



PRIME TIME FAMILY READING TIME®



PRIME TIME is a six-week program of reading, discussion and storytelling held in public libraries. The program features award-winning children's books to stimulate discussion about humanities themes and problems encountered in everyday life. Each 90-minute session includes the reading of up to three books by a storyteller followed by facilitated discussion with a humanities scholar.

The goals of the **PRIME TIME** program are to:

- bond families around the act of reading and learning together
- encourage parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics
- help parents and children become active library users
- highlight the important role of the library in local communities and daily home life

PRIME TIME was developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities in 1991, and launched nationally in 1995, to reach those people who are typically under-served or never-served by humanities organizations. It targets at-risk families and bilingual families with 6-10 year old children, and for which most programming is predicated on literacy. Its objective is to reverse the pattern of inter-generational illiteracy by transforming the family into a learning environment bonded around the act of reading together. **PRIME TIME's** intent is to significantly impact and improve student learning.

AHC brought **PRIME TIME** to Arizona in June 2010, through a pilot program funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Four program sites were established in Arizona that year within the Pima County Public Library district in Tucson. Each library was carefully selected to utilize the **PRIME TIME's** bilingual curriculum and emphasis on engaging bilingual families and fostering new library users.

PRIME TIME programs are led by highly skilled and trained team members, including bilingual university professors, master storytellers as well as host staff. **PRIME TIME** programs combine high quality, humanities rich literature with the Socratic Method to develop interest in reading and boost critical thinking skills in the whole family.

PRIME TIME programs also specifically recruit at-risk families and eliminate barriers to participation by offering transportation, meals and child care for younger siblings.

The Arizona Humanities Council strongly believes there is a critical role for the humanities in early childhood literacy skills and offers **PRIME TIME** to strengthen literacy skills, and empower families from diverse backgrounds to learn literacy skills, engage with the humanities, and re-discover the resources of their local public library.

