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.

Inclusive Literature: June 2023 Pride Month

This Little Rainbow: A Love-Is-Love Primer
By Holub, Joan
Illustrator Roode, Daniel
2021-10 - Little Simon
9781534475601 Check Our Catalog

Learn all about important leaders who represent, empower, and support the LGBTQIA+ community in this engaging board book perfect for proud leaders-in-training

Now even the youngest readers can learn all about important people who are from or helped support the LGBTQIA+ community. Highlighting ten memorable people who paved the way, parents and little ones alike will love this discovery.

...More
We Are Little Feminists: Families
By Shrivastav, Archaa
2022-03 - Little Feminist Press
9781734182460 Check Our Catalog

2021 Stonewall Award Winner! The first ever board book to win an American Library Association medal - now includes discussion guide with age-appropriate questions for parents and educators.

Beautiful, full-color photos of real LGBTQ and ally families showcase all the wonderful forms of family, gender, and sexuality in this fun and award-winning board book. Each spread ...More

My Family, Your Family!
By Cole, Kathryn
Illustrator Li, Cornelia
2020-09 - Second Story Press
9781772601336 Check Our Catalog

This book includes a diverse array of characters and celebrates gay parents, single parents, blended families, and other family groups rarely seen in board books. ...More

Together: A First Conversation about Love
By Madison, Megan
Author Ralli, Jessica
Illustrator Passchier
2022-12 - Rise X Penguin Workshop
9780593520963 Check Our Catalog

...More

Whoever You Are: A Baby Book on Love & Gender
By Wai Lin, Josephine
Illustrator Lopez, Sandy
2022-09 - Collective Book Studio
9781951412944 Check Our Catalog

Quiet and loud, soft and strong. You being you, there’s no way to be wrong...

Every day, parents come home from the hospital with a brand-new human being. What if we made vows to our babies to love them no matter what? What if the world didn’t rush in to judge our little ones and instead made them feel truly seen and supported.

With bright, vibrant illustrations ...More
**My Moms Love Me**
By Membrino, Anna
Illustrator Hwang Ruiz, Joy
2022-03 - Orchard Books
9781383811964 Check Our Catalog

Cuddle up and celebrate love in this picture book that shines a spotlight on LGBTQ+ moms!

"A hug from Mommy, warm and tight.

A squeeze from Mama feels just right.

This is how my mommies say,

'We love you, baby, night and day!'"

Two mommies share a perfect day with their little one in this joyful picture book! From visiting animals on a farm ...

**Courage in Her Cleats: The Story of Soccer Star Abby Wambach**
By Chaffee, Kim
Illustrator Badiu, Alexandra
2023-01 - Page Street Kids
9781645676294 Check Our Catalog

As a child, Abby Wambach was loud and clear about what she wanted and what she didn't, and she didn't want to be left out of any competition--especially soccer.

In this powerful biography, readers will dance and dart down fields with Abby as she slingshots--balls thwump... whiz... whoosh--straight into goals, sweating and scoring her way from school league leader to U.S. Women's National ...

**No One Owns the Colors**
By Davy, Gianna
Illustrator Rodriguez, Brenda
2023-02 - Collective Book Studio
9781951412968 Check Our Catalog

...More

**Grandad's Pride**
By Woodgate, Harry
2023-04 - Little Bee Books
9781499814613 Check Our Catalog

Grandad and Milly are back for another adventure, this time honoring the past and celebrating the future with a pride parade. This heartwarming tale
continues to wonderful journey that began with the Stonewall Honoree and Waterstones Best Illustrated Book, *Grandad's Camper*.

"A winner from beginning to end-and affirmation that Pride belongs in every community." - …More

I Am a Rainbow!
By Kanemura, Mark
Illustrator Merritt, Richard
With Foxe, Steve
2023-05 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
9780316167789 Check Our Catalog

A professional dancer, LGBTQIA+ advocate, and social media star shares this inspiring picture book based on his childhood in Hawaii and encourages readers to find safe spaces that allow them to shine bright.

Mark loves putting on shows, dressing up, and dancing! But what makes him happy at home gets him teased at school. To remind Mark that his unique light makes the world a …More

Flower Girl
By Bloom, Amy
Illustrator Wahlgren, Jameela
2023-05 - Norton Young Readers
9781324030355 Check Our Catalog

The Good Hair Day
By Trimmer, Christian
Illustrator Yang, J.
2023-05 - Abrams Books for Young Readers
9781419745881 Check Our Catalog

The Fairest in the Land
By Newman, Lesléa
Illustrator Heinsz, Joshua
2023-05 - Abrams Books for Young Readers
9781419757099 Check Our Catalog

...More
Intersectionallies: Love Without Bounds
By Johnson, Chelsea
Author Council, Latoya
Author Choi, Carolyn
2023-01 - Dottir Press
9781948340519 Check Our Catalog

This follow-up to the critically acclaimed IntersectionAllies: We Make Room for All honors the diversity of family life and what family can mean based on our intersecting identities and experiences.

Written by three celebrated women of color sociologists, Love without Bounds: An IntersectionAllies Book about Families is a joyful, …More

The You Kind of Kind
By West, Nina
Illustrator Evans, Hayden
2022-10 - Princeton Architectural Press
9781616899943 Check Our Catalog

Queerty Award Nominee for "Best Read"

Go Big!

Be Kind!

Be You!

Welcome to a magical adventure to discover kindness in the world--especially the kind inside you.

In this heartfelt and joyous story, little Nina embarks on a boisterous day of exploration, a colorful day where she sets out to find, well, Kind. With a backpack full of her favorite things, Nina guides …More

Nikhil Out Loud
By Pancholy, Maulik
2022-10 - Balzer & Bray/Harperteen
9780063091924 Check Our Catalog

A Lambda Literary Award Finalist!

From the acclaimed actor and Stonewall Honor-winning author of The Best at It, Maulik Pancholy, comes a new middle grade novel about a gay Indian American boy who learns the power of using his voice. For fans of Merci Suárez Changes Gears and Better Nate Than Ever.

Thirteen-year-old …More
Like a Hurricane
By Bécotte, Jonathan
Translator Kaplansky, Jonathan
2023-02 - Orca Book Publishers
9781459835238 Check Our Catalog

★"Immediately takes one's breath away with its poetry and power...Deeply affecting. An ideal tool to illustrate poetic elements or emphasize stories of sharing scary yet necessary truths."--School Library Journal, starred review

A young teen's secret is tearing him apart.

He knows he is gay but is afraid to share this knowledge with ...

Juniper Harvey and the Vanishing Kingdom
By Varela, Nina
2023-02 - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
9780316706780 Check Our Catalog

...More

Drew LeClair Gets a Clue
By Bury, Katryn
2022-03 - Clarion Books
9780358639602 Check Our Catalog

In this modern take on Harriet the Spy, twelve-year-old Drew uses her true crime expertise to catch the cyberbully in her school--only to discover that family, friendship, and identity are the hardest mysteries to solve.

Drew Leclair knows what it takes to be a great detective. She's pored over the cases solved by her hero, criminal profiler Lita Miyamoto. She ...

Flor Fights Back: A Stonewall Riots Survival Story
By Ellison, Joy Michael
Illustrator Ficorilli, Francesca
2023-01 - Stone Arch Books
9781669013945 Check Our Catalog

...More

One True Wish
By Kate, Lauren
2023-04 - Atheneum Books for Young Readers
9781665910569 Check Our Catalog

...More
Dear Mothman
By Gow, Robin
2023-03 - Amulet Books
9781419764400 Check Our Catalog

A moving middle-grade novel in verse, about a young trans boy dealing with the loss of his friend by writing to his favorite cryptid, Mothman

Halfway through sixth grade, Noah’s best friend and the only other trans boy in his school, Lewis, passed away in a car accident. Lewis was adventurous and curious, always bringing a new paranormal story to share with Noah. Together they ...More

Riley Reynolds Crushes Costume Day
By Albee, Jay
Illustrator Albee, Jay
2022-08 - Stone Arch Books
9781666344080 Check Our Catalog

It's book week at school, and nonbinary fourth grader Riley and their best friends craft hard for the Dress Like Your Favorite Character Day. Colorful fabric! Paint! Glitter! They are ready to make the biggest and best group costume ever! But most of the other kids are having trouble coming up with costumes. Riley is ready to use their creativity and vision to help as many kids as possible so ...More

Moonflower
By Callender, Kacen
2022-09 - Scholastic Press
9781338636598 Check Our Catalog

Kacen Callender, National Book Award winner of King and the Dragonflies, delivers a stunning novel that invites readers into a child's struggles with mental health, and their journey to wholeness.

Moon's depression is overwhelming. Therapy doesn't help, and Moon is afraid that their mom hates them because they're sad. Moon's only escape is traveling to the spirit realms every ...More

Sir Callie and the Champions of Helston
By Symes-Smith, Esme
2022-11 - Labyrinth Road
9780593485774 Check Our Catalog

In a magical medieval world filled with dragons, shape-shifters, and witches, a twelve-year-old nonbinary hopeful knight battles for the heart of their kingdom. A thrilling middle-grade series opener that explores identity and gender amid sword fights and magic, and proves anyone can be a hero.
"These heroes come in all shapes and skills--I cheered for them throughout their exciting ...More