



read

Literature and reading are mainstays of the Connecticut Humanities Council's work. Great stories speak to the common values we share and illuminate what it means to be human. Thoughtful interpretation of what we read is fundamental to daily life and to understanding the world around us. By encouraging reading relationships between children and parents, CHC hopes to build stronger connections between families and the world at large.

To learn more, visit www.ctculture.org or call 860-685-2260.

The Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC), one of the largest humanities councils in the nation, nurtures thoughtful exploration of history and literature along with the cultural benefits of both. Each year, CHC produces or funds more than \$2 million in cultural programming and enriches the lives of residents and visitors statewide.

Interested in introducing a Council reading program to your organization? Call us at 860-685-2260 or check out our website at www.ctculture.org.

Corporate and Foundation Funding Partners

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Reading Programs
for Adults, Families
and Children

 Connecticut
Humanities
Council

Family Read (for parents of young children)

Family Read (using the Motherhead curriculum) is a program for parents of young children that uses award-winning children's literature to explore universal themes like sharing and cooperating. Trained facilitators guide adults through these topics and model skills such as reading aloud and asking open-ended questions. Adults take these skills home to children in their care and use them to nurture a love of storytelling, story listening, and story reading. Time spent discussing the story strengthens bonds between child and adult and enhances the child's critical thinking skills.

Since 2003, more than 2,000 adults and 4,000 children have been touched by Family Read classes in community agencies, family centers, and educational organizations throughout the state.

The surprising part for me was how much a person can learn by reading a book. (Family Read parent)

Family Nights (for children and families)

Storytelling is the perfect gateway to the world of books, especially for children and families for whom reading is not a common experience. From African folktales to Native American stories to tales from around the world, Family Nights bring high-quality, humanities-based storytelling to libraries, schools and community-based organizations. By emphasizing the values and enjoyment of stories for people of all ages, Family Nights help families recognize and appreciate the importance of reading.

Book Voyagers (for children and families)

Book Voyagers is a "reading for meaning" book discussion program for families, children and teens. Each hour-long session is facilitated by CHC-trained discussion leaders who use open-ended questions to help participants explore important life themes through quality literature. Interactive discussions help children develop an appreciation for the ideas and concepts inherent in good books, sharpen critical thinking skills, and build confidence in sharing ideas in a group environment.

Book Voyagers in after-school settings is designed to support classroom efforts to improve reading skills and to encourage reading for pleasure and insight. These programs are specifically aligned with the reading comprehension and writing strands of the State's mastery tests.

Book Voyagers in libraries has been a successful and valued component of children's programming at Connecticut's public libraries for over a decade. Parents and librarians agree that Book Voyagers gives families a rare opportunity to spend quality time together in an informal yet significant way, promoting and creating lifelong readers.

In addition to schools and libraries, the flexible format of Book Voyagers makes it a good choice for structured settings such as Boys & Girls Clubs and other community-based organizations. The Council typically sponsors and conducts Book Voyagers programming in more than 50 towns and cities across Connecticut each year, serving more than 5,000 residents annually.



Connecticut Urban Reading Initiative (for families in urban centers)

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, this initiative brings together the benefits of Family Read, Family Nights, and Book Voyagers to provide enriched reading opportunities for 10,000 underserved children and families in Hartford, New Haven, and New London. The initiative establishes "reading for meaning" partnerships with a network of public school districts, city libraries, and community-based organizations serving youth and families in each of the target cities.

People are grateful for a chance to discuss a book and see it through others' eyes. (Lit for Life reader)

Literature for a Lifetime (for adults)

Literature for a Lifetime is a book discussion program for adult readers, primarily hosted in the state's libraries and in other local settings. The Council provides experienced scholars as discussion leaders, along with books and materials to help staff at libraries, senior centers, and hospitals offer these high-quality reading programs to their constituents. Participating groups select from a catalog of more than 50 theme-based seminar series focusing on important topics in Connecticut and American history and in classic literature. These professionally led book discussions challenge adults to think about themselves and the world around them in provocative and insightful ways.