



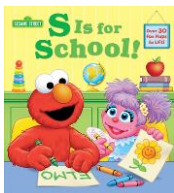
Inclusive Literature Lists

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.

August 2020: Back to School



S Is for School! (Sesame Street): A Lift-The-Flap Board Book

By [Posner-Sanchez, Andrea](#)

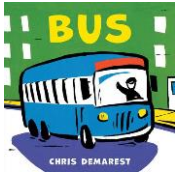
Illustrator [Brannon, Tom](#)

2020-06 - Random House Books for Young Readers

9780593173763 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An interactive lift-the-flap book about going to school, starring *Sesame Street*'s Elmo

Head to school with Elmo, Abby, Big Bird, and other *Sesame Street* friends. Girls and boys ages 2 to 5 can lift more than 30 fun flaps as they join Elmo and his friends at an exciting day of school. This sturdy interactive board book is perfect for easing first-day-of-school jitters or [...More](#)

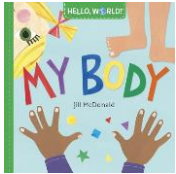


Bus

By [Demarest, Chris](#)
2017-07 - Houghton Mifflin
9780544870871 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The big, colorful, noisy city comes to life in this deceptively simple rhyming board book. Little listeners will be mesmerized by the rhythmic, rhyming ride--perfect reading for kids on a roll

[...More](#)



Hello, World! My Body

By [McDonald, Jill](#)
2018-02 - Doubleday Books for Young Readers
9781524766368 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Learn from home and explore the world with these fun and easy board books

Young children are fascinated by their eyes, ears, nose, fingers, and toes. Here's a Hello, World board book that teaches toddlers all about the human body, with shapes, sizes, colors, and super-simple facts.

Hello, World is a series designed to introduce first nonfiction [...More](#)



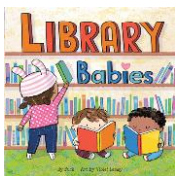
Bright Start - My Turn, Your Turn

By [Loewen, Nancy](#)
Illustrator [Quintanilla, Hazel Michelle](#)
2019-09 - Words & Pictures
9780711244443 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Let's learn a new game. It's called "My Turn, Your Turn." Part of the Bright Start series, *My Turn, Your Turn* introduces and helps develop the idea of sharing for children aged 1-3.

Malik and Cora both want to fly the same toy plane. Watch frustration give way to joy as they try the sharing game proposed by their teacher.

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



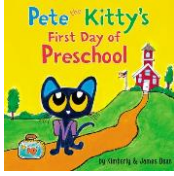
Library Babies

By [Puck](#)
Author [Lemay, Violet](#)
2020-03 - Duopress
9781947458758 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Here come the library babies, ready to give you a tour of their favorite local library

There's no place more magical than a library, where adventures can be had both inside the pages of a book and out. Here you can find hidden nooks for reading, encounter

new worlds during story time, and take the big step of signing up for your very first library card. From puppet shows to getting to [...More](#)



Pete the Kitty's First Day of Preschool

By [Dean, James](#)

Author [Dean, Kimberly](#)

Illustrator [Dean, James](#)

2019-06 - HarperFestival

9780062435828 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Pete the Kitty is almost ready for his first day of preschool

It's a big day for Pete the Kitty: his first day of preschool He meets his cool teacher, sings a few fun songs, and even gets to paint. Who knew preschool could be so much fun?

Just don't forget your groovy backpack and your yummy snack, Pete the Kitty

Preschoolers and little ones getting ready [...More](#)



My Very First Book of Colors

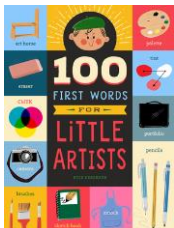
By [Carle, Eric](#)

Illustrator [Carle, Eric](#)

2005-05 - World of Eric Carle

9780399243868 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The beloved Eric Carle offers colorful puzzles that help the youngest of readers learn about colors and shapes. Readers can find the bottom half of a page that matches the top half. (Baby/Preschool) [...More](#)



100 First Words for Little Artists

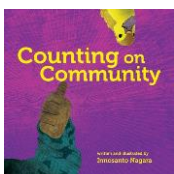
By [Kershner, Kyle](#)

2019-04 - Familius

9781641701280 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Are you an artist? Then of course your baby will inherit your creative genes But how to get your prodigy started on the path of complementary colors and 2-point perspectives?

Introducing *100 First Words for Little Artists*, an artistic primer for kids learning their first words Forget *apple* and *dog*. Little artists are ready for *CMYK*, *caricature*, and [...More](#)



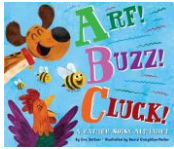
Counting on Community

By [Nagara, Innosanto](#)

2015-09 - Triangle Square

9781609806323 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Counting on Community is Innosanto Nagara's follow-up to his hit ABC book, *A is for Activist*. Counting up from one stuffed pi ata to ten hefty hens--and always counting on each other--children are encouraged to recognize the value of their community, the joys inherent in healthy eco-friendly activities, and the agency they possess to make change. A broad and inspiring vision of [...More](#)



Arf! Buzz! Cluck!: A Rather Noisy Alphabet

By [Seltzer, Eric](#)

Illustrator [Creighton-Pester, David](#)

2018-07 - Little Simon

9781534412972 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Moo Neigh Oink Peep This silly and inventive alphabet board book teaches little ones the ABCs with animal sounds

We Arf

We Buzz

We Baaah

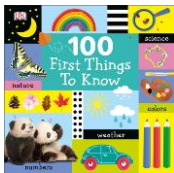
We Coo

We Chirp

and Cluck

and cock-a-Doodle-Do

Animals sure are noisy With rhyming text and bright and goofy illustrations by [...More](#)



100 First Things to Know

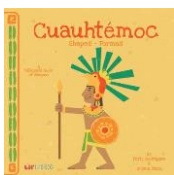
By [DK](#)

2020-02 - DK Publishing (Dorling Kindersley)

9781465489784 [Check Our Catalog](#)

100 carefully curated, useful things that will stimulate your baby or toddler's natural curiosity about the world around them...

Help your little one learn important vocabulary and build knowledge with this first word and picture book. Cleverly designed to inform and entertain, **100 First Things to Know** takes your little one on an exciting learning adventure. As they point [...More](#)



Cuauhtémoc: Shapes/Formas: A Bilingual Book of Shapes

By [Rodriguez, Patty](#)

Author [Stein, Ariana](#)

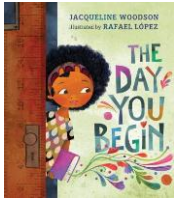
Illustrator [Reyes, Citlali](#)

2016-09 - Lil' Libros

9780986109935 [Check Our Catalog](#) SPA

A Lil' Libros Bilingual Book of Shapes

Explore the city of Tenochtitlan along side Cuauhtémoc, the last Aztec emperor--where you'll come across the *circulo* (circle) in the Aztec calendar, the *tri ngulo* (triangle) in the pyramid, the heart in the shield of an Aztec princess, and more This book introduces your little one to shapes and their first English and Spanish [...More](#)



The Day You Begin

By [Woodson, Jacqueline](#)

Illustrator [López, Rafael](#)

2018-08 - Nancy Paulsen Books

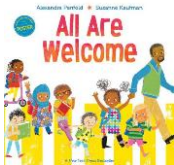
9780399246531 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Jacqueline Woodson is the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature

A #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson and two-time Pura Belpr Illustration Award winner Rafael López have teamed up to create a poignant, yet heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone.

[...More](#)



All Are Welcome

By [Penfold, Alexandra](#)

Illustrator [Kaufman, Suzanne](#)

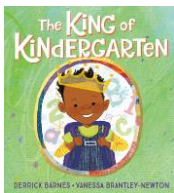
2018-07 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9780525579649 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Join the call for a better world with this *New York Times* bestselling picture book about a school where diversity and inclusion are celebrated.

Discover a school where--no matter what--young children have a place, have a space, and are loved and appreciated.

Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where [...More](#)



The King of Kindergarten

By [Barnes, Derrick](#)

Illustrator [Brantley-Newton, Vanessa](#)

2019-07 - Nancy Paulsen Books

9781524740740 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A New York Times bestseller

A confident little boy takes pride in his first day of kindergarten, by the Newbery Honor-winning author of *Crown*.

The morning sun blares through your window like a million brass trumpets. It sits and shines behind your head--like a crown. Mommy says that today, you are going to be the King of Kindergarten

Starting [...More](#)



Pirates Don't Go to Kindergarten!

By [Robinson, Lisa](#)

Illustrator [Kaban, Eda](#)

2019-08 - Two Lions

9781542092753 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Yo, ho, ho It's a mutiny against kindergarten

Pirate Emma is about to start kindergarten But Emma's not so sure she's ready for a new captain and crew. Especially since Cap'n Chu--the roughest, toughest, awesomest preschool cap'n ever--is right down the hall. So Emma decides to head back to the preschool ship to see if she can stir up a mutiny against kindergarten Is that what [...More](#)



School's First Day of School

By [Rex, Adam](#)

Author [Robinson, Christian](#)

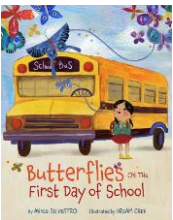
2016-06 - Roaring Brook Press

9781596439641 [Check Our Catalog](#)

It's the first day of school at Frederick Douglass Elementary and everyone's just a little bit nervous, especially the school itself. What will the children do once they come? Will they like the school? Will they be nice to him?

The school has a rough start, but as the day goes on, he soon recovers when he sees that he's not the only one going through first-day jitters.

[...More](#)



Butterflies on the First Day of School

By [Silvestro, Annie](#)

Illustrator [Chen, Dream](#)

2019-05 - Sterling Children's Books

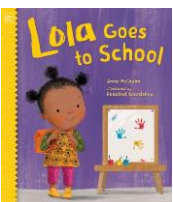
9781454921196 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The first day of school is exciting--but it can be scary, too Meet Rosie, a brand-new student who just happens to have butterflies in her stomach.

"Silvestro and Chen take a common figure of speech and transform it, literally, into a lovely expression of a universal experience." --*Kirkus*

"A cheering first-day story." --*Publishers Weekly*

[...More](#)



Lola Goes to School

By [McQuinn, Anna](#)

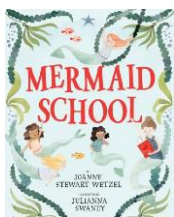
Illustrator [Beardshaw, Rosalind](#)

2019-06 - Charlesbridge Publishing

9781580899383 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Spunky Lola embarks on a new adventure--the first day of school

Lola and her family prepare for the first day of school the night before, then get up early, take pictures, and head to class. Lola puts her things in her cubby, chooses her activities, reads, plays, and has a snack. Before she knows it, it's time to sing the good-bye song and rush into Mommy's arms for a warm reunion. A [...More](#)



Mermaid School

By [Wetzel, Joanne](#)

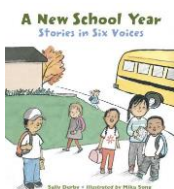
Illustrator [Swaney, Julianna](#)

2018-07 - Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

9780399557163 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Starting school is always exciting... especially when you're a mermaid From schools of fish to the A B Seas, this whimsical underwater tale puts a fun twist on what to expect on the first day of school.

It's Molly's first day at mermaid school, and there's so much to learn Follow the mermaids as they count clamshells, recite the A B Seas, and make new friends. They even enjoy [...More](#)



A New School Year: Stories in Six Voices

By [Derby, Sally](#)

Illustrator [Song, Mika](#)

2017-06 - Charlesbridge Publishing

9781580897303 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In a unique narrative, readers meet a diverse group of six children ranging in age from Kindergarten through fifth grade. With nerves and excitement each child gears up for a new school year by hustling in the morning, meeting new teachers and new classmates during the day, and heading home with homework and relief by day's end.

Simple, bright illustrations focus on each child and [...More](#)



Big Boys Cry

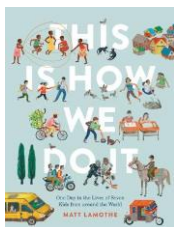
By [Howley, Jonty](#)

2019-06 - Random House Books for Young Readers

9781524773205 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Let boys cry This picture book imagines a world in which boys are encouraged to express their full range of emotions.

It's Levi's first day at a new school, and he's scared. His father tries to comfort Levi by telling him "Big boys don't cry." Though the father immediately understands his misstep, he can't find the words to comfort his son, and Levi leaves for school, still in need of [...More](#)



This Is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World

By [Lamothe, Matt](#)

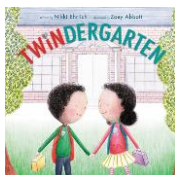
2017-05 - Chronicle Books

9781452150185 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Follow one day in the real lives of seven kids from around the world--Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda, and Russia

In Japan, Kei plays Freeze Tag, while in Uganda, Daphine likes to jump rope. While the way they play may differ, the shared rhythm of their days--and this one world we all share--unites them.

This genuine exchange provides a *window* into traditions that [...More](#)



Twindergarten

By [Ehrlich, Nikki](#)

Illustrator [Wagner, Zoey Abbott](#)

2017-06 - HarperCollins

9780062564238 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Dax and Zoe are twins. They go together like peanut butter and jelly.

It's the night before the twins are starting kindergarten, and they have the just-about-to-start-school jitters. After all, they will be in different classrooms What will kindergarten be like when they're not together all day? But Dax and Zoe will learn that kindergarten is full of new surprises and adventures, and [...More](#)



The Last Last-Day-Of-Summer

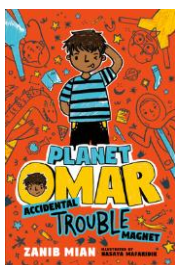
By [Giles, Lamar](#)

Illustrator [Adeola, Dapo](#)

2019-04 - Versify

9781328460837 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"The Last Last-Day-of-Summer reminds me that all children deserve to exist in magical spaces where their imaginations and familial bonds will them into heroism. Every single child should have the freedom to be one of The Legendary Alstons. And I, for one, am grateful to Giles, and this brilliant story, for that reminder." --Jason Reynolds, author of Newbery Honoree Long Way [...More](#)



Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet

By [Mian, Zanis](#)

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](#)



A Good Kind of Trouble

By [Ramee, Lisa Moore](#)

2019-03 - Balzer & Bray/HarperTeen
9780062836687 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A debut author offers up a funny and big-hearted middle-grade novel about friendship, family, and standing up for what's right, ideal for fans of Angie Thomas's "The Hate U Give". [...More](#)



Martin McLean, Middle School Queen

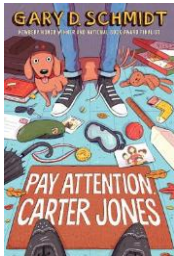
By [Zaczek, Alyssa](#)

2020-01 - Sterling Children's Books
9781454935704 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In this bighearted middle-grade debut, Martin McLean struggles to find his voice--and his inner diva--as he navigates friendship, family, first crushes, and a whole lot of glitter.

"An amusing story that's bursting with diversity at every turn. . . . A tasty treat."--*Kirkus* (Starred review)

Seventh-grader Martin McLean has always been surrounded by people who [...More](#)

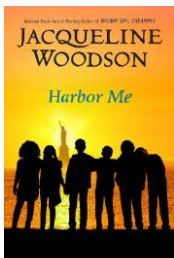


Pay Attention, Carter Jones

By [Schmidt, Gary D.](#)

2019-02 - Clarion Books
9780544790858 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Bestselling author and two-time Newbery Honoree Schmidt tells a coming-of-age story with the light touch of "The Wednesday Wars," the heart of "Okay for Now," and the unique presence of a wise and witty butler. [...More](#)



Harbor Me

By [Woodson, Jacqueline](#)

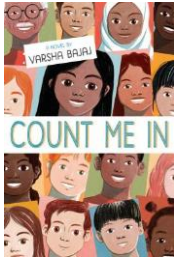
2018-08 - Nancy Paulsen Books
9780399252525 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Jacqueline Woodson was the 2018-2019 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

Jacqueline Woodson's first middle-grade novel since National Book Award winner *Brown Girl Dreaming* celebrates the healing that can occur when a group of students share their stories.

It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat--by [...More](#)



Count Me in

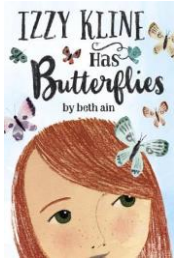
By [Bajaj, Varsha](#)

2019-08 - Nancy Paulsen Books

9780525517245 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An uplifting story, told through the alternating voices of two middle-schoolers, in which a community rallies to reject racism.

Karina Chopra would have never imagined becoming friends with the boy next door--after all, they've avoided each other for years and she assumes Chris is just like the boys he hangs out with, who she labels a pack of hyenas. Then Karina's grandfather starts [...More](#)



Izzy Kline Has Butterflies

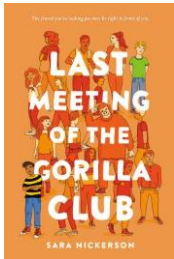
By [Ain, Beth](#)

2017-03 - Random House Books for Young Readers

9780399550805 [Check Our Catalog](#)

So many moments--big and small--make up a year, and Beth Ain chronicles them all in this heartwarming novel in verse, perfect for fans of *Fish in a Tree* and verse novels like *Brown Girl Dreaming* and *The Crossover*.

It's a new school year, and Izzy Kline is having some feelings. There are plenty of reasons for the butterflies in her stomach to flap their wings. [...More](#)



Last Meeting of the Gorilla Club

By [Nickerson, Sara](#)

2019-08 - Dutton Books for Young Readers

9781101994429 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A moving new middle grade novel about childhood anxiety and grief, from the author of *The Secrets of Blueberries, Brothers, Moose, and Me*.

Eleven-year-old Josh Duncan has never had much luck making friends--not the real kind, anyway. Moving to a new town is supposed to be a chance to leave behind the problems that plagued Josh at his last school. Problems like Big Brother, [...More](#)



Pippa Park Raises Her Game

By [Yun, Erin](#)

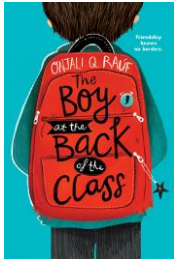
2020-02 - Fabled Films Press

9781944020262 [Check Our Catalog](#)

"Pippa is a magnetic heroine, funny and good-hearted."--Booklist

Readers will cheer on Korean American Pippa Park in this compelling middle grade reimagining of *Great Expectations*. Navigating friendships and cyberbullying at a new school, Pippa reinvents herself and discovers who she really is.

Life is full of great expectations for Korean American Pippa [...More](#)



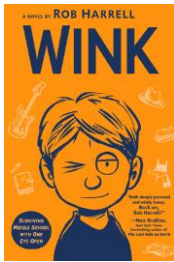
The Boy at the Back of the Class

By [Rauf, Onjali Q.](#)

2020-07 - Yearling Books

9781984850812 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



Wink

By [Harrell, Rob](#)

2020-03 - Dial Books

9781984815149 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A hilarious and heartwrenching story about surviving middle school--and an unthinkable diagnosis--while embracing life's weirdness.

Ross Maloy just wants to be a normal seventh grader. He doesn't want to lose his hair, or wear a weird hat, or deal with the disappearing friends who don't know what to say to "the cancer kid." But with his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in [...More](#)