



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION III
Schools Division Office of Bulacan

July 29, 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 368 s. 2025

**2025 DIVISION GAWAD TEODORA ALONZO
(7TH DIVISION COMPETITION ON STORYBOOK WRITING)**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Division Chiefs
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Elementary and Secondary Public School Heads
Elementary and Secondary Private School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. This Office, through the Learning Resource Management and Development System (LRMDS) of the Curriculum and Instruction Division (CID) announces the conduct of the 2025 Division Gawad Teodora Alonzo (7th Division Competition on Storybook Writing) on the Timeline of Activities stipulated in the enclosure.
2. The competition aims to:
 - a. appreciate the role of stories and illustrated storybooks as a tool in the development of reading and learning curricular content standards;
 - b. harvest original stories that demonstrate learning competencies of the Revised K-10 Curriculum;
 - c. recognize the skills and talents of classroom teachers, non-teaching personnel, education leaders, and learners in the production of storybooks for basic education; and
 - d. contribute to the treasury of content materials for utilization as reading resources and transformation to engaging media.
3. The competition is open to all public elementary, high school, and senior high school teachers, non-teaching personnel with permanent status, and full-time teachers in private schools.
4. Any entry found to have been copied or plagiarized shall be automatically disqualified. In cases where such was only proven after the awarding of a certificate of recognition, the winning entry shall be revoked.
5. The decision of the Division Screening Committee is final and irrevocable.
6. Certificate of Recognition shall be issued by the Office to the winners, while a Certificate of Participation shall be given to all writers of participating entries compliant with the rules of the Competition.



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7. The Official Guidelines and Mechanics, required documents, and essential standards are enclosed.
8. For more information, contact Ms. Glenda S. Constantino, PDO II/OIC-LRMDS, 3rd floor, SDO Bulacan, City of Malolos at telephone no. 816-6165.
9. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


NORMA P. ESTEBAN, EdD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent 



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**GENERAL GUIDELINES AND STANDARDS OF THE
2025 DIVISION GAWAD TEODORA ALONZO
(7TH NATIONAL COMPETITION ON STORYBOOK WRITING)**

I. RATIONALE

The Department of Education (DepEd) is committed to resolving basic education challenges by promoting the love of reading as a foundation for national literacy. This is manifested through several reading and literacy programs, such as the National Reading Program (NRP) and local reading initiatives, as well as programs with reading and literacy as their key components, such as End-of-School Year Reading Program, National Learning Camp (NLC), and Catch-Up Fridays.

The Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA), formerly the National Competition on Storybook Writing, is a harvesting program of the BLR that supports the implementation of all reading programs at all governance levels. It is aimed at collecting children's stories and illustrated storybooks as the main resources for reading intervention, remediation, and enrichment.

The stories submitted to the GTA are anchored on the different learning areas of the revised K-10 Curriculum and are woven with local and cultural concepts that are designed to let familiarity invite young and emergent readers to develop the habit and hobby of reading.

II. OBJECTIVES

The GTA 2025 aims to:

1. appreciate the role of stories and illustrated storybooks as a tool in the development of reading and learning curricular content standards;
2. harvest original stories that demonstrate learning competencies of the revised curriculum;
3. recognize the skills and talents of classroom teachers, non-teaching personnel, education leaders, and learners in the production of storybooks for basic education; and
4. contribute to the treasury of content materials for utilization as reading resources and transformation to engaging media.

III. STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

1. All works submitted in the Competition shall be unpublished and have not been entered in other competitions.
2. All entries shall not reflect the names of the author, illustrator, layout artist, school, or any other identifiers.
3. Stories must be original. Adaptation and unique retelling of local stories may be done with respect and sensibility and with consideration of indigenous and local traditions.



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4. Artworks and texts produced through artificial intelligence (AI) or similar system-generated concepts shall not be used in any part of the entries. This provision does not underscore the features of AI; however, the novelty of this art concept needs further discussion in the art community and may be explored in future editions.
5. Internet images, stock photos, and all other non-original art pieces shall not be used.
6. Stories must be written in Filipino. The choice of the Filipino language is limited to logistical considerations (e.g., judging) and shall not reflect any bias toward the said language. Furthermore, all harvested stories will be subjected to post-competition activities, which include, among others, the literary translation of stories and rendering to diglot or bilingual versions of these stories.
7. Stories must be based on one or a combination of learning competencies in any learning area/s of the revised K to 10 Curriculum.
8. Stories shall contain the themes and motifs of tradition, culture, environment, art, and a basic understanding of local concepts. This set of themes and motifs supports the official tagline of #KuwentoNgBayanKo.
9. Stories and illustrations shall adhere to the provisions of the DepEd Social Content Guidelines (see Mechanics and Templates).
10. There shall be no accompanying processing questions and supplementary activities in the story.
11. For styling and orthographic purposes, it is recommended to follow the latest version of the Ortograpiyang Pambansa published by the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino. For other styling concerns not addressed by the said publication, it is recommended to follow the Chicago Manual of Style, 17th Edition.
12. The following are the specifications for manuscript submission:
 - All entries must be typed in a word processing service (e.g., MS Word) using any serif typefaces in single space, size 12;
 - There shall be no identification on submitted entries other than the title and the story itself; and
 - Learning competencies covered shall be placed in the last part of the manuscript, written in italics, flushed right.
13. The following are the specifications for wordless storybooks:
 - Page extent shall be any of the following: 20 or 28 pages. The breakdown of the page extent follows 4 cover pages (front cover, inside



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- front cover, inside back cover, and back cover) and a varying number of pages divisible by 8;
- Only one (1) word is allowed for a wordless storybook, including in the count any label, symbol, grapheme, or fancy fonts placed in conspicuous spaces, items, and objects, and any other text necessary for the development of the story;
 - The Back Cover Page shall contain a synopsis or a teaser of the story in illustration, with no text; and

IV. MECHANICS AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Writing and illustration of stories shall be done outside of office hours.
2. There will be five categories. Each category has its own set of mechanics, qualifications, and templates.
3. **Category 1: Chapter Books for Young Adults (YA)**
 - combining the elements of chapter books (transition from storybooks to novels) and young adult or YA literature (teenage-oriented resources)
 - Illustrated chapter books specifically for young adult audience

Subcategories:

- Chapter Books for Grades 7 and 8
- Chapter Books for Grades 9 and 10
- Chapter Books for Young Adults-Open

4. **Category 2: Comic Books**

- physical or digital publication format of comics.
- sequential art (panels) and text (bubbles, captions, sound effects)

Subcategories:

- **DepEd Canon comic books:** comics inspired by themes, characters, settings, or plots from Ibong Adarna, Florante at Laura, Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo
- **Open Comics:** Comics based on themes and interests relevant to teenage readers

5. **Category 3: Thematic Storybooks**

- Illustrated children's stories based on specific themes.*

Subcategories:

- Wordless Storybooks on Inclusion
- Storybook on Gender and Development
- Storybook on Disaster Risk Reduction Management
- Storybook on Local Tangibles

Note: Only manuscripts will be submitted in this category except the Wordless Storybooks on Inclusion



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6. Category 4: Lolay Storytelling Sessions

-recorded storytelling videos with multimedia elements

Subcategories:

- Recorded Storytelling from Real-life Storytellers
- Recorded Storytelling from Teachers

7. Category 5: Stories for Young Readers by Young Writers

-Narratives and learning experiences by learners

Subcategories:

- Kwentong Pambata ng mga Bata (Grades 4 to 6)
- Kwentong Pambata ng mga Bata (Grades 7 to 12)
- Mga Tulang Pambata ng mga Bata (Open category)

Categories	Description	Subcategories	Outputs	Qualifications
Category 1 Chapter Books for Young Adults (YA)	A single narrative with minimal illustrations (at least two per chapter), combining elements of chapter books (transitional texts from storybooks to novels) and YA literature (teen-oriented resources)	Chapter Books for Grades 7 and 8	Illustrated transitional chapter book for Grades 7 and 8 readers; minimum of 10,000 words and at least four chapters.	Open to teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education and full-time teachers of non-DepEd basic education institutions
		Chapter Books for Grades 9 and 10	Illustrated transitional chapter book for Grades 9 and 10 readers; minimum of 12,000 words and at least four chapters.	
		Illustrated YA Literature	Illustrated transitional chapter books for Grades 7 to 10 readers, addressing teen interests and themes; minimum of 10,000 words and at least four chapters.	



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Category 2 Comics for Young Adults	A single narrative told through sequential art (panels), with or without text (speech bubbles, captions, or sound effects)	DepEd Canon	Comics inspired by themes, characters, settings, or plots from Ibong Adarna, Florante at Laura, Noli Me Tangere, and/or El Filibusterismo; minimum of 30 pages (6x9 layout)	Open to teaching and non-teaching personnel of the DepEd and full-time teachers of non-DepEd basic education institution Note: The illustrator will also serve as the writer for comics entries.
		Open Comics	Comics based on themes and interests relevant to teenage readers; minimum of 30 pages (6x9 layout)	
Category 3 Thematic Storybooks	Illustrated children's stories based on specific themes	Wordless Storybooks on Inclusion	Wordless storybooks for kindergarten: 20, 28, or 36 pages (including cover), centered on themes of inclusion	Teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education and full-time teachers of non-DepEd basic education institutions. The illustrator will also serve as the writer of the wordless storybook.
		Storybook on Gender and Development	Manuscript for Grades 1 to 3; focused on Gender and Development themes.	Teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education and full-time teachers of non-DepEd basic
		Storybooks on Disaster Risk Reduction Management	Manuscript for Grades 4 to 6; focused on Disaster Risk Reduction Management themes	



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		Storybooks on Local Tangibles	Manuscript for Grades 1 to 3; with themes of local tangibles, manmade, or natural	education institutions
Category 4 Lolay Storytelling Sessions	Recorded storytelling videos with multimedia elements	Recorded Storytelling from Real-life Storytellers	Storytelling video using original or adapted stories from the GTA 2024 and 2025 editions (Can be accessed through this link: https://tinyurl.com/bde5nxyw)	Individual or group storytellers who are members of the Parent Teacher Association, not employed at the school
		Recorded Storytelling from Teachers		A team of teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education
Category 5 Stories for Young Readers by Young Writers	A category for the young readers written by the young writers	Kuwentong Pambata ng mga Bata	A story narrative for elementary learners based on the themes of friendship and family	Grades 4 to 6 learners of DepEd and non-DepEd schools
		Kuwentong Pambata ng mga Bata	A story narrative for high school learners based on the themes of self-discovery and sense of community.	Grades 7 to 12 learners of DepEd and non-DepEd schools
		Tulang Pambata ng mga Bata	A compilation of at least five poems on learners' experiences and perspectives.	Open to all learners



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V. TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

1. The following is the recommended timeline of activities:

ACTIVITY	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
District Manuscript Screening	July 25, 2025		July 25, 2025		
Division Submission (Manuscript, Comics & Wordless and Recorded Storytelling)	August 4, 2025				
Judging at the Division Level	August 6-7, 2025				
Regional Manuscript Screening					
Judging at the Regional Level	August 25, 2025				
Submission to National Level	September 1, 2025				August 15, 2025
Judging at the National Level	September 2025 (Specific schedule – confidential)				
Storybook Recognition Rites and Reading Exhibit	November 11 to 14, 2025				

2. Registration for Category 5 will be open upon issuance of the Official Guidelines from the Regional Office.

VI. OUTPUTS

- Only the Top 3 entries will be submitted in each subcategory per District. In case of a tie, the District should break the tie.
- Number of outputs to be submitted per District:

Categories	No. of Outputs	Total No. of Outputs
Category 1 Chapter Books for Young Adults (YA)		
Subcategory: 1. Chapter Books for Grades 7 and 8	Top 3	9
Subcategory: 2. Chapter Books for Grades 9 and 10	Top 3	
Subcategory: 3. Illustrated YA Literature	Top 3	
Category 2 Comics for Young Adults		
Subcategory: 1. DepEd Canon	Top 3	6
Subcategory: 2. Open Comics	Top 3	



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Category 3 Thematic Storybooks		
Subcategory: 1. Wordless Storybooks on Inclusion	Top 3	12
Subcategory: 2. Storybook on Gender and Development	Top 3	
Subcategory: 3. Storybooks on Disaster Risk Reduction Management	Top 3	
Subcategory: 4. Storybooks on Local Tangibles	Top 3	
Category 4 Lolay Storytelling Sessions		
Subcategory: 1. Recorded Storytelling from Real-life Storytellers	Top 3	6
Subcategory: 2. Recorded Storytelling from Teachers	Top 3	



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VII. ENTRY FORM

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Date of Receipt:

Received by:



GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO 2025

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

By filling out this form, you authorize the Department of Education through the Bureau of Learning Resources to collect information, guided by the Data Privacy Act of 2012. This process is required to operate and manage the conduct of the Gawad Teodora Alonso 2025.

☐ WRITER

☐ ILLUSTRATOR

☐ LAYOUT ARTIST

☐ STORYTELLER

NAME: _____

Age and Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

II. CONTACT DETAILS

Mobile Number: _____

Landline (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Name of School/Office: _____

Address of School/Office: _____

District and Division: _____

Position and/or Assigned Grade Level: _____

Designation (if applicable): _____

Name of Immediate Head: _____

Contact Number of School or Immediate Head: _____

Designation of Immediate Head: _____

ENTRIES SUBMITTED

Title

Subcategory

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

III. ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS

I solemnly swear in my honor that the stories submitted are my original creations and are not copied and plagiarized from any existing learning and reading resources in any government, non-government, private, or commercial entities. I am fully aware of the consequences and penalties that may be imposed upon me should this material be proven plagiarized, copied, imitated, or infringe existing authors' copyright under existing laws, rules, and regulations. I, therefore, affix my signature and that of my immediate head to attest to the accuracy and truthfulness of this Entry Form.

I declare that I have read and accepted this competition's rules. I hereby grant the Department of Education exclusive right to exercise copyright and other intellectual property rights, including storage, derivation, and distribution, provided that I am perpetually listed as the main creator of the Work, subject to concurrent rights upon authorization by DepEd.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Printed Name and Signature of Creator
Date Signed: _____

Printed Name and Signature of Immediate Head
Date Signed: _____