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.

May 2020: Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

**Crouching Tiger**

By *Compestine, Ying Chang*
Illustrator *Nascimbene, Yan*

2011-12 - Candlewick Press (MA)
9780763646424 Check Our Catalog

When Ming Da's Chinese grandpa comes to visit, he overcomes his initial embarrassment at his grandfather's traditions and begins to appreciate him. …More

**Cora Cooks Pancit**

By *Lazo Gilmore, Dorina K.*
Illustrator *Valiant, Kristi*

2014-05 - Shen's Books
9781885008480 Check Our Catalog

When all her older siblings are away, Cora's mother finally lets her help make pancit, a Filipino noodle dish. Includes recipe for pancit. …More
A Map Into the World
By Yang, Kao Kalia
Illustrator Kim, Seo
2019-10 - Carolrhoda Books (R)
9781541538368 Check Our Catalog

"Filled with wonder and sorrow and happiness."

--Alison McGhee, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Someday

A heartfelt story of a young girl seeking beauty and connection in a busy world.

As the seasons change, so too does a young Hmong girl's world. She moves into a new home with her family and encounters both birth and __More

Ho'onani: Hula Warrior
By Gale, Heather
Illustrator Song, Mika
2019-10 - Tundra Books (NY)
9780735264496 Check Our Catalog

An empowering celebration of identity, acceptance and Hawaiian culture based on the true story of a young girl in Hawai'i who dreams of leading the boys-only hula troupe at her school.

Ho'onani feels in-between. She doesn't see herself as wahine (girl) OR kane (boy). She's happy to be in the middle. But not everyone sees it that way.

When Ho'onani finds out that __More

Ojiichan's Gift
By Uegaki, Chieri
Illustrator Simms, Genevieve
2019-04 - Kids Can Press
9781771389631 Check Our Catalog

When Mayumi was born, her grandfather created a garden for her. It was unlike any other garden she knew. It had no flowers or vegetables. Instead, Ojiichan made it out of stones: ?big ones, little ones and ones in-between.? Every summer, Mayumi visits her grandfather in Japan, and they tend the garden together. Raking the gravel is her favorite part. Afterward, the two of them sit on a bench and __More

Barbed Wire Baseball
By Moss, Marissa
Illustrator Shimizu, Yuko
2013-04 - Abrams Books for Young Readers
9781419705212 Check Our Catalog

Awards:
Beehive Awards (2015), Cybils (2013), Garden State Children's Book Awards (2016), Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award (2015), South Carolina Childrens, Junior and Young Adult Book Award (2015)

As a boy, Kenichi "Zeni" Zenimura dreams of playing professional baseball, but
everyone tells him he is too small. Yet he grows up to be a successful player, playing with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. When the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor in 1941, Zeni and his family are sent to one of ten internment camps where more than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry are imprisoned without trials. Zeni brings …More

Hello Maggie!
Author: Yabu, Shigeru.
ISBN: 9780978976705

The author tells about his and his family’s experiences as Japanese American internees at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming from 1942 to the end of World War II. During that time, he made friends with a magpie whom he named Maggie.

No Kimchi for Me!
By Kim, Aram
2017-09 - Holiday House
9780823437627 Check Our Catalog

A Junior Library Guild Selection. Yoomi hates stinky, spicy kimchi, the pickled cabbage condiment served with Korean meals. Then Grandma shows Yoomi how to make kimchi pancakes in this celebration of Korean culture. Includes a kimchi pancake recipe and other back matter. Full color. …More

They Say Blue
By Tamaki, Jillian
2018-03 - Harry N. Abrams
9781419728518 Check Our Catalog

A 2018 Boston Globe-Horn Book Picture Book Award Winner and A 2018 Parent’s Choice Picture Book Gold Award Winner

In captivating paintings full of movement and transformation, Tamaki follows a young girl through a year or a day as she examines the colors in the world around her. Egg yolks are sunny orange as expected, yet water cupped in her hands isn't blue like they say. But …More

My Footprints
By Phi, Bao
Illustrator Tran, Basia
2019-09 - Capstone Editions
9781684460007 Check Our Catalog

Every child feels different in some way, but Thuy feels double different. She is Vietnamese American and she has two moms. Thuy walks home one winter afternoon, angry and lonely after a bully’s taunts. Then a bird catches her attention and sets Thuy on an imaginary exploration. What if she could fly away like a bird? What if she could sprint like a deer, or roar like a bear? Mimicking the …More

Bilal Cooks Daal
By Saeed, Aisha
Illustrator Syed, Anoosha
Awards:
Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2020)

A Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book of 2019

An Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Honor Book 2019

Six-year-old Bilal introduces his friends to his favorite dish—daal—in this charming picture book that showcases the value of patience, teamwork, community, and sharing.

Six-year-old Bilal is excited to help his dad make his favorite food of ... More

A Different Pond
By Phi, Bao
Illustrator Bui, Thi
2017-08 - Capstone Young Readers
9781623708030 Check Our Catalog

Awards:
Caldecott Medal (2018)

A 2018 Caldecott Honor Book that Kirkus Reviews calls a must-read for our times, A Different Pond is an unforgettable story about a simple event - a long-ago fishing trip. Graphic novelist Thi Bui and acclaimed poet Bao Phi deliver a powerful, honest glimpse into a relationship between father and son - and between cultures, old and new. As a young boy, Bao and his father awoke early, hours before ... More

Leila in Saffron
By Guidroz, Rukhsanna
Illustrator Mirtalipova, Dinara
2019-06 - Salaam Reads / Simon & Schuster Books for You
9781534425644 Check Our Catalog

"Glorious." --Kirkus Reviews

A colorful journey of self-discovery and identity, this sweet, vibrant picture book follows young Leila as she visits her grandmother's house for their weekly family dinner, and finds parts of herself and her heritage in the family, friends, and art around her.

Sometimes I'm not sure if I like being me.

When Leila looks in the ... More

Grandpa’s Stories
By Colpoys, Allison
Author Coelho, Joseph
2019-04 - Harry N. Abrams
9781419734984 Check Our Catalog
One young girl reflects on a year with her beloved grandpa. She remembers the fields and parks they explored in the springtime and the old toys they fixed up in the summer. She remembers the handmade gifts they exchanged in the fall and the stories Grandpa told by the fire each winter. But this year, the girl must say good-bye to Grandpa. In the face of her grief, she is determined to find a way ...

**Camp Tiger**

By *Choi, Susan*

Illustrator *Rocco, John*

2019-05 - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

9780399173295 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Six Starred Reviews

Shelf Awareness Best Children's Book of 2019

A 2019 New York Public Library Best Book for Kids

Imagination meets reality in this poetic and tender ode to childhood, illustrated by Caldecott Honor winner, John Rocco.

Every year, a boy and his family go camping at Mountain Pond.

Usually, they see things like an eagle fishing ...

**The Sky at Our Feet**

By *Hashimi, Nadia*

2018-03 - HarperCollins

9780062421937 [Check Our Catalog](#)

This #ownvoices novel by bestselling author Nadia Hashimi tells the affecting story of an Afghan-American boy who believes his mother has been deported. For fans of *Inside Out and Back Again* and *Counting by 7s*. This middle grade novel is an excellent choice for tween readers in grades 5 to 6, especially during ...

**Front Desk**

By *Yang, Kelly*

2018-05 - Arthur A. Levine Books

9781338157796 [Check Our Catalog](#)

_Awards:_

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2019)

**Winner of the Asian / Pacific American Award for Children's Literature**

*Many readers will recognize themselves or their neighbors in these pages.* -- *Kirkus Reviews, starred review*

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets.
Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista ....More

**Queen of Physics: How Wu Chien Shiung Helped Unlock the Secrets of the Atom**  
*By Robeson, Teresa*  
**Illustrator Huang, Rebecca**  
2019-10 - Sterling Children's Books  
9781454932208 [Check Our Catalog](#)  

**Awards:**  
Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2020)  

Meet Wu Chien Shiung, famous physicist who overcame prejudice to prove that she could be anything she wanted.

When Wu Chien Shiung was born in China 100 years ago, girls did not attend school; no one considered them as smart as boys. But her parents felt differently. Naming their daughter "Courageous Hero," they encouraged her love of learning and science. This engaging biography ....More

**Stargazing**  
*By Wang, Jen*  
**Illustrator Wang, Jen**  
2019-09 - First Second  
9781250183873 [Check Our Catalog](#)  

**Awards:**  
Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2020)  

**Stargazing** is a heartwarming middle-grade graphic novel in the spirit of *Real Friends* and *El Deafo*, from *New York Times* bestselling author-illustrator Jen Wang.

A 2019 New York Public Library Best Books for Kids Selection  
One of FORBES Best Graphic Novels of 2019  
One of NPR's ....More

**Blackbird Fly**  
*By Kelly, Erin Entrada*  
**Illustrator Peterschmidt, Betsy**  
2015-03 - Greenwillow Books  
9780062238610 [Check Our Catalog](#)  

**Awards:**  
Cybils (2015)  

Future rock star or friendless misfit? That's no choice at all. In this acclaimed novel by Newbery Medalist Erin Entrada Kelly, twelve-year-old Apple grapples
with being different; with friends and backstabbers; and with following her dreams.

Publishers Weekly called Blackbird Fly "a true triumph," and the Los Angeles Times Book Review said, ...More

The House That Lou Built
By Respicio, Mae
2018-06 - Wendy Lamb Books
9781524717940 Check Our Catalog

Awards:
Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2019)

"If this book were a house, the rooms would be filled with warmth, family, and friendship." --Erin Entrada Kelly, author of the Newbery Medal winner Hello, Universe; The Land of Forgotten Girls; and Blackbird Fly

A coming-of-age story that explores culture and family, forgiveness and friendship, and what makes a true home. Perfect for fans of Wendy Mass and Joan Bauer. ...More

Trouble Magnet
By Salisbury, Graham
Illustrator Rogers, Jacqueline
2009-03 - Wendy Lamb Books
9780385906395 Check Our Catalog

Fourth-grader Calvin lives near the beach in Oahu with his mom and little sister. Mom says: "You're the man of the house." But Calvin's not great at being the man of the house, or taking care of his responsibilities. He's too busy having fun with his pals, and avoiding Tito, the bully.

"Trouble Magnet "is the first book in a new series for younger readers full of all the fun of growing ...More

Save Me a Seat
By Weeks, Sarah
Author Varadarajan, Gita
2016-05 - Scholastic Press
9780545846608 Check Our Catalog

Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they're both stuck in the same place: SCHOOL.

Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own.
Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits …More

**Jasmine Toguchi, Mochi Queen**
By *Michiko Florence, Debbi*  
Illustrator *Vukovic, Elizabeth*  
2017-07 - Farrar, Straus and Giroux (Byr)  
9780374308346 Check Our Catalog

1st book in Jasmine Toguchi series
A Junior Library Guild Fall 2017 Selection  
An Amazon's Best Children's Books of 2017  
A Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award Nominee  
An Evanston Public Library's 101 Great Books for Kids List 2017  
A Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best Books 2017  
A 2017 Nerdy Book Club Award Winner

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**I'm Ok**
By *Kim, Patti*  
2018-10 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers  
9781534419292 Check Our Catalog

Awards:  
Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature (2020)  
An Asian/Pacific American Literature Award Honor Book

Ok Lee is determined to find the perfect get-rich-quick scheme in this funny, uplifting novel that bestselling author Gene Luen Yang called "So funny and heartfelt."

Ok Lee knows it's his responsibility to help pay the bills. With his father gone and his mother working three jobs and still barely making ends meet, there's …More

**Stand Up, Yumi Chung!**
By *Kim, Jessica*  
2020-03 - Kokila  
97805255554974 Check Our Catalog

One lie snowballs into a full-blown double life in this irresistible story about an aspiring stand-up comedian.

On the outside, Yumi Chung suffers from #shygirlproblems, a perm-gone-wrong, and kids calling her "Yu-MEAT" because she smells like her family's Korean barbecue
restaurant. On the inside, Yumi is ready for her Netflix stand-up special. Her notebook is filled with mortifying ...More

Amina’s Voice
By Khan, Hena
2017-03 - Salaam Reads / Simon & Schuster Books for You
9781481492065 Check Our Catalog

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family’s vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community in this sweet and moving novel from the award-winning author of "It’s Ramadan, Curious George." ...More

A Long Pitch Home
By Lorenzi, Natalie Dias
2016-09 - Charlesbridge Publishing
9781580897136 Check Our Catalog

Ten-year-old Bilal liked his life back home in Pakistan. He was a star on his cricket team. But when his father suddenly sends the family to live with their aunt and uncle in America, nothing is familiar. While Bilal tries to keep up with his cousin Jalaal by joining a baseball league and practicing his English, he wonders when his father will join the family in Virginia. Maybe if Bilal can prove ...More

The Way to Bea
By Yeh, Kat
2018-09 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
9780316236690 Check Our Catalog

Counting by 7s by way of Judy Blume in this charming and insightful middle grade novel about being yourself and finding your place

Seventh grade isn’t starting off so well for Beatrix Lee. Bea used to have friends...and now she doesn't. She was an only child...and now she’s going to be a big sister. She used to fit in...and now she stands out for all the wrong reasons. ...More

Green Lantern: Legacy
By Le, Minh
Illustrator Tong, Andie
2020-01 - DC Comics
9781401283551 Check Our Catalog

From Minh L, award-winning author of Drawn Together and Let Me Finish comes the tale of a new hero

Thirteen-year-old Tai Pham lives in the apartment above his grandmother’s store, where his bedroom is crammed with sketchpads and comic books. But not even his most imaginative drawings could compare to the colorful adventure he’s about to embark on.

When Tai inherits ...More