

## SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
(DATE)

From: (CONTACT NAME)  
(TELEPHONE NUMBER)

### (NAME OF LIBRARY) TO SPONSOR "STORYLINES AMERICA" RADIO DISCUSSION SERIES

(CITY)-- The (NAME OF LIBRARY) will take part in a new radio series that focuses on some of the most revealing books written about the Midwest. "StoryLines America: A Radio/Library Partnership Exploring Our Regional Literature," is organized by the American Library Association (ALA) and funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), with additional support from Barnes & Noble Booksellers. It will be broadcast locally on (RADIO STATION) beginning (DAY, DATE) at (TIME) for 13 weeks.

StoryLines American listeners read fiction, nonfiction and poetry about the Midwest; hear authors, regional historians, artists and other special guests discuss the readings on the air; and have the opportunity to join the live discussion by calling a toll-free telephone number. Discussions in the studio explore regional history and culture and examine contemporary issues that shape Midwest identity and help give residents a strong sense of place.

Each program will feature one of 13 series books, including (CHOOSE TWO OR THREE TITLES FROM THE LIST). *Townships*, a book of essays about the Midwest edited by Michael Martone, will lead off the programs on (DAY, DATE). (NAME OF LIBRARY) has a limited number of series books available for borrowing and will distribute discussion guides for all 13 books to participants.

"This unique project provides an on-air forum for residents of our region to discuss important literature that illuminates our values, beliefs and cultural history," said (NAME OF LIBRARY DIRECTOR). "Examining our own stories and family histories shows how Midwestern values and culture influence the rest of the nation and how our region contributes to

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DISCUSSION SERIES -- add one**

a complex and varied American identity.”

“StoryLines America” is modeled on “Big Sky Radio,” a Montana-based series of library-sponsored call-in radio programs during 1993-95 that featured discussion of Montana literature on the air. “Big Sky Radio” was also funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Past “StoryLines America” series focused on the literature of the Northwest and Southwest in 1997, and on California and the Coastal Southeast in 1999.

To find out more about this series, including a complete program schedule, contact (NAME AND/OR DEPARTMENT, TELEPHONE NUMBER). Visit the StoryLines America Web site for additional information: <http://storylines.ala.org>.