewell Parker Rhodes.

An instant *New York Times* bestsellerAn instant IndieBound bestsellerThe #1 Kids' Indie Next PickA Walter Award winner

Only the living can make the world [...More](#)



Dragons in a Bag

By [Elliott, Zetta](#)

Illustrator [Geneva B.](#)

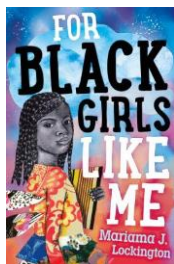
2019-08 - Yearling Books

9781524770488 [Check Our Catalog](#)

1st book in Dragons in a bag series

The dragon's out of the bag in this diverse, young urban fantasy from an award-winning author--with two starred reviews

When Jaxon is sent to spend the day with a mean old lady his mother calls Ma, he finds out she's *not* his grandmother--but she *is* a witch She needs his help delivering baby dragons to a magical world where they'll be safe. There are two rules when it [...More](#)



For Black Girls Like Me

By [Lockington, Mariama J.](#)

2019-07 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

9780374308049 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this lyrical coming-of-age story about family, sisterhood, music, race, and identity, Mariama J. Lockington draws on some of the emotional truths from her own experiences growing up with an adoptive white family.

I am a girl but most days I feel like a question mark.

Makeda June Kirkland is eleven years old, adopted, and black. Her parents and big sister are white, [...More](#)