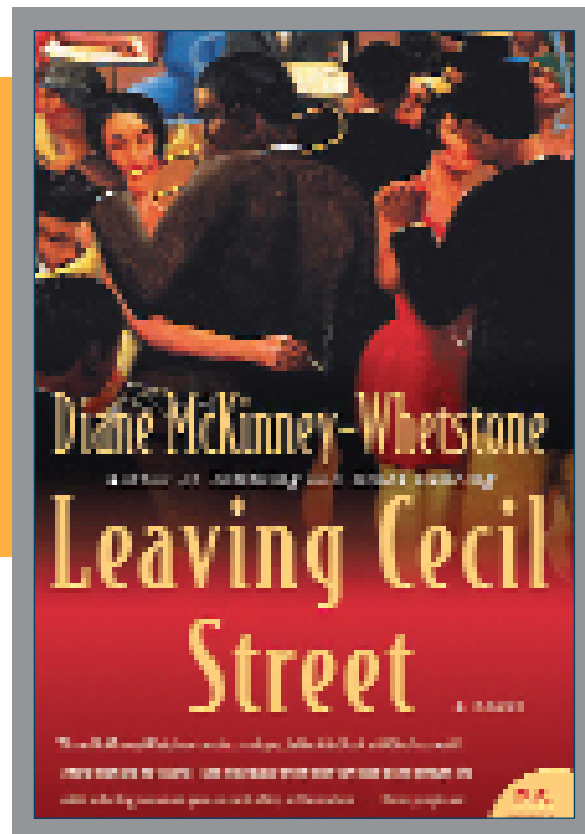


The Pennsylvania Humanities Council inspires individuals to enjoy and share a life of learning enriched by human experience across time and around the world. PHC integrates the humanities into everyday life through partnerships with cultural institutions and community organizations.

In addition to the Read About It! program, PHC offers grants which support humanities programs centered in the arts, history, literature, and other humanities fields. PHC's speakers bureau, Commonwealth Speakers, also serves as a resource for residents of Pennsylvania.



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Guidelines and Application Form Read About It!

Book Discussion Programs of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council

Introduction

Read About It! is a series of “packaged” book discussion programs developed for public libraries. Through informal discussions with an expert facilitator, Read About It! exposes people to new authors and gives them tools to deepen their reading experience. The programs appeal to popular interests and engage readers from all walks of life in the humanities.

Read About It! has two goals:

To reach audiences new to book discussion programs. Read About It! involves people who typically do not attend cultural programs or have limited access to them—individuals from a large variety of communities and backgrounds.

To help public libraries increase their value as community learning centers. The programs boost the ability of libraries to conduct humanities programs. They also improve libraries' marketing and promotional skills, enabling them to publicize their contributions to lifelong learning.

Featured Programs

American Life Stories. Many contemporary memoirs highlight the diversity of the American experience. Why are we so fascinated by people's life stories? What do they tell us about America, its people, and culture?

Books on Screen. “It wasn't as good as the book.” When is this true, and why? What can film offer that great literature does not? The program comes with copies of the movie to screen or circulate.

Detecting Women. Female detectives have changed since Agatha Christie created Miss Marple in 1930. Now many are wise-crackin', gun-totin' private eyes. Others are police officers, chief examiners, and lawyers.

Facts in Fiction: The Civil War Era. Featuring contemporary examples of historical fiction about the Civil War era, this program looks at what we enjoy about these novels, how the stories strive for historical authenticity, and how they connect the past to contemporary concerns.

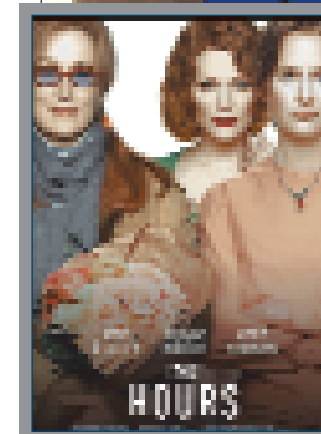
Pennsylvania Writers. Diverse peoples, communities, and landscapes make up the Keystone State. How do different writers envision our state? This program explores Pennsylvania through the work of prize-winning authors.

What the “Package” Includes

The programs consist of four sessions with an expert facilitator. They feature four titles selected by PHC (one title may be substituted). PHC provides essentials such as books for up to 30 participants; the facilitator's honorarium; publicity posters and bookmarks; and detailed guides for conducting and marketing the program. PHC also offers technical and administrative support. PHC assists with the discussion leader search, marketing, and evaluations; orients, guides, contracts, and pays the discussion leaders; and handles book purchases.



From the Read About It! program at the Peters Township Public Library in Washington County.

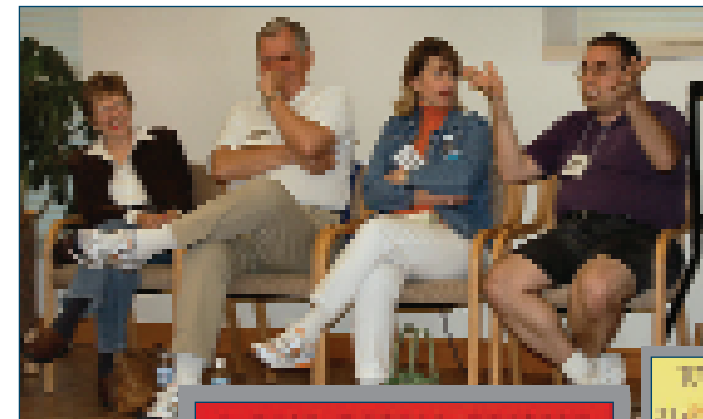


From Books on Screen program

How PHC Selects Participating Libraries

The selection process is competitive. PHC carefully reviews applications and chooses libraries that will:

- 1. Advance the two program goals.** PHC commits considerable resources so that participating libraries can focus on achieving the program goals. In turn, PHC expects a lot from these libraries and chooses applicants who demonstrate that they will invest time and energy making their programs succeed and acquiring programming and marketing skills. Of special interest are libraries which have limited experience in humanities programming for adults but will gain much by sponsoring a program.
- 2. Serve diverse communities throughout Pennsylvania.** As a statewide organization, PHC is responsive to the needs of Pennsylvanians. Selected libraries represent a broad range of communities—rural, suburban, and urban—and serve people in many regions of the state.



Participating Libraries' Responsibilities

The libraries work closely with PHC. They find qualified expert facilitators and collaborate with them; market their program widely; attract and register at least 15 participants; distribute books and other materials; and observe the discussion sessions and evaluate their program. They also take care of meeting logistics and return unused materials.

Fall programs must be completed by December 31st; spring programs, by May 31st.

How to Apply

- 1. Review these guidelines** and the application form to determine if your library can meet the program goals and requirements.
- 2. Submit a final application** by fax or mail. The post-mark deadline is May 15th. PHC will not be responsible for applications that are lost or damaged as they are conveyed. Applications that are incomplete or postmarked after the deadline will not be accepted.

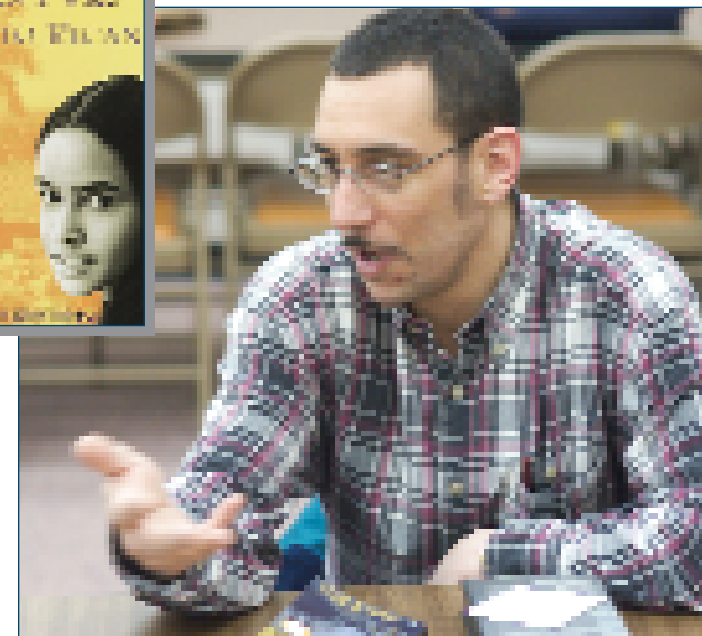
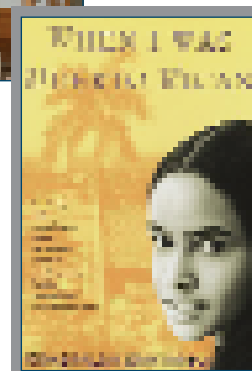
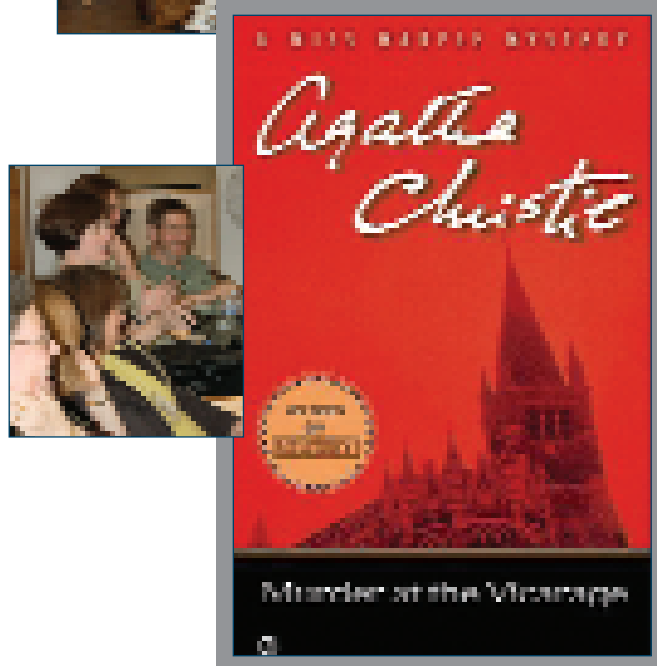
PHC will respond to all applicants by the **end of June**.

To download an application, visit www.pahumanities.org. If you have questions about the program or application process, contact us at (800) 462-0442, (215) 925-1005 or phc@pahumanities.org.

Application Form

Please type or print all responses. Be sure to provide all requested information. A downloadable version of the application is available at www.pahumanities.org. Applications must be postmarked or faxed by **May 15**. Mail to PHC, 325 Chestnut Street, Ste 715, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2607 or fax to 215-925-3054.

- 1. Sponsoring Organization** _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
County _____ Phone _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____ Website _____
District #: US Congress _____ PA Senate _____ PA House _____
Yearly Budget \$ _____ # of Paid Staff _____ # of Humanities Programs Last Year _____
- 2. Program Coordinator and Title** _____
Program Coordinator's E-mail _____
Alternate Coordinator and Title _____
- 3. Program Selection:** Choose 2. *Number 1 and 2, in order of preference.*
___ American Life Stories ___ Facts in Fiction: The Civil War Era
___ Books on Screen ___ Pennsylvania Writers
___ Detecting Women
- 4. Program Date:** *Number 1 and 2, in order of preference.*
___ Fall (September through December) ___ Spring (February through May)
- 5. Project Description:** On a separate sheet (maximum length: one typed page), briefly answer the following:
A. Describe your experience with adult programs and humanities programs, including book discussion groups.
B. What do you plan to accomplish by conducting a Read About It! program?
C. What audiences do you seek to reach with your program? What is your estimated attendance?
D. How will you use publicity and promotional efforts to bring new audiences to your library and establish your library as a center of lifelong learning?
E. What other measures will you take to make your program a success?





Application Form

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