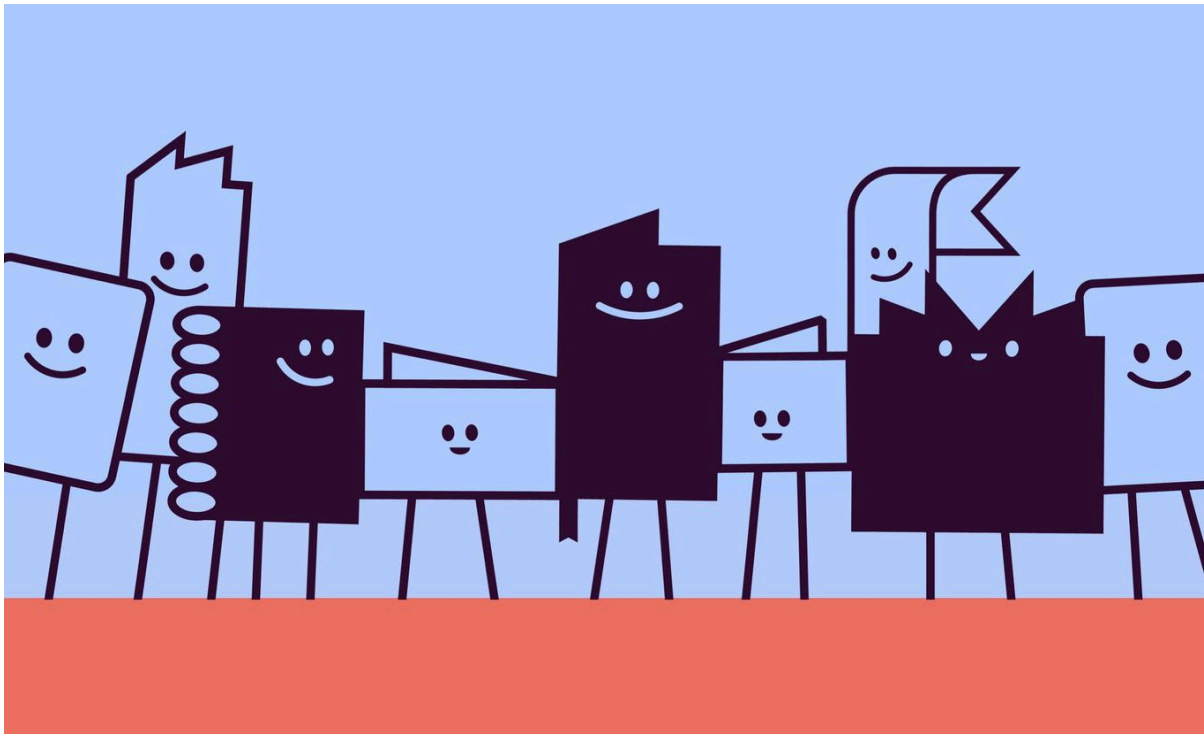


The Washington Post

Book Club

Reviews and recommendations from critic Ron Charles.

May 10, 2024



(Diverse Books for All)

While some of us struggle to work through our towering “to be read” piles, in many parts of the country, children don’t have any books at all. Access to literature — and particularly access to titles that *interest* kids — remains key to improving national literacy, which, in turn, is connected to many markers of a happy, productive life.

To celebrate Children’s Book Week (May 6-12), a new group of nonprofits called the **Diverse Books for All Coalition** has purchased 145,000 books for kids who live in

low-income communities. These books — from Abrams, Barefoot, Candlewick and Penguin Random House — have been selected to help kids “see themselves and learn about others from their earliest years.”

The books, for children from birth to age 8, will be distributed for free or at little cost to families, schools and other organizations across the country.

This bulk book purchase — worth about \$1.5 million — is the first step toward the coalition’s goal of using its market power to buy and distribute 600,000 books in 2024. That work has been jump-started by grants from the Kellogg Foundation and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund. If you’d like to help, [donate here](#).

Why do I trust them? The Diverse Books for All Coalition was founded by First Book, a nonprofit I’ve written about several times. In 2015, First Book won the David M. Rubenstein Prize, given by the Library of Congress to organizations that demonstrate “outstanding and measurable contributions in increasing literacy.”

- Ron Charles, *The Washington Post*