

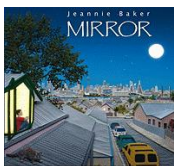


## Inclusive Literature Lists

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.



### Mirror

By [Baker, Jeannie](#)

Illustrator [Baker, Jeannie](#)

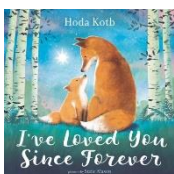
2010-11 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9780763648480 [Check Our Catalog](#)

### Awards:

Capitol Choices: Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens (2011), Middle East Book Awards (2011)

This innovative, two-in-one picture book follows a parallel day in the life of two families: one in a Western city and one in a North African village. Designed to be read side by side, these intriguing stories are told entirely through richly detailed collage illustrations. Full color. [...More](#)



### I've Loved You Since Forever

By [Kotb, Hoda](#)

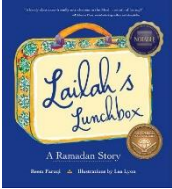
Illustrator [Mason, Suzie](#)

2018-03 - HarperCollins

9780062841742 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**New York Times #1 Bestseller**

*I've Loved You Since Forever* is a celebratory and poetic testament to the timeless love felt between parent and child. This beautiful picture book is inspired by *Today* show co-anchor Hoda Kotb's heartwarming adoption of her baby girl, Haley [...More](#)



### **Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story**

By [Faruqi, Reem](#)

Illustrator [Lyon, Lea](#)

2015-05 - Tilbury House Publishers

9780884484318 [Check Our Catalog](#)

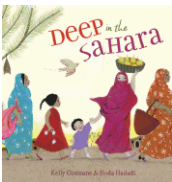
**\*Notable Social Studies Trade Book For Young People 2016, a cooperative Project of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the Children's Book Council\***

**\*Featured Book of the Month, Anti-Defamation League\***

**\*American Library Association Notable Book for Children 2016\***

**\*Skipping Stones Honor 2016\***

**\*International [...More](#)**



### **Deep in the Sahara**

By [Cunnane, Kelly](#)

Illustrator [Hadadi, Hoda](#)

2013-10 - Schwartz & Wade Books

9780375870347 [Check Our Catalog](#)

#### **Awards:**

Capitol Choices: Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens (2014), Monarch Award (2016)

An Arab girl of the Sahara who wants to wear a malafa, the veiled dress worn by her mother and older sister, learns that the garment represents beauty, mystery, tradition, belonging, and faith. Full color. [...More](#)



### **The World Is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid**

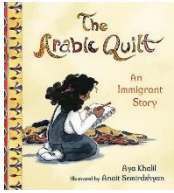
By [Winter, Jeanette](#)

Illustrator [Winter, Jeanette](#)

2017-08 - Beach Lane Books

9781481446693 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A celebrated author-illustrator presents a biography of architect Zaha Hadid, who grew up in Baghdad. As a Muslim woman, Hadid faced many obstacles, but she went on to design buildings all over the world. Full color. [...More](#)



## **The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story**

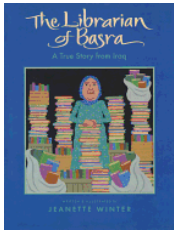
By [Khalil, Aya](#)

Illustrator [Semirdzhyan, Anait](#)

2020-02 - Tilbury House Publishers

9780884487548 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Kanzi's family has moved from Egypt to America, and on her first day in a new school, what she wants more than anything is to fit in. Maybe that's why she forgets to take the kofta sandwich her mother has made for her lunch, but that backfires when Mama shows up at school with the sandwich. Mama wears a hijab and calls her daughter Habibti (dear one). When she leaves, the teasing starts. [...More](#)



## **The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq**

By [Winter, Jeanette](#)

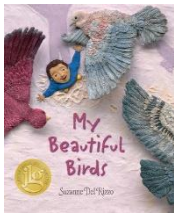
2005-01 - Houghton Mifflin

9780152054458 [Check Our Catalog](#)

### **Awards:**

Black-Eyed Susan Award (2007), Book Sense Book of the Year Award (2005), Capitol Choices: Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens (2006), Children's Book Committee Award (2005), Flicker Tale Children's Book Award (2006), Georgia Children's Book Award (2006), Land of Enchantment Book Award (2007), Middle East Book Awards (2005), Parents Choice Award (Spring) (1998-2007) (2005)

In war-stricken Iraq where civilians--especially women--have little power, a librarian in Basra struggles to save her community's priceless collection of books. [...More](#)



## **My Beautiful Birds**

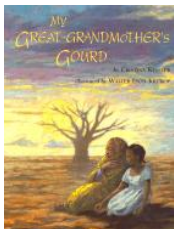
By [Del Rizzo, Suzanne](#)

Illustrator [Del Rizzo, Suzane](#)

2017-03 - Pajama Press

9781772780109 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Behind Sami, the Syrian skyline is full of smoke. The boy follows his family and all his neighbours in a long line, as they trudge through the sands and hills to escape the bombs that have destroyed their homes. But all Sami can think of is his pet pigeons--will they escape too? When they reach a refugee camp and are safe at last, everyone settles into the tent city. But though the children [...More](#)



## **My Great-Grandmother's Gourd**

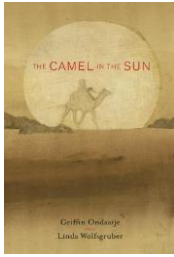
By [Kessler, Cristina](#)

Illustrator [Krudop, Walter Lynn](#)

2000-09 - Orchard Books (NY)

9780531302842 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Fatima is thrilled. Her village has a brand-new pump. No more camels hauling water. No more storing water in baobab trees. Life will be easier and better for all. Well, almost all. Fatima's grandmother refuses to change her ways. She insists upon preparing the baobab tree, just as her mother and grandmother did before her. The other villagers think she's foolish, but she doesn't care. She has [...More](#)



## The Camel in the Sun

By [Ondaatje, Griffin](#)

Illustrator [Wolfsgruber, Linda](#)

2013-10 - Groundwood Books

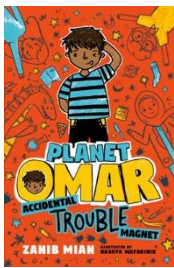
9781554983810 [Check Our Catalog](#)

### Awards:

Middle East Book Awards (2014)

Inspired by a retelling of a traditional Muslim hadith, or account of the words or actions of the Prophet, which the author first heard in Sri Lanka, this is the story of a camel whose cruel owner only realizes what suffering he has caused when the Prophet appears and shows love to the animal.

The camel has worked its entire life for a man called Halim, carrying bundles of spices, dates, [...More](#)



## Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet

By [Mian, Zanib](#)

Illustrator [Mafaridik, Nasaya](#)

2020-02 - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

9780593109212 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**An exciting #OwnVoices middle-grade debut starring a Muslim boy with a huge imagination**

Welcome to the imaginative brain of Omar

Omar and his family have just moved, and he is NOT excited about starting at a new school. What if the work is too hard or the kids are mean or the teacher is a zombie alien?

But when Omar makes a new best friend, things start looking up. That is, [...More](#)



## Farah Rocks Fifth Grade

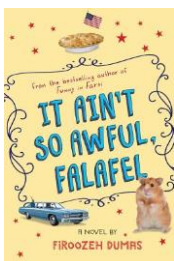
By [Darraj, Susan Muaddi](#)

Illustrator [Mannaa, Ruaida](#)

2020-01 - Stone Arch Books

9781496583390 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Farah and her best friend, Allie Liu, are getting excited to turn in their applications to the Magnet Academy, where they both hope to attend sixth grade. But when new girl Dana Denver shows up, Farah's world is turned upside down. As Dana starts bullying Farah's little brother, Samir, Farah begins to second-guess her choice to leave him behind at Harbortown Elementary/Middle School. Determined to [...More](#)



## It Ain't So Awful, Falafel

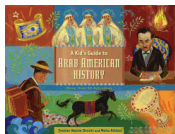
By [Dumas, Firoozeh](#)

2016-05 - Clarion Books

9780544612310 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Zomorod (Cindy) Yousefzadeh is the new kid on the block . . . for the fourth time. California's Newport Beach is her family's latest perch, and she's determined to shuck her brainy loner persona and start afresh with a new Brady Bunch name--Cindy. It's the

late 1970s, and fitting in becomes more difficult as Iran makes U.S. headlines with protests, revolution, and finally the taking of American [...More](#)



### **A Kid's Guide to Arab American History: More Than 50 Activities**

By [Dennis, Yvonne Wakim](#)

Author [Addasi, Maha](#)

2013-01 - Chicago Review Press

9781613740170 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Dispelling common stereotypes, this exploration provides a contemporary as well as historical look at the people and experiences that have shaped Arab-American culture. Each chapter focuses on a different group and features activities that highlight their distinct arts, games, clothing, and food. Full color. [...More](#)



### **Other Words for Home**

By [Warga, Jasmine](#)

2019-05 - Balzer & Bray/Harperteen

9780062747808 [Check Our Catalog](#)

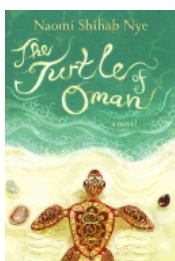
#### **Awards:**

Newbery Medal (2020)

#### **Newbery Honor Book**

**A gorgeously written, hopeful middle grade novel in verse about a young girl who must leave Syria to move to the United States, perfect for fans of Jason Reynolds and Aisha Saeed.**

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown [...More](#)



### **The Turtle of Oman**

By [Nye, Naomi Shihab](#)

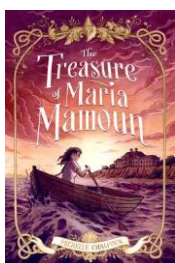
2014-08 - Greenwillow Books

9780062019721 [Check Our Catalog](#)

#### **Awards:**

Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children (2015), Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award (2016), Middle East Book Awards (2015)

This accessible, exquisite novel shines with gentle humor and explores themes of moving, family, nature, and immigration. It tells the story of Aref Al-Amri, who must say good-bye to everything and everyone he loves in his hometown of Muscat, Oman, as his family prepares to move to Ann Arbor, Michigan. This is acclaimed poet and National Book Award Finalist Naomi Shihab Nye's first novel set in [...More](#)



### **The Treasure of Maria Mamoun**

By [Chalfoun, Michelle](#)

2016-07 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)

9780374303402 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**Winner of the 2017 Arab American Book Award**



Twelve-year-old Maria lives a lonely, latchkey-kid's life in the Bronx. Her Lebanese mother is working two nursing jobs to keep them afloat, and Maria keeps her worries to herself, not wanting to be a burden. Then something happens one day between home and school that changes everything. Mom whisks them to an altogether different world on [...More](#)



### Escape from Aleppo

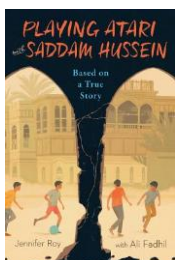
By [Senzai, N. H.](#)

2018-01 - Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books

9781481472173 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Filled with kindness and hope, but also with the harsh realities of the horrors of war, this heartbreaking book is a necessary reminder of what many people live through every day." --*Booklist* (starred review)

Nadia's family is forced to flee their home in Aleppo, Syria, when the Arab Spring sparks a civil war in this timely coming-of-age novel from award-winning author [...More](#)



### Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein: Based on a True Story

By [Roy, Jennifer](#)

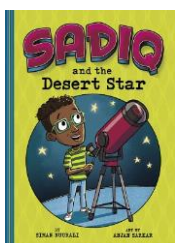
Author [Fadhil, Ali](#)

2018-02 - Houghton Mifflin

9780544785076 [Check Our Catalog](#)

At the start of 1991, eleven-year-old Ali Fadhil was consumed by his love for soccer, video games, and American television shows. Then, on January 17, Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein went to war with thirty-four nations led by the United States.

Over the next forty-three days, Ali and his family survived bombings, food shortages, and constant fear. Ali and his brothers played soccer on [...More](#)



### Sadiq and the Desert Star

By [Nuurali, Siman](#)

Illustrator [Sarkar, Anjan](#)

2019-08 - Picture Window Books

9781515838784 [Check Our Catalog](#)

When Sadiq's father leaves on a business trip, he worries he'll miss his baba too much. But Baba has a story for Sadiq: the story of the Desert Star. Learning about Baba's passion for the stars sparks Sadiq's interest in outer space. But can Sadiq find others who are willing to help him start the space club of his dreams? [...More](#)