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.

**March 2021: Women’s History Month**

By *Kaiser, Lisbeth*
Author *Who Hq*
Illustrator *Chow, Stanley*
2020-12 - Rise X Penguin Workshop
9780593222744 [Check Our Catalog](Check Our Catalog)

...More
Big Words for Fearless Girls: 1,000 Big Words for Girls with Big Dreams
By Miles, Stephanie
Illustrator Miles, David
2019-10 - Bushel & Peck Books
9781733633543 Check Our Catalog

Big Words for Fearless Girls is a first-of-its-kind primer bursting with powerful first words girls will need to pursue their big dreams. The vibrant, oversized board book comes packed with 1,000 brightly illustrated words, all interwoven with 100 female heroes and inspiring messages. Readers will learn colors with Frida Kahlo, animals with Jane Goodall, things that go with Amelia...More

3 2 1 Awesome!: 20 Fearless Women Who Dared to Be Different
By Chen, Eva
Illustrator Desierto, Derek
2020-10 - Feiwel & Friends
9781250624024 Check Our Catalog

Instagram superstar and New York Times bestselling author of Juno Valentine and the Magical Shoes Eva Chen shines a spotlight on 20 amazing women--including Megan Rapinoe, Sonia Sotomayor, Shirley Chisholm, Greta Thunberg and more--in 3 2 1 Awesome a sassy and fun counting board book, perfect for the youngest of budding feminists.

Why stick to counting on...More

My First Feminist Book (for Boys)
By Merberg, Julie
Illustrator Brummer Everett, Michéle
2018-11 - Downtown Bookworks
9781941367629 Check Our Catalog

Feminism begins at home--and My First Book of Feminism (for Boys) is where it begins. Simple illustrations paired with engaging, rhyming text make the compelling, age-appropriate argument that girls and boys are equal, plain and simple. Humorous, familiar scenarios are treated as teachable moments for very young boys (ages 0-3) who will ideally grow up without ever questioning women's...More

La Vida de/The Life of Selena
By Rodriguez, Patty
Author Stein, Ariana
Illustrator Reyes, Citlali
2018-03 - Lil' Libros
9780986109997 Check Our Catalog

A Lil' Libros Bilingual Biography

Selena's career started at a young age when she became lead singer in her family's band, Selena Y Los Dinos. She went on to become an award-winning artist with albums like Amor Prohibido and Selena Live, and earned the title Queen of Tejano Music. Your little one will learn that Selena's favorite food was pizza and that the most important people...More
My Mom Is a Superhero! (DC Wonder Woman)
By Chlebowski, Rachel
Illustrator Red Central Ltd
2021-01 - Random House Books for Young Readers
9780593305409 Check Our Catalog

Celebrate superhero moms this Mother’s Day with this extra cute version of Wonder Woman(TM) in this sturdy board book

What makes your mom a superhero? My mom does so much for me with care; like a Wonder Woman, she’s always there

Wonder Woman has never been more adorable in this sturdy board book that’s the perfect way for babies and toddlers to celebrate Mother’s Day. …More

Look at her go! : women athletes who played to win

Author: Broderick, Kathy author
ISBN: 9781503752788

Meet Serena Williams, Megan Rapinoe, Chloe Kim, and other superstar athletes! Discover 50 inspiring facts from more than 90 years of women’s sports history! From trusted educational brand Encyclopedia Britannica, this board book pairs biographical facts about ten inspiring women with illustrations that capture their spirit and energy.

I Am Unstoppable: A Little Book about Amelia Earhart
By Meltzer, Brad
Illustrator Eliopoulos, Christopher
2019-05 - Dial Books
9780525552932 Check Our Catalog

The littlest readers can learn about Amelia Earhart in this board book version of the New York Times bestselling Ordinary People Change the World biography.

This friendly, fun biography series focuses on the traits that made our heroes great--the traits that kids can aspire to in order to live heroically themselves. In this new board book format, the very youngest readers can …More

I Am Frida Kahlo
By Meltzer, Brad
Illustrator Eliopoulos, Christopher
2021-03 - Dial Books
9780525555988 Check Our Catalog

The famous Mexican painter Frida Kahlo is the 23rd hero in the New York Times bestselling picture book biography series from Brad Meltzer and Christopher Eliopoulos

This friendly, fun biography series focuses on the traits that made our heroes great--the traits that kids can aspire to in order to live heroically themselves. Each book tells the story of an icon in a lively, …More
Who Is Jane Goodall?: A Who Was? Board Book
By Kaiser, Lisbeth
Author Who Hq
Illustrator Chow, Stanley
2021-03 - Rise X Penguin Workshop
9780593223420 Check Our Catalog

The latest addition to the Who HQ program: board book biographies of relevant and important figures, created specifically for the preschool audience

The #1 New York Times Bestselling Who Was? series expands into the board book space, bringing age-appropriate biographies of influential figures to readers ages 2-4.

The chronology and themes of Jane Goodall's meaningful life ...More

Girl on a Motorcycle
By Novesky, Amy
Illustrator Morstad, Julie
2020-09 - Viking Books for Young Readers
9780593116296 Check Our Catalog

A picture book biography by an award-winning team about the first woman to ride a motorcycle around the world

One day, a girl gets on her motorcycle and rides away. She wants to wander the world. To go . . . Elsewhere. This is the true story of the first woman to ride a motorcycle around the world alone. Each place has something to teach her. Each place is beautiful. And despite many ...More

Ambitious Girl
By Harris, Meena
2021-01 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
9780316229692 Check Our Catalog

Anyone who's ever been underestimated or overshadowed will find inspiration in this empowering new picture book from Meena Harris, New York Times-bestselling author of Kamala and Maya's Big Idea, which is based on a true story about her aunt, Vice President Kamala Harris, and her mother, Maya Harris. When a young girl sees a strong woman on TV labeled as "too assertive" and ...More

The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne
By Cline-Ransome, Lesa
Illustrator Parra, John
2020-01 - Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books
9781481462891 Check Our Catalog

"A powerful story." --The Horn Book

"A worthy addition to children's biography collections." --Booklist

"A solid treatment of an important but little-known figure, and it may prompt kids to think about the role and composition of a free press." --BCCB
"Cline-Ransome tells Ethel Payne's] story with economy and drive. 'Somebody had to do the ...More

Standing on Her Shoulders
By Clark-Robinson, Monica
Illustrator Freeman, Laura
2021-02 - Orchard Books
9781338358001 Check Our Catalog

A stunning love letter to the important women who shape us -- from our own mothers and grandmothers to the legends who paved the way for girls and women everywhere.

Standing on Her Shoulders is a celebration of the strong women who influence us -- from our mothers, sisters, aunts, and grandmothers to the women who fought for equality and acceptance in the United ...More

The Only Woman in the Photo: Frances Perkins & Her New Deal for America
By Krull, Kathleen
Illustrator Bye, Alexandra
2020-02 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers
9781481491518 Check Our Catalog

Discover the incredible life of Frances Perkins, the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet and the mastermind behind Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, in this fascinating picture book biography that's perfect for fans of I Dissent.

Most people know about President FDR, but do you know the woman who created his groundbreaking New Deal?

As a young girl, Frances Perkins ...More

Breaking the Ice: The True Story of the First Woman to Play in the National Hockey League
By Bullaro, Angie
Afterword by Rhéaume, Manon
Illustrator Payne, C. F.
2020-10 - Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books
9781534425576 Check Our Catalog

The inspiring true story of Manon Rhäume, the first and only woman to play a game in the National Hockey League, featuring an afterward from Manon herself.

"One day, a woman will play in the National Hockey League. If no one prevents her," said a twelve-year-old Manon Rhäume. Manon always dreamed of playing hockey. So, when the team her father coached needed a goalie, five-year-old ...More
Dreams for a Daughter
By Weatherford, Carole Boston
Illustrator Pinkney, Brian
2021-03 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers
9781534451988 Check Our Catalog

This stunning and empowering picture book from a New York Times bestselling author and an acclaimed illustrator celebrates a Black mother's hopes and dreams for her daughter.

As I cradle you, look in your eyes,
your gaze says softly,
I want to know everything.
I promise to show you all that I can.

This love letter from mother to ...More

Send a Girl!
By Rinker, Jessica M.
Illustrator Hunt, Meg
2021-03 - Bloomsbury Publishing PLC
9781547601745 Check Our Catalog

Brenda Berkman was often told that she couldn't do certain things because she was a girl. When she grew up, she longed for a job that was challenging, different every day, and required physical and mental strength. In 1977 when the New York City Fire Department finally complied with the Civil Rights Act (from 1964) by allowing women to take the FDNY exam, Brenda jumped at the chance.

But ...More

Laxmi's Mooch
By Anand, Shelly
Illustrator Ali, Nabi H.
2021-03 - Kokila
9781984815651 Check Our Catalog

...More

Ten Little Dumplings
By Fan, Larissa
Illustrator Wume, Cindy
2021-01 - Tundra Books (NY)
9780735266193 Check Our Catalog

If one son is lucky, then ten must be great luck indeed But where does that leave an only daughter? Based on a true family story, this inspiring picture book about a different perspective tells the tale of a girl determined to be seen, who finds her own voice and makes her own luck.
In the city of Fengfu, there lives a very special family -- special because they have ten sons who do ...More

**Marie Tharp: The Woman Who Mapped the Ocean Floor**

By [James, Josie](#)  
Illustrator [James, Josie](#)  
2020-09 - Henry Holt & Company  
9781250214737 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A mixed-format picture book biography of Marie Tharp, the remarkable woman who mapped the ocean floor.

Marie Tharp earned a graduate degree in geology in the 1940s, at a time when scientific careers were largely unavailable to women. Marie's vision and tenacity paved the way for her to become one of the greatest oceanographic cartographers of the 20th century. She ...More

**Women Artists A-Z**

By [Labarge, Melanie](#)  
Illustrator [Corrigan, Caroline](#)  
2020-02 - Dial Books  
9780593108727 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An empowering and educational alphabet picture book about women artists, perfect for fans of *Rad American Women A-Z*.

How many women artists can you name? From Frida Kahlo and Georgia O'Keeffe, to Jaune Quick-to-See Smith and Xenobia Bailey, this lushly illustrated alphabet picture book presents both famous and underrepresented women in the fine arts from a variety of ...More

**Revenge of the Red Club**

By [Harrington, Kim](#)  
2019-10 - Aladdin Paperbacks  
9781534435728 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A tween reporter discovers an important and beloved club at school is being shut down--and uses the power of the pen to try and activate some much-needed social change in this period-positive and empowering middle grade novel about the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

Riley Dunne loves being a member of the Red Club. It's more than a group of girls supporting each ...More

**Amazing Women of the Middle East: 25 Stories from Ancient Times to Present Day**

By [Tarnowska Wafa'](#)  
Illustrator [Esteves, Margarida](#)  
Illustrator [Hadadi, Hoda](#)  
2020-09 - Crocodile Books  
9781623718701 [Check Our Catalog](#)
A superb collection of stories about incredible women from the Middle East

Discover Sheherazade, the famous storyteller, dive into the musical world of the beautiful singer Fairuz and meet Amal Clooney, an outstanding international lawyer. Feel inspired by twenty-five amazing women from the Middle East, who have created a legacy through strength of vision, leadership, courage, and …More

Girl Haven
By Sturges, Lilah
Illustrator Carter, Meaghan
2021-02 - Oni Press
9781620108659 Check Our Catalog

Full of wonder, humor, and heart, Girl Haven is the newest original story from the author of Lumberjanes.

Three years ago, Ash’s mom left home and never returned, leaving behind a husband and child and a shed full of mystical curiosities related to the all-girl fantasy world she’d created as a child--Koretris. One day Ash invites a new group of friends from Pride Club …More

The Prettiest
By Young, Brigit
2020-04 - Roaring Brook Press
9781626729230 Check Our Catalog

A must-read for young feminists, The Prettiest is an incisive, empowering novel by Brigit Young about fighting back against sexism and objectification.

THE PRETTIEST: It’s the last thing Eve Hoffmann expected to be, the only thing Sophie Kane wants to be, and something Nessa Flores-Brady knows she’ll never be . . . until a list appears online, ranking the top fifty prettiest …More

The Amelia Six
By Gray, Kristin L.
2020-06 - Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books
9781534418851 Check Our Catalog

"A cozy whodunit that cheerfully affirms girls’ and women’s contributions to aerospace." --Kirkus Reviews

"Comparisons with Nancy Drew and Sammy Keyes come to mind, but this satisfying mystery seems more like the works of Ellen Raskin, E.L. Konigsburg, and Gennifer Choldenko." --School Library Connection

"A wonderful tribute to Amelia …More

Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer
By Sorell, Traci
Illustrator Donovan, Natasha
2021-03 - Millbrook Press (Tm)
9781541579149 Check Our Catalog
Mary Golda Ross designed classified airplanes and spacecraft as Lockheed Aircraft Corporation's first female engineer. Find out how her passion for math and the Cherokee values she was raised with shaped her life and work.

Cherokee author Traci Sorell and Métis illustrator Natasha Donovan trace Ross's journey from being the only girl in a high school math class to becoming a teacher ...

**Starfish**
By *Fipps, Lisa*
2021-03 - Nancy Paulsen Books
9781984814500 Check Our Catalog

Ellie is tired of being fat-shamed and does something about it in this poignant debut novel-in-verse.

Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules--like no making waves, avoid eating in public, and don't move so fast that your body jiggles. And she's found ...

**The Land of the Cranes**
By *Salazar, Aida*
2020-09 - Scholastic Press
9781338343809 Check Our Catalog

From the prolific author of *The Moon Within* comes the heart-wrenchingly beautiful story in verse of a young Latinx girl who learns to hold on to hope and love even in the darkest of places: a family detention center for migrants and refugees.

Nine-year-old Betita knows she is a crane. Papi has told her the story, even before her family fled to Los Angeles to seek ...

...More