

ABOUT THE NEA BIG READ LAKESHORE

Big Read Lakeshore creates and fosters a culture where reading matters. We bring our community together every October and November around one book and use this shared experience of reading, discussing and exploring the themes of the book as a springboard to learn from and listen to each other.

CONTACT US

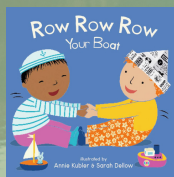
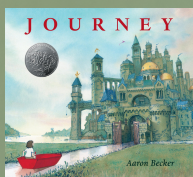
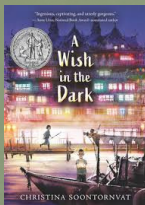


thebigread@hope.edu



<https://bigreadlakeshore.com/>

CHECK OUT OUR OTHER BOOKS!

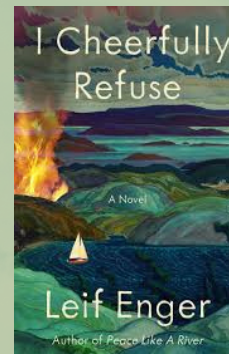


“WE UNDERSTOOD THE MARGINS WHERE WE LIVED. SOME STILL ENJOYED THE FAR-FLUNG COASTS FOR THEIR GLEAM AND INFLUENCE, BUT I THINK WE ALL ACCEPTED THE GRACE OF THE OVERLOOKED”

-Leif Enger, *I Cheerfully Refuse*, page 75



NEA BIG READ
LAKESHORE



MAIN EVENTS HOLLAND

BOOK SUMMARY

I Cheerfully Refuse by Leif Enger is a lyrical, post-apocalyptic novel that follows Rainy, a grieving widower and former musician, as he journeys across a fractured America in search of hope and redemption. After losing his wife, Rainy sails a homemade boat across the Great Lakes, encountering a world marred by economic collapse, authoritarian rule, and environmental decay. Despite the grim backdrop, the novel is infused with wonder, music, and moments of grace. At its heart, it's a meditation on kindness, resilience, and the power of art and human connection to illuminate even the darkest times.

MAIN EVENTS

HOLLAND

October 21 (7PM)

Sustainability Lecture

Hope College, Jack Miller Concert Center

October 23 (6-8 PM)

Book Page Silhouettes & Quotes

HDL North Branch

October 30 (6-8PM)

★ Book Page Flowers

HDL North Branch

November 3 (6:30-7:30PM)

Big Read Book Club: I Cheerfully Refuse

HDL Main Classroom

November 3 (7-8:30 PM)

Big Read Kickoff Event

Graves Hall

November 6 (5-7:30PM)

Big Read Dinner Event

Phelps Dining Hall, Hope College

November 7 (12-1 PM)

Van Wylen Book Discussion

Grandberg Room

November 8 (10-11 AM)

Big Read Book Club: I Cheerfully Refuse

HDL Main Classroom

November 10 (7 PM)- Michigan-IO:

Songs of the Lake and the Forest.

Pillar Church, Holland



November 11 (6-7:30PM)

Big Read Lecture featuring Dan

Broersma: Practical Sustainability

Howard Miller Public Library

November 11 (7 PM)

Leif Enger Author Event

Hope College, Graves Hall

November 12 (7-8:30 PM)

Leif Enger Author Event-

HDL Main Auditorium

November 12 (7-8:30 PM)

Leif Enger Author Event

HDL Main Auditorium

November 13 (6 PM)

Book Discussion over Dessert

Grace Episcopal Church

November 14 (3 PM)

Biology Speaker Series

Hope College SSC, Room 1019

November 17 (6:30-8 PM)

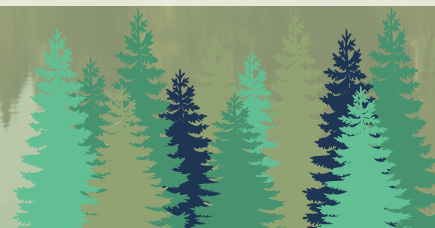
Cross Stitch Ship in a Bottle

HDL Main Library Classroom

November 17 (7 PM)

Film Screening: Motherland

Hope College, BSC Schaap Auditorium



Registration Required



FEATURED EVENTS IN MUSKEGON

October 4 (12PM)

Big Read Kickoff : Stories, Science and
the Lake

Mart Dock in Muskegon

October 8 (5:30 PM)

Shaping the Landscape: West Michigan's
Environmental History

MADL Dalton Branch

October 8 (6 PM)

★ Cruisin' with MADL

Aquastar

October 9 (6 PM)

★ Books, Bikes, & Brews

Fetch Brewing Company

October 10 (1 PM)

★ On the Same Page Virtual Book Club

Virtual Event

October 16 (7 PM)

★ Thursday Night Music Club: Lee
Murdock

MADL Norton Shores Branch

November 13 (6-8:00 PM)

★ Leif Enger Author Event

Overbrook Theater

November 14 (5:30 PM)

★ Big Read Bar Crawl

Rake Beer Project