

To learn more about People & Stories/Gente y Cuentos,
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Story
Talk

Stories available as
podcast

Hear It
Read It
Talk About It

A library program for teens

A PROGRAM OF
PEOPLE & STORIES
GENTE Y CUENTOS
www.peopleandstories.org

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
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Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities

“Story Talk” is a People & Stories/Gente y Cuentos teen literature program offered through our nation’s libraries and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

What is People & Stories/Gente y Cuentos?

People & Stories/Gente y Cuentos Inc. is a unique 501 (C) (3) informal education organization with a 38 year history of offering literature –reading and discussion—programs to underserved youth and adult populations. Our program in Spanish or English is designed to create an enjoyable and enriching experience with enduring literature. Our approach encourages readers to perceive the ways their lives have prepared them for the understanding and analysis of complex works of literature. Some of the populations we work with include:

Prison/re-entry	Homeless shelters
Senior centers	Community groups
Adult Basic Education	Recovery/Addiction

What is “Story Talk”?

“Story Talk” is a reading and discussion project in English or Spanish, for youth ages 14-18. Participants meet for **90 min. per session for 8 sessions**. In each session, a trained facilitator reads aloud a complex short story while participants follow with their own copy. After the story is read, the facilitator leads a discussion based on the poetics, tensions and contrasts, shadows/ambiguities, “issues” and life experiences raised by the text.

Participants who expect “Story Talk” to be the same as school are pleasantly surprised by the relaxed, supportive, informal and non-threatening atmosphere created by the P&S/GyC method of conducting the conversation.

Why have a literature project for youth?

Youth are at a crossroads in their lives. They seek an identity, yet they are still building an identity. They long to share their questions and insights with others, yet often they are afraid or reluctant to do so. Youth frequently crave outlets for their emotions and experiences. Yet intense self-consciousness often prevents them from sharing their thoughts and seeking feedback. This is the age of wanting to be seen and wanting to be invisible, often simultaneously. When they share their ideas aloud and receive feedback from others, they are less likely to feel alone. Over time, this exchange can help build community, trust, empathy and an appreciation for differences as well as for experiences that members have in common. Discussing powerful literature in a structured, yet relaxed environment can serve as a guidepost for youth on their quest for identity, community and independence.

“Story Talk” at a glance

- Participants meet for 8 sessions, 90 min. per session.
- Participants receive binders to hold their short story selections and will keep these materials when the program ends.
- A trained librarian/coordinator will read aloud the short story and facilitate the literary discussion.
- At the last session, participants will receive a certificate of participation and a brand new book of short stories.
- A new ipod with downloaded podcasts of the short stories read in the program will be raffled off at the last session to those participants who’ve attended at least five of the eight sessions.
- Podcasts of the stories are also available online– the web address will be provided by the librarian.
- Story selections for youth are loosely grouped around one of the following four themes: “Epiphanies”, “Coming of Age”, “Interior Worlds”, and “Exile”.
- Some of the authors read include: Angela Johnson, Walter Dean Myers, Tim O’Brien, Chimamanda Nzozi Adichie, Louise Erdrich and Mattox Roesch.
- An ideal group size is 15-20 participants.

If you are interested in having a “Story Talk” program:

Please contact:

Librarian’s name: _____

Library: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____