



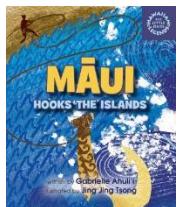
Inclusive Literature Lists

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.

Asian and Pacific Islander Literature



Maui Hooks the Islands

By [Ahulii, Gabrielle](#)

Illustrator [Tsong, Jing Jing](#)

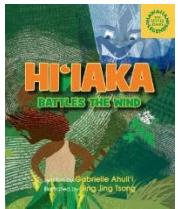
2016-06 - Beachhouse Pub.

9781933067766 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Part of a new series called Hawaiian Legends for Little Ones, Maui Hooks the Islands introduces kids ages 2-5 to one of Hawaii's best-known legends about Maui the demigod who fished up the Hawaiian islands using a magic fishing hook.

In simple, poetic language, this origin story gives small kids a taste of Hawaii's rich history of storytelling.

Three other titles in the series are: Hina, [...More](#)



Hiiaka Battles the Wind

By [Ahulii, Gabrielle](#)

Illustrator [Tsong, Jing Jing](#)

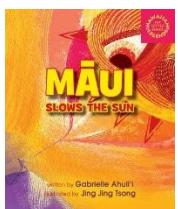
2018-08 - Beachhouse Pub.

9781933067995 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Part of a new series called Hawaiian Legends for Little Ones, Hiiaka Battles the Wind introduces kids ages 2-5 to one of Hawaii's legends about Hiiaka, Pele's sister.

In simple, poetic language, this origin story gives small kids a taste of Hawaii's rich history of storytelling.

Three other titles in the series are: Hina, Pele Finds a Home, Maui Slows the Sun, Maui Hooks the Islands, and [...More](#)



Maui Slows the Sun

By [Ahulii, Gabrielle](#)

Illustrator [Tsong, Jing Jing](#)

2018-09 - Beachhouse Pub.

9781933067988 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Part of a new series called Hawaiian Legends for Little Ones, Maui Slows the Sun introduces kids ages 2-5 to one of Hawaii's best-known legends about Maui the demigod.

In simple, poetic language, this origin story gives small kids a taste of Hawaii's rich history of storytelling.

Three other titles in the series are: Hina, Pele Finds a Home, Maui Hooks the Islands, Hiiaka Battles the Wind, [...More](#)



Eyes That Kiss in the Corners

By [Ho, Joanna](#)

Illustrator [Ho, Dung](#)

2021-01 - HarperCollins

9780062915627 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A New York Times Bestseller and #1 Indie Bestseller

This lyrical, stunning picture book tells a story about learning to love and celebrate your Asian-shaped eyes, in the spirit of *Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry, and is a celebration of diversity.

A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her
[...More](#)



The Most Beautiful Thing

By [Yang, Kao Kalia](#)

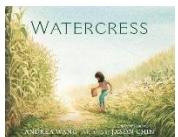
Illustrator [Le, Khoa](#)

2020-10 - Carolrhoda Books (R)

9781541561915 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A warmhearted and tender true story about a young girl finding beauty where she never thought to look.

Drawn from author Kao Kalia Yang's childhood experiences as a Hmong refugee, this moving picture book portrays a family with a great deal of love and little money. Weaving together Kalia's story with that of her beloved grandmother, the book moves from the jungles of [...More](#)



Watercress

By [Wang, Andrea](#)

Illustrator [Chin, Jason](#)

2021-03 - Neal Porter Books

9780823446247 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Gathering watercress by the side of the road brings a girl closer to her family's Chinese Heritage.

Driving through Ohio in an old Pontiac, a young girl's parents stop suddenly when they spot watercress growing wild in a ditch by the side of the road. Grabbing an old paper bag and some rusty scissors, the whole family wades into the muck to collect as much of the muddy, snail covered [...More](#)



Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist

By [Leung, Julie](#)

Illustrator [Sasaki, Chris](#)

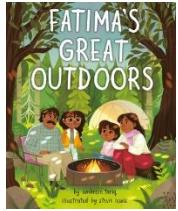
2019-09 - Schwartz & Wade Books

9781524771874 [Check Our Catalog](#)

**Winner of the American Library Association's 2021
Asian/Pacific American Award for Best Picture Book**

An inspiring picture-book biography of animator Tyrus Wong, the Chinese American immigrant responsible for bringing Disney's *Bambi* to life.

Before he became an artist named Tyrus Wong, he was a boy named Wong Geng Yeo. He traveled across a vast [...More](#)



Fatima's Great Outdoors

By [Tariq, Ambreen](#)

Illustrator [Lewis, Stevie](#)

2021-03 - Kokila

9781984816955 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An immigrant family embarks on their first camping trip in the Midwest in this lively picture book by Ambreen Tariq, outdoors activist and founder of @BrownPeopleCamping

Fatima Khazi is excited for the weekend. Her family is headed to a local state park for their first camping trip! The school week might not have gone as planned, but outdoors, Fatima can achieve anything. She sets up [...More](#)



It Began with a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way

By [Maclear, Kyo](#)

Illustrator [Morstad, Julie](#)

2019-10 - HarperCollins

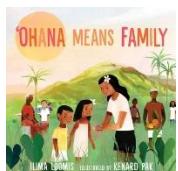
9780062447623 [Check Our Catalog](#)

*** 4 Starred Reviews ***

*** An Indie Next List Pick ***

"Playful, bold, and, much like its subject, full of grace." --Jillian Tamaki, Caldecott Honor winner for *This One Summer*

"*It Began with a Page* tells Gyo Fujikawa's] story beautifully, in picture-book form." --*The New York Times* [...More](#)



Ohana Means Family

By [Loomis, Ilima](#)

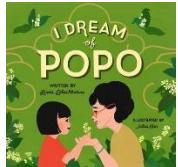
Illustrator [Pak, Kenard](#)

2020-02 - Neal Porter Books
9780823443260 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Join the family, or ohana, as they farm taro for poi to prepare for a traditional luau celebration with a poetic text in the style of *The House That Jack Built*.

An American Library Association Notable Children's Book

This is the land that's never been sold, where work the hands, so wise and old, that reach through the water, clear and cold, into
[...More](#)

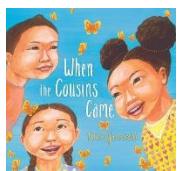


I Dream of Popo
By [Blackburne, Livia](#)
Illustrator [Kuo, Julia](#)
2021-01 - Roaring Brook Press
9781250249319 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From *New York Times* bestselling author Livia Blackburne and illustrator Julia Kuo, here is *I Dream of Popo*. This delicate, emotionally rich picture book celebrates a special connection that crosses time zones and oceans as Popo and her granddaughter hold each other in their hearts forever.

I dream with Popo as she rocks me in her arms.

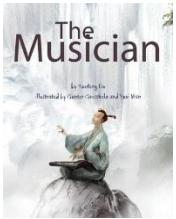
I wave at Popo [...More](#)



When the Cousins Came
By [Yamasaki, Katie](#)
2020-06 - Holiday House
9780823446773 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A multicultural family story that celebrates kindness and differences.

Lila is excited for her cousins Takeo and Rosie to visit. They're going to ride bikes, paint, and camp together. But when the cousins arrive, everything's wrong: Rosie and Takeo are better painters than Lila, have skateboards instead of bikes, and don't want to camp outside. Lila is terribly disappointed until [...More](#)



The Musician

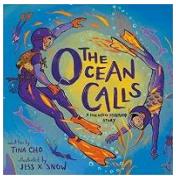
By [Liu, Xuefeng](#)

Illustrator [Grossholz, Gunter](#)

2020-10 - Reycraft Books

9781478869788 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



The Ocean Calls

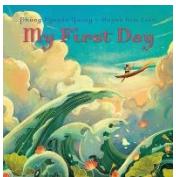
By [Cho, Tina](#)

Illustrator [Snow, Jess X.](#)

2020-08 - Kokila

9781984814869 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



My First Day

By [Nguyen Quang, Phung](#)

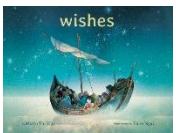
Author [Kim Lien, Huynh](#)

2021-02 - Make Me a World

9780593306260 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A visually stunning story of resilience and determination by an award-winning new author-illustrator team.

This is no ordinary first journey. The rainy season has come to the Mekong Delta, and An, a young Vietnamese boy, sets out alone in a wooden boat wearing a little backpack and armed only with a single oar. On the way, he is confronted by giant crested waves, heavy rainfall and [...More](#)



Wishes

By [Van, Muon](#)

Illustrator [Ngai, Victo](#)

2021-05 - Orchard Books

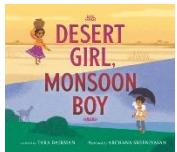
9781338305890 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An arresting, poetic journey and a moving reflection on immigration, family, and home, from an acclaimed creative team.

Wishes tells the powerful, honest story about one Vietnamese family's search for a new home on the other side of the world, and the long-lasting and powerful impact that makes on the littlest

member of the family. Inspired by actual events in the author's

[...More](#)



Desert Girl, Monsoon Boy

By [Dairman, Tara](#)

Illustrator [Sreenivasan, Archana](#)

2020-05 - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

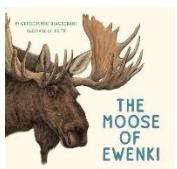
9780525518068 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Extreme weather affects two children's lives in very different ways and shows how the power of nature can bring us together.

One girl. One boy. Their lives couldn't be more different.

While she turns her shoulder to sandstorms and blistering winds, he cuffs his pants when heavy rains begin to fall.

As the weather becomes more severe, their families and animals must flee to [...More](#)



The Moose of Ewenki

By [Blackcrane, Gerelchimeg](#)

Illustrator [Er, Jiu](#)

Translator [Mixter, Helen](#)

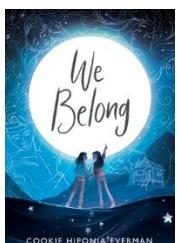
2019-09 - Greystone Kids

9781771645386 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A Shelf Awareness Best Book of the Year, and a Junior Library Guide Selection

From one of China's most beloved, bestselling children's authors comes this touching story of friendship and empathy, which celebrates the traditional way of life for the Indigenous Ewenki peoples of Mongolia.

When a Mongolian elder named Gree Shrek hunts [...More](#)



We Belong

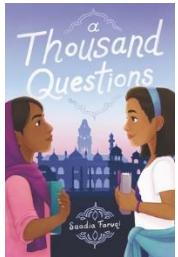
By [Everman, Cookie Hiponia](#)

2021-03 - Dial Books

9780593112205 [Check Our Catalog](#)

An extraordinarily beautiful novel-in-verse, this important debut weaves a dramatic immigrant story together with Pilipino mythology to create something wholly new.

Stella and Luna know that their mama, Elsie, came from the Philippines when she was a child, but they don't know much else. So one night they ask her to tell them her story. As they get ready for bed, their mama spins two [...More](#)



A Thousand Questions

By [Faruqi, Saadia](#)

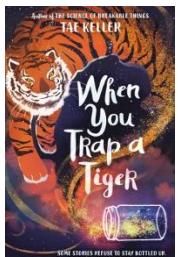
2020-10 - Quill Tree Books

9780062943200 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Set against the backdrop of Karachi, Pakistan, Saadia Faruqi's tender and honest middle grade novel tells the story of two girls navigating a summer of change and family upheaval with kind hearts, big dreams, and all the right questions.

Mimi is not thrilled to be spending her summer in Karachi, Pakistan, with grandparents she's never met. Secretly, she wishes to find

[...More](#)



When You Trap a Tiger

By [Keller, Tae](#)

2020-01 - Random House Books for Young Readers

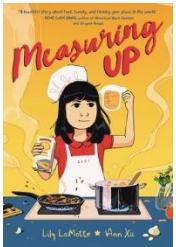
9781524715700 [Check Our Catalog](#)

WINNER OF THE NEWBERY MEDAL - NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

WINNER OF THE ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Would you make a deal with a magical tiger? This uplifting story brings Korean folklore to life as a girl goes on a quest to unlock the power of stories and save her grandmother.

Some stories refuse to stay [...More](#)



Measuring Up

By [Lamotte, Lily](#)

Illustrator [Xu, Ann](#)

2020-10 - HarperCollins

9780062973870 [Check Our Catalog](#)

For fans of *American Born Chinese* and *Roller Girl*, *Measuring Up* is an own voices graphic novel debut from Lily LaMotte and Ann Xu

"A beautiful story about food, family, and finding your place in the world." --Gene Luen Yang, author of *American Born Chinese* and *Dragon* [...More](#)



A Potful of Magic

By [Villanueva, Gail](#)

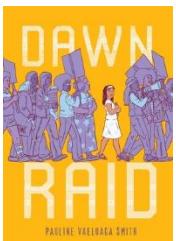
2021-04 - Scholastic Press

9781338630923 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Can a bully be defeated by a magical love potion?

Jolina can't take Claudine's bullying any longer. The taunts and teasing are too much. Though Jolina knows she's still in-training to use her grandfather's arbularyo magic, she sneaks into his potions lab to get her revenge. Jolina brews a batch of gayuma, a powerful love potion.

And it works. The love potion conquers Claudine's [...More](#)



Dawn Raid

By [Vaeluaga Smith, Pauline](#)

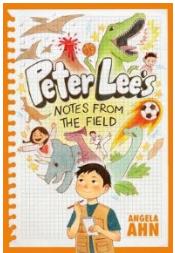
Illustrator [Hunkin, Mat](#)

2021-03 - Levine Querido

9781646140411 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Imagine this: You're having an amazing family holiday, one where everyone is there and all 18 of you are squeezed into one house. All of sudden it's 4 o'clock in the morning and there's banging and yelling and screaming. The police are in the house pulling people out of bed ...

Sofia is like most 12-year-old girls in New Zealand. How is she going to earn enough money for those boots? WHY does [...More](#)



Peter Lee's Notes from the Field

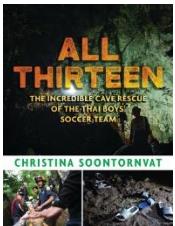
By [Ahn, Angela](#)

Illustrator [Kwon, Julie](#)

2021-03 - Tundra Books (NY)

9780735268241 [Check Our Catalog](#)

[...More](#)



All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team

By [Soontornvat, Christina](#)

2020-10 - Candlewick Press (MA)

9781536209457 [Check Our Catalog](#)

A 2021 Newbery Honor Book

A 2021 Robert F. Sibert Honor Book

A 2021 YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults Finalist

A unique account of the amazing Thai cave rescue told in a heart-racing, you-are-there style that blends suspense, science, and cultural insight.

On June 23, 2018, twelve young players of the Wild Boars soccer team and [...More](#)



Fly on the Wall

By [Lai, Remy](#)

Illustrator [Lai, Remy](#)

2020-09 - Henry Holt & Company

9781250314116 [Check Our Catalog](#)

In *Fly on the Wall*, a moving and hilarious diary-style illustrated novel from the award-winning author of *Pie in the Sky*, a twelve-year-old boy goes on a (forbidden) solo adventure halfway around the world to prove his independence to his overprotective family.

A Best Book of the Year for *Kirkus, Booklist, Chicago Public Library*, [...More](#)



Soul Lanterns

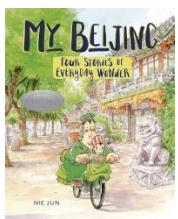
By [Kuzki, Shaw](#)

2021-03 - Delacorte Press

9780593174340 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The haunting and poignant story of how a young Japanese girl's understanding of the historic and tragic bombing of Hiroshima is transformed by a memorial lantern-floating ceremony.

Twelve-year-old Nozomi lives in the Japanese city of Hiroshima. She wasn't even born when the bombing of Hiroshima took place. Every year Nozomi joins her family at the lantern-floating ceremony to honor [...More](#)



My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder

By [Jun, Nie](#)

2018-09 - Graphic Universe (Tm)

9781541526426 [Check Our Catalog](#)

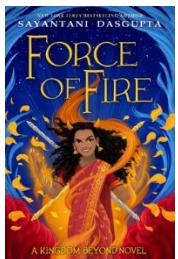
Awards:

Mildred L. Batchelder Award (2019)

A 2019 Batchelder Honor Book

Yu'er and her grandpa live in a small neighborhood in Beijing--and it's full of big personalities. There's a story around every corner, and each day has a hint of magic.

In one tale, Yu'er wants to swim in the Special Olympics, a sports competition for people with disabilities. But she and her grandpa don't have a pool. Their [...More](#)



The Force of Fire (a Kingdom Beyond Novel)

By [DasGupta, Sayantani](#)

2021-06 - Scholastic Press

9781338636642 [Check Our Catalog](#)

From *New York Times* bestselling author Sayantani DasGupta comes the story of a demon who must embrace her bad to serve the greater good.

Pinki hails from a long line of rakkhosh resisters, demons who have spent years building interspecies relationships, working together to achieve their goal of overthrowing the snakey oppressors and taking back their rights. But she has more important [...More](#)



Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon

By [Singh, Simran Jeet](#)

Illustrator [Kaur, Baljinder](#)

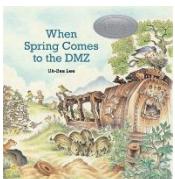
2020-08 - Kokila

9780525555094 [Check Our Catalog](#)

The true story of Fauja Singh, who broke world records to become the first one hundred-year-old to run a marathon, shares valuable lessons on the source of his grit, determination to overcome obstacles, and commitment to positive representation of the Sikh community.

Every step forward is a victory.

Fauja Singh was born determined. He was also born with legs that wouldn't [...More](#)



When Spring Comes to the DMZ

By [Lee, Uk-Bae](#)

Illustrator [Lee, Uk-Bae](#)

2019-03 - Plough Publishing House

9780874869729 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Awards:

Mildred L. Batchelder Award (2020)

Batchelder Honor Winner, 2020 ALA Youth Media Awards

Honorable Mention, 2019 Freeman Awards (National Consortium for Teaching about Asia)

Korea's demilitarized zone has become an amazing accidental nature preserve that gives hope for a brighter future for a divided land.

This unique picture book invites young readers into the natural beauty of the [...More](#)



Awesome Asian Americans: 20 People Who Made America Amazing

By [Amara, Phil](#)

Author [Chin, Oliver](#)

Illustrator [Calle, Juan](#)

2020-11 - Immedium

9781597021500 [Check Our Catalog](#)

Enjoy the best children's anthology of noteworthy Asian Americans. This compelling collection features 20 profiles with 60 action-packed, color illustrations.

It's about time - rebel girls, rad women, little leaders, and great guys are Asian American too Readers will enjoy learning about 20 groundbreaking citizens who have contributed to the USA.

- Dwayne The Rock [...More](#)