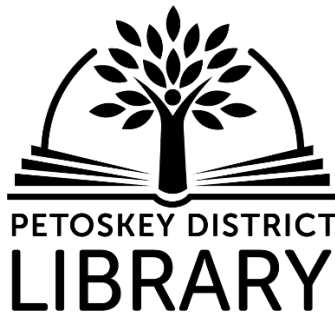




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Library's Community Read to Feature Sierra Clark

Petoskey District Library's annual Community Read kicked off earlier this month with the announcement of *The Marrow Thieves*, by Cherie Dimaline, as the book choice. Two opportunities to discuss issues raised in the book will be held at noon and at 7 p.m. on July 31 in the Carnegie Building.

In addition to the two group discussions about the book, the library will welcome Sierra Clark as the keynote speaker for each session.



Clark is K'chi Wiikwedong Anishinaabe, bear clan from the Grand Traverse region. An award-winning journalist, she has covered Indigenous Affairs for northern Michigan with the *Traverse City Record Eagle* since 2020 while also writing and speaking for news publications across the nation. She graduated the Report for America fellowship this year after two years of service. Sierra has served as the keynote speaker at universities and libraries throughout the state to discuss Indigenous coverage in media, murdered and missing Indigenous people, and residential Indian

boarding schools. Currently, she is a freelance journalist for *Native News Online* and serves as the reporting specialist for Miigwech Inc. while she works on her debut novel.

Already a fan of *The Marrow Thieves* before library staff reached out to her about speaking at the Community Read programs, Clark said, "I found myself entangled in the young adult novel, and it quickly became one of my favorites."

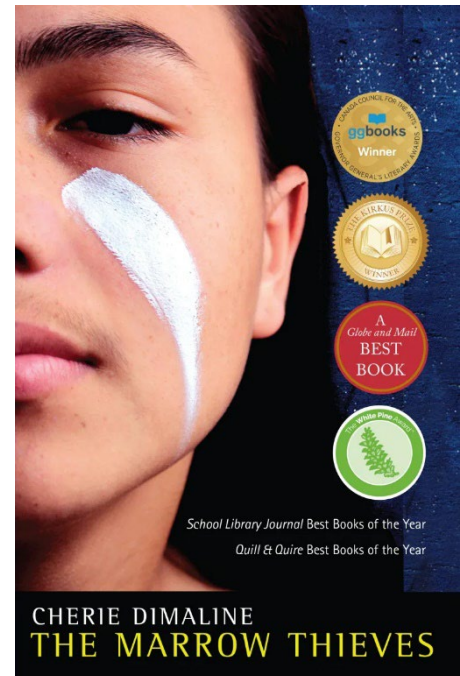
Each year, Petoskey library staff chooses a book for the Community Read that explores complex topics. In *The Marrow Thieves*, the land and water have been devastated by climate change and only Indigenous people are still able to dream. The book follows a group of Indigenous people as they struggle to survive while being hunted for their bone marrow that is the key to restoring the ability of others to dream.

"The dystopian near-future world Dimaline paints in *The Marrow Thieves* is nightmarish, but all too easy for Indigenous peoples to imagine," said Clark. "I found myself grieving shared trauma, and rejoicing in the deeply rooted values and cultures of different Native nations."

Clark will offer an Indigenous perspective of climate change and water issues faced in northern Michigan at the July 31 programs. After she speaks, she will join library director Val Meyerson and others who have registered to participate in a discussion about the book at the noon and 7 p.m.

As part of the Community Read program, the library gave out free books to the first 20 people to register, courtesy of the Yiddish Book Center. Registrants are asked to read the book and complete an action card designed for the program.

Since the award-winning book was released in 2017 and has received numerous awards, those who have already read it are invited to pick up an action card at the library and join in the Community Read. Action cards are available at the Library's Main Desk or can be sent to you via email by contacting scox@petoskeylibrary.org.



Those completing the action card will receive a complimentary t-shirt that features a design created by the Petoskey High School Diversity Club.

Reading the book is not required to attend either of the programs on July 31 and the public is invited to the Carnegie Building to learn more about these important issues. A resource list for the topics touched on in *The Marrow Thieves* is also available on the library's website at www.petoskeylibrary.org/communityread/.

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