



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Margret Aldrich  
612-203-6856/maldrich@littlefreelibrary.org

**Diversifying Boston's Bookshelves:  
Little Free Library and Candlewick Press Share Inclusive Books**

*A virtual event with author Meg Medina celebrates the Boston launch of Read in Color, an initiative that amplifies BIPOC, LGBTQ and other diverse voices.*

Hudson, WI (June 3, 2021) – The Little Free Library® (LFL) nonprofit organization and Candlewick Press are teaming up to launch LFL's **Read in Color™** initiative in Boston. Designed to promote equity and inclusion, Read in Color brings Little Free Library book-sharing boxes and diverse books to readers of all ages.

Ten new Little Free Libraries will be established across Boston, each filled with diverse books that provide perspectives on racism and social justice, and amplify BIPOC, LGBTQ and other representative voices. The first library will be unveiled at Baldwin Early Learning Pilot Academy this month; see a map of all locations [here](#).

**Everyone is invited to attend a virtual event celebrating Boston's Read in Color libraries, featuring author Meg Medina, Mayor Kim Janey and other special guests.**

**WHEN:** June 10, 12pm noon EST

**WHERE:** Streaming on the Candlewick Press [YouTube channel \(https://youtu.be/CuabvZwLICQ\)](https://youtu.be/CuabvZwLICQ)

"Ensuring that each child in every community can see themselves in the stories they read is central to Candlewick's mission—and this challenging year has underlined how essential it is that children be able to access such books, regardless of their circumstances," said Karen Lotz, president and publisher of Candlewick Press and group managing director of the Walker Books Group. "We are so proud to work with LFL and 826 Boston to roll out Read in Color libraries in Boston, and of course can't imagine a better voice than that of Newbery Medalist and advocate Meg Medina to help mark this occasion!"

Diverse books for Boston's Read in Color initiative will be generously provided by Candlewick or purchased by LFL from local independent businesses like Frugal Bookstore, Boston's only Black-owned bookstore. Book bundles will be offered to existing Little Free Library stewards through an application process. In addition, Candlewick is offering 100 books for a national

giveaway of *The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person* by Frederick Joseph. Readers across the country can enter to win a copy of the book on [LFL's website](#).

A key community partner in the Read in Color initiative is 826 Boston, a nonprofit organization that builds literacy and writing skills in local youth. 826 Boston participated in the planning and placement of the Read in Color little libraries and will help keep them filled with books.

"826 Boston believes in the power of representation," said Jenna Leschuk, Development Director at 826 Boston. "We see 826 Boston student-authored books as a key part of these diverse Read in Color libraries. Student voices and stories are powerful tributes to our city that deserve to be shared."

"We are proud to work alongside such incredible community-centered organizations as Candlewick Press and 826 Boston to improve book access and build community through the sharing of diverse books in Little Free Libraries," said Shelby King, Director of Programs at LFL. "It is our hope that through these new libraries, books that provide perspectives on racism and social justice; celebrate BIPOC, LGBTQ, and other important voices; and incorporate experiences from all identities for all readers will make their way into the hands and homes of people all over the city,"

LFL's national **Read in Color** initiative, which launched in Minneapolis in October, has four key components:

1. **Read in Color pledge**, allowing everyone to show their support for diverse books and access downloadable resources.
2. **Little Free Library installations** full of culturally relevant books, placed in high-need communities.
3. **Free diverse books** for existing Boston LFL stewards, purchased from independent and BIPOC-owned bookstores when possible.
4. **Recommended reading lists** representing Black, Indigenous, Asian/Pacific Islander, Latinx, Muslim, LGBTQ and other communities.

#### **Get involved:**

**To learn more and sign the Read in Color pledge visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org/Read-In-Color](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/Read-In-Color).**

**To enter to win a copy of *The Black Friend* visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org/Books](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/Books).**

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**About Little Free Library:** Little Free Library® (LFL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds community, inspires readers, and expands book access through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries. LFL received the 2020 World Literacy Award and has been recognized by the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation and others for its dedication to increasing book access for all. There are more than 100,000 registered Little Free Library book-sharing boxes worldwide in all 50 states, 110 countries and 7 continents; through them, more than 200 million books have been shared. To learn how you can start a Little Free Library of your own or support bringing little libraries full of books to underserved communities, visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org).