



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION III
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF PAMPANGA

August 4, 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 455, s. 2025

**DIVISION SCREENING FOR THE GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO 2025
(7th NATIONAL COMPETITION ON STORYBOOK WRITING)**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
District and Cluster LRMDs Coordinators
All Others Concerned

1. In preparation for this year's National Competition on Storybook Writing as announced through an advisory titled "Administrative notes on the conduct of pre-competition activities for Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2025", this Office, through the Learning Resource Management and Development Section (LRMDS), announces the conduct of **Division Screening for the Gawad Teodora Alonso 2025 (7th National Competition on Storybook Writing)**.
2. Attached are Enclosure Nos. 1, 2 and 3 for the Open Categories for GTA 2025, Technical Standards and Criteria for Judging.
3. All Division Entries shall be submitted on or before **August 20, 2025**, through Microsoft Forms link which will be provided by the LRMDS Project Development Officer II prior to the abovementioned date of submission. Only entries transmitted **on or before the above specified date** shall be accepted.
4. Entry forms for each category and stories which can be used for Category 4 can be accessed through this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/GTA-2025-Template>



5. 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 #KwentoNgBayanKo.
6. Learning competencies covered shall be placed in the last part of the manuscript, written in italics, flushed right.
7. 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.



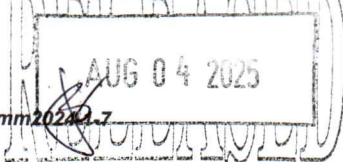
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8. For Grades 1-3 storybooks, entries must be written in **diglot** form, with Filipino as non-negotiable language.
Option 1: Filipino and mother tongue
Option 2: Filipino and English
9. All works submitted in the Competition shall be **unpublished** and have not been submitted for other competitions.
10. 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.
11. 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 discussions in the art community and may be explored in future editions.
12. Internet images, stock photos, and all other non-original art pieces shall not be used.
13. For styling and orthographic purposes, it is recommended to follow the latest version of 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.
14. There shall be **no** accompanying processing questions and supplementary activities in the story.
15. Writing and illustration of stories shall be done **outside** office hours.
16. All entries must be typed in a word processing service (e.g., MS Word) using any serif typefaces in single space, size 12.
17. Public Schools District Supervisors (PSDSs), together with the District and Cluster LRMDs Coordinators are requested to plan and organize the District Level competition to search for the best outputs for this competition.
18. Interested applicants may submit one (1) entry per grade level. Entries submitted for one (1) grade level may not be submitted in another grade level. Only one (1) writer is allowed in each story. There shall be no editor or auxiliary development team at this level of competition except for Category 4.
19. Each district and cluster with entry/ies shall submit one manuscript for each sub-category.
20. Immediate dissemination and strict compliance with this Memorandum is earnestly desired.

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ROMEO M. ALIP PhD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

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Enclosure 1. Open categories for GTA 2025

A. Main categories

Category 1. Chapter Books for Young Adults

-Combining the elements of chapter books (transition from storybooks to novels) and young adult or YA literature (teenage oriented resources)

Sub-category	Description	Qualifications	Deadline of Submission
1. Chapter Books for Grades 7 and 8 (transitional texts from storybooks to novels)	Transitional chapter book for Grades 7 and 8 readers; minimum of 10,000 words and at least six chapters	Open to teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education and full time teachers of Non-DepEd basic education institution	August 20, 2025 (Manuscript only)
2. Chapter Books for Grades 9 and 10 (transitional texts from storybooks to novels)	Transitional chapter book for Grades 7 and 8 readers; minimum of 12,000 words and at least six chapters		
3. YA Literature (teen-oriented resources)	Transitional chapter books for Grades 7 to 10 readers, addressing teen interests and themes; minimum of 10,000 words and at least six chapters		

Category 2. Comics for Young Adults

-A single narrative told through sequential art (panels), with or without Text (speech bubbles, captions, or sound effects)

Sub-category	Description	Qualifications	Deadline of Submission
1. 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 Department of Education and full time teachers of Non-DepEd basic education institution	August 20, 2025



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2. Open Comics	Comics based on themes and interests relevant to teenage readers; minimum of 30 pages (6x9 layout)	Note: The illustrator will also serve as the writer for the comics entries	
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B. Seasonal categories

Category 3. Thematic Storybooks

Sub-category	Description	Qualifications	Deadline of Submission
1. Wordless Storybooks on Inclusion	Wordless storybooks for Kindergarten: 20, 28 or 36 pages (including cover), centered on themes of inclusion	Open to teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education and full time teachers of Non-DepEd basic education institution Note: The illustrator will also serve as the writer for the comics entries	August 20, 2025
2. Storybook on Gender and Development	Stories for Grades 1 to 3; focused on Gender and Development themes Stories must be written using diglot form, with Filipino as non-negotiable language Options: 1. Filipino and mother tongue 2. Filipino and English	Open to teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education and full time teachers of Non-DepEd basic education institution	August 20, 2025 (Manuscript only)
3. Storybook on Disaster Risk Reduction Management	Stories for Grades 4 to 6 focused on Disaster Risk Reduction Management themes		
4. Storybook on Local Tangibles	Children's stories for Grades 1 to 3 with themes of local tangibles, man-made or natural		



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	Stories must be written using diglot form, with Filipino as non-negotiable language Options: 1. Filipino and mother tongue 2. Filipino and English		
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Category 4. Lolay Storytelling Sessions

Sub-category	Description	Qualifications	Deadline of Submission
1. Recorded Storytelling from Real-life Storytellers	Storytelling video using original or adapted stories from GTA 2024 and 2025 editions	Individual or group storytellers who are members of the Parent-Teacher Association, not employed in the school	August 20, 2025
2. Recorded Storytelling from Teachers		A team of teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education	

Category 5. Untold Kuwento ng Bayan Ko

Sub-category	Description	Qualifications	Deadline of Submission
1. Stories from Education Leaders	Non-competitive category dedicated to education leaders, focusing on familiar local narratives from fresh perspective Story narratives for Grades 4 to 6, focusing on legends and folklore	Education leaders occupying third-level positions within the Department of Education system	TBA
2. Stories of Untold Legends and Folklore	A category dedicated to lesser-known concepts and stories of Philippines communities Lesser known legends, stories and folklore from the localities	Open to all teachers of DepEd and educational institutions, including retired teachers	



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Category 6. Stories for Young Readers by Young Writers (Manuscript only)

Sub-category	Description	Qualifications	Deadline of Submission
1. 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	TBA
2. 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	
3. Tulang Pambata ng mga Bata	A compilation of at least five poems on learners' experiences and perspectives	Open category	



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Enclosure 2. Technical Standards

Category 1. (Manuscript screening)

	Chapter Books for Grades 7 and 8	Chapter Books for Grades 9 and 10	Chapter Books for Young Adults
Number of words	Minimum of 10,000 words	Minimum of 12,000 words	Minimum of 10,000 words
Number of chapters	Minimum of 6 chapters with no specific word count per chapter	Minimum of 6 chapters with no specific word count per chapter	Minimum of 6 chapters with no specific word count per chapter

Category 2

	DepEd Canon Comic Books	Comics for Pinoy Teens
Number of Words	No minimum number of words	No minimum number of words
Number of chapters	No required number of chapters; creators may utilize a serialized format, a linear one-chapter format, or any other format as desired	No required number of chapters; creators may utilize a serialized format, a linear one-chapter format, or any other format as desired
Comics Pages	At least 30 pages of actual comics	At least 30 pages of actual comics
Standard front and back matters	Front cover Inside front Title Page Copyright Page Table of Contents About the Author Inside Back Back Cover	Front cover Inside front Title Page Copyright Page Table of Contents About the Author Inside Back Back Cover
Actual Print-Ready Page Extent (Including covers)	36, 44, 52, 60, 68, 76, 84, 92, 100	36, 44, 52, 60, 68, 76, 84, 92, 100
Trim size	6x9 inches	6x9 inches
Font	Typewritten or stylized (if applicable)	Typewritten or stylized (if applicable)
Text-to-art Ratio	Significantly favors graphic	Significantly favors graphic



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Category 3

	Wordless storybooks for Inclusion	Storybooks on Gender and development (Manuscript screening)	Storybook on Disaster Risk Management (Manuscript screening)
Number of words	N/A	Maximum of 2000 words	Maximum of 3000 words
Language used	None	Diglot Option 1: Filipino and mother tongue Option 2: Filipino and English	Filipino
Text pages	At least 16 pages of actual text		
Standard front and back matters	Front cover Inside front Title Page Copyright Page Table of Contents About the Author Inside Back Back Cover		
Actual Print Ready Page Extent (including covers)	20, 28, 36		
Font	None		
Number of illustrations	All pages		
Text-to-Art ratio	0:100		



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Enclosure 3. Criteria for judging

Story Narratives
(Category 1 Manuscripts, Category 3 Manuscripts, Category 5, Category 6)

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Concept	Originality and local flavor	20%
Storytelling Style -Plot and pacing -Characterization -Dialog	Artistic presentation, use of the literary device (idioms, figures of speech, etc.), appropriate tone of story, story progression (three-act, framing, etc.), unpredictability, conflict, presentation and resolution, utilization of character, effective use of dialog (as needed)	40%
Development of the Theme and Learning Competency	Clarity of the theme, effective presentation, and treatment of competency, appropriateness to grade level	25%
Presentation Standards	Spelling, punctuation, grammar, usage, orthographic compliance, styling	15%

Illustrations, Wordless Stories and Comics

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Concept	Originality and local flavor	10%
Appropriateness of the Illustration	Purpose, intent, message	30%
Media/mode of presentation	Use of appropriate media for the story	15%
Technique and skill	Expertise, consistency, etc.	25%
Viewer Reception/ Overall Design and Artistic Composition	Use of elements and principles of art relative to readers' perspectives	20%



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Illustrated Story Packages

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Text	Concept/Premise Storytelling style, plot and pacing, Characterization and/or dialog, Development of theme and competencies, Presentation standards	50%
Art	Appropriateness of the illustration, media/mode of presentation, technique and skill, viewer reception/overall design and artistic composition	50%

Recorded Storytelling Video

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Story	Concept, message, style, plot and pacing, characterization, dialog, presentation and development of the story, script and dialog	35%
Performance	Narration style, facial expression, body language, vocal quality, audience engagement	35%
Multimedia quality	Video quality, audio quality, editing and post-production, appropriateness of sound and graphics	30%



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