

Michigan Humanities – Great Michigan Read Messaging Key Messages and Guidelines

Thank you for lending your voice online to promote Michigan Humanities' choice for the 2021-2022 Great Michigan Read, "The Women of the Copper Country," by Mary Doria Russell. The book provides a riveting account of how 25-year-old Annie Clements and others stood up for the Upper Peninsula miners and their families during the 1913 copper strikes. Please share from our official Michigan Humanities channels as often as possible.

Michigan Humanities on Facebook: [@MichiganHumanities](#)

Michigan Humanities on Twitter: [@mihumanities](#)

Michigan Humanities on Instagram: [@mihumanities](#)

Use the hashtag: #GreatMichiganRead

Below are key messages, sample quotes, and guidelines that you can use on your personal or organization's page. We have also provided sample social media posts and images that you can share on [the title announcement page](#).

Key Messages

- Residents throughout Michigan are invited to join in reading and discussing "The Women of the Copper Country," by Mary Doria Russell.
- The book is a riveting account of 25-year-old Annie Clements as she stood up for the Upper Peninsula miners and their families during the 1913 Calumet copper strikes. The book is Michigan Humanities' choice for the 2021-22 Great Michigan Read
- The Great Michigan Read aims to connect Michigan residents by deepening readers' understanding of our state, our society, and our humanity. A statewide panel of teachers, librarians, community leaders and book lovers selects the Great Michigan Read every two years.
- The 2021-22 Great Michigan Read title was selected by seven regional selection committees representing all corners of Michigan. After reading books with Michigan themes or locations from June through September 2020, the selection committee chairs met virtually in November 2020 and selected "The Women of the Copper Country" as the next Great Michigan Read.
- The 2019-20 book is "What the Eyes Don't See," Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha's account of her discovery that Flint's children were being poisoned by lead leaching into the city's drinking water. The 2017-18 book was "X: A Novel," a fictionalized account of the early life and Michigan roots of civil rights leader Malcolm X.
- The Great Michigan Read kicks off in fall, 2021 and runs through fall, 2022. In addition to free books, Great Michigan Read partners receive free reader's guides, teacher's guides, bookmarks, and other supplemental materials. Schools, libraries, colleges, arts and cultural institutions, and a range of other nonprofits are eligible to be Great Michigan Read partners.
- The 2021-22 Great Michigan Read is presented by Michigan Humanities and supported by national, statewide, and local partners, including the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Meijer Foundation, and Martin Waymire.

- Registration is open online through [Michigan Humanities](https://www.michiganhumanities.org/) (<https://www.michiganhumanities.org/>). Russell will participate in an author's tour, with times, locations, and decisions on in-person and virtual events to be made at a later date.
- Action grants of up to \$750 will be available to help support registered partners' Great Michigan Read programming centered on the themes found in the book's title.
- Sponsorship opportunities also are available to support partner events throughout the state. Contact Michigan Humanities to find out how to get involved.

Quotes

- "This fictionalized account of the very real and dangerous conditions Upper Peninsula copper miners faced and Annie Clements' willingness to fight for a better life for them and their families will have readers cheering as Big Annie takes on the company owners in one of the first tests of the American labor movement," said **Shelly Hendrick Kasprzycki, Michigan Humanities president and CEO**. "At a time when women were expected to keep house and raise children, Annie Clements' decision to become a leader and take a stand is a story of courage. She's a wonderful example of the strong and principled women who have made history in Michigan and across the country, and it's especially important to share her story during Women's History Month."
- **Shelly Hendrick Kasprzycki, Michigan Humanities president and CEO**, said that she hopes Michigan citizens can read, discuss and learn from Annie's inspiring example as "America's Joan of Arc" during an engaging Great Michigan Read program that addresses labor history, women's history and a critical period in Michigan history when jobs dependent on the state's ample natural resources – copper, iron, lumber – were switching to new jobs on production lines at Henry Ford's auto factories.
- "I'm so honored Michigan Humanities chose 'The Women of the Copper Country' for the 2021-2022 Great Michigan Read," said author **Mary Doria Russell**, who spent time in Michigan's Keewenaw Peninsula walking through the streets of Calumet, touring the mines and visiting local museums as she prepared to write her fictionalized account of the real-life Big Annie. "The copper strike itself has been studied and written about by historians and legal experts, but those accounts are not meant to engage the reader's emotions. That was my job – to combine imagination and empathy with research."

Guidelines

- Share why you're involved with Michigan Humanities and why you or your organization is participating in the Great Michigan Read.
- Share that you're reading this year's Great Michigan Read and encourage your friends to join in the fun, whether you're reading alone or as a part of a book club.
- Share what the opportunities provided by Michigan Humanities mean to you, especially their importance amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Share what you've loved about "The Women of the Copper Country," but make sure you warn about spoilers!