



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region VI – Western Visayas
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF CAPIZ

July 28, 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 337, s. 2025

CONDUCT OF THE GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO 2025

TO: OIC – Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Program Supervisors – CID & SGOD
Education Program Supervisors - CID
Public Schools District Supervisors
Heads of Public Elementary, Secondary and Integrated Schools
All Others Concerned

1. Attached is an Advisory from the Office of the Director, Bureau of Learning Resources titled **“Administrative Notes on the Conduct of Pre-competition Activities for Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2025.”** The advisory contains the categories, descriptions, subcategories, expected outputs and qualifications of the different contest categories of the said competition.
2. In this connection, this office through the Learning Resource Management Section of the Curriculum Implementation Division announces the conduct of the Division Level Competition for categories 1 and 3 and the submission of entries in the Schools Division Office for Categories 2, 4, 5, and 6 for screening, refining, and provision of technical assistance before they are forwarded to the central office for competition.
3. The timeline of activities and the composition of the working committees are found in the enclosures as follows:
 - a. Enclosure No. 1- Timeline of Activities
 - b. Enclosure No. 2- Technical Standards
 - c. Enclosure No. 3- Criteria
 - d. Enclosure No. 4- Composition of the Working Committees of the Division Level Competition
 - e. Enclosure No. 5 - Prizes per category
 - f. Enclosure No. 6- Administrative Notes on the Conduct of Pre-competition Activities for GTA 2025
4. It is understood that in the conduct of this activity, there shall be no discrimination on account of age, school, gender, civil status, disability or other factors, and personal circumstances contrary to the principles of equal opportunity.



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5. Written and/or illustrated entries must be placed in a long white folder and will be submitted to the Schools Division Office **on or before August 6, 2025**. After the documents have been labelled received from the Records Section, they shall be submitted directly to the Office of the LRMS Section, following standards as enclosed.
6. Expenses relative to this activity shall be charged to LRMS funds subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
7. This Memorandum serves as Authority to Travel.
8. Immediate dissemination of this memorandum is desired.

ROEL F. BERMEJO
Schools Division Superintendent

Enclosure: As stated
Reference: As stated

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the ff. subjects:

CONTEST

CURRICULUM

TEACHERS

LEARNERS



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Enclosure No. 1 to DM No. 337 s. 2025

TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

1. The following is the timeline of activities:

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	Category 6
	Chapter Books for Young Adults (YA) with 3 sub-categories: 1. Chapter Books for Grades 7 and 8 2. Chapter Books for Grades 9 and 10 3. Illustrated YA Literature	Comics for Young Adults with 2 sub-categories : 1. DepEd Canon 2. Open Comics	Illustrated Thematic Books with 4 sub-categories: 1. Wordless Storybooks on Inclusion 2. Storybook on Gender and Development 3. Storybook on disaster Risk Reduction Management 4. Storybooks on Local Tangibles	Lolay Storytelling Sessions with 3 sub-categories: 1. Recorded Storytelling from real-life Storytellers 2. Recorded Storytelling from Teachers 3. Live Storytelling	Untold Kuwento ng Bayan Ko with 2 sub-categories : 1. Stories from Education Leaders 2. Stories of Untold Legends	Stories for Young Readers by Young Writers with 3 sub-categories : 1. Kuwentong Pambata ng mga Bata (Grs 4 to 6) 2. Kuwentong Pambata ng mga Bata (Grs 7 to 12) 3. Tulang Pambata ng mga Bata
Division Manuscript Screening	August 7-8, 2025		August 7-8, 2025			
Regional Manuscript Screening	August 19-20, 2025		August 19-20, 2025			



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	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	Category 6
Judging at the Regional Level	August 19-20, 2025					
Submission to the National Level	September 1, 2025				August 15, 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					



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Enclosure No. 2 to DM No. 337, s. 2025

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

	Chapter Books for Grades 7 and 8	Chapter Books for Grades 9 and 10	Chapter Books for Young Adults - Open
Output	Illustrated transitional chapter book based on the learning competencies of Grades 7 and 8	Illustrated transitional chapter book based on the learning competencies of Grades 9 and 10	Illustrated transitional chapter book addressing teen interests and themes
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 particular word count per chapter	Minimum of 6 chapters with no specific word count per chapter
Text Pages	At least 30 pages of actual text	At least 30 pages of actual text	At least 30 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	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	36, 44, 52, 60, 68, 76, 84, 92, 100
Trim Size	6x9 inches	6x9 inches	6x9 inches
Font	Garamond (or similar), Size 11	Garamond (or similar), Size 11	Garamond (or similar), Size 11
Spacing	1.15 line spacing	1.15 line spacing	1.15 line spacing
Number of Illustrations	At least two per chapter	At least two per chapter	At least two per chapter
Text-to-Art Ratio	15:1 (or higher, using full-page or spot illustration)	15:1 (or higher, using full-page or spot illustration)	15:1 (or higher, using full-page or spot illustration)



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	DepEd Canon Comic Books	Comics for Pinoy Teens
Output	A single narrative told through sequential art (panels), with or without text, inspired by themes, characters, settings, or plots from <u>Ibong Adarna</u> , <u>Florante at Laura</u> , <u>Noli Me Tangere</u> , and/or <u>El Filibusterismo</u> .	A single narrative told through sequential art (panels), with or without text, based on themes and interests relevant to teenage readers.
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 graphics	Significantly favors graphics



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	Wordless Storybooks for Inclusion	Storybooks on Gender and Development Storybooks on Local Tangibles	Storybooks on Disaster Risk Management
Output	Storybooks of pure graphics intended for <u>Kindergarten</u> exploring and promoting themes of inclusion, such as, but not limited to, disability and accessibility, cultural or ethnic diversity, migration, displacement, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic difference, and ordinary virtues of empathy, community, and kindness	Illustrated storybooks intended for Grades 1 to 3, focusing on the themes of Gender and Development Illustrated storybooks intended for Grades 1 to 3, focusing on the local tangibles or concrete, observable, and culturally grounded elements in the community, such as churches, arches, mountains, old houses and trees, roads and signs, vehicles, etc.	Illustrated storybooks intended for Grades 4 to 6, focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction Management
Number of Words	N/A	Maximum of 2,000 words	Maximum of 3,000 words
Language Used	None (wordless)	Diglot: Option 1: Filipino and mother tongue Option 2: Filipino and English	Filipino
Text Pages	At least 16 pages of actual text	At least 16 pages of actual text	At least 16 pages of actual text



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	Wordless Storybooks for Inclusion	Storybooks on Gender and Development Storybooks on Local Tangibles	Storybooks on Disaster Risk Management
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Standard Front and Back Matters	Front Cover Inside Front/ Copyright Title Page About the Author Inside Back Back Cover	Front Cover Inside Front/ Copyright Title Page About the Author Inside Back Back Cover	Front Cover Inside Front/ Copyright Title Page About the Author Inside Back Back Cover
Actual Print-Ready Page Extent (including covers)	20, 28,36	20, 28,36	20, 28,36
Trim Size	A4	A4	A4
Font	None	<u>Sans</u> serif (e.g., <u>Andika</u> , <u>Alfabeto</u> , <u>Arial</u>)	Serif (Garamond, Bookman Old)
Number of Illustrations	All pages	All pages	All pages
Text-to-Art Ratio	0:100	35:65	50:50



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Enclosure No. 3 to DM No. 337, s. 2025

STORY NARRATIVES

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

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Concept	Originality and local flavor	20%
Storytelling Style	Artistic presentation, use of literary device (idioms, figures of speech, etc.), appropriate tone of the 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 learning competencies, appropriateness to grade level	25%
Presentation Standards	Spelling, punctuation, grammar, usage, orthographic compliance, styling	15%

ILLUSTRATIONS, WORDLESS STORIES, AND COMICS

(Category 1 Illustrations, Category 2, Category 3 Illustrations)

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
 (Category 1 and Category 3)

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Text	Concept/Premise	50%
	Storytelling Style, Plot and Pacing, Characterization and/or Dialog	
Art	Development of the Theme and Competencies Presentation Standards	50%
	Appropriateness of the Illustration Media/ Mode of Presentation Technique and Skill Viewer Reception/ Overall Design and Artistic Composition	

RECORDED STORYTELLING VIDEO
 (Category 4)

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%

POEMS COMPILATION
 (Category 6)

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Originality and Creativity	Perspectives, ideas, imagery Unique voice and linguistic freshness (avoiding cliches and overused expressions)	20%
Language and Literary Quality	Age-appropriate language Poetic devices	20%
Thematic Relevance	Development and significance of presented themes of learners' experiences	20%
Structure and Form	Intentional use of structure Coherence and flow	20%
Impact and Clarity	Message and meaning Emotional resonance and evocativeness	20%



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Enclosure No. 4 to DM No. 337, s. 2025

**SCREENING COMMITTEE/ JUDGES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PROVIDERS ON THE CONDUCT OF THE GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO 2025**

Chairperson

ROEL F. BERMEJO
Schools Division Superintendent

Co- Chairpersons

LUZ U. BANSON EdD, CESE
OIC- Office of the Assistant Schools Division Superintendent

ROLANDO B. JAMORA PhD
Chief Education Supervisor - Curriculum Implementation Division

Members

Categories 1 and 3	Categories 2 and 4	Categories 5 and 6
Dr. Merlie J. Rubio EPS- Filipino	Mr. Salvador Dale B. Artates EPS - English	Dr. Ruth C. Gervero EPS - ALS
Mr. Ronie C. Reteracion EPS - MAPEH	Mr. Alan Vincent B. Altamia EPS – GMRC/Val. Ed.	Mrs. Elenia P. Baranda EPS – Mathematics
Mr. Andres D. Quiachon EPS - Science	Dr. Judith P. Tu PSDS – President Roxas & Pilar	Dr. Fe D. Bañez PSDS – Ivisan & Sapián
Dr. Lalain E. Delos Santos PSDS- Cuartero & Dao	Dr. Ma. Theresa V. Villagrancia PSDS- Sigma & Jamindan	Mr. Zaldy B. Caalam PSDS – Panay & Pontevedra
Dr. Reynaldo G. Crespo Head Teacher II- VASNHS	Dr. Reynaldo Azacarraga PSDS – Mambusao East & West	Dr. Calin A. Bernales PSDS - Maayon & Panitan

Secretariat/ Members of the Technical Working Group:

Dr. Edwin Jason D. Dueñas- EPS- LRMS
Mr. Glenn P. Dollete – PDO II- LRMS
Mrs. Ma. Frances Therese B. Zamora – SDO Librarian II

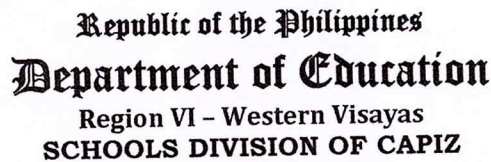


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Enclosure No. 5 to SDM No. 337 s. 2025

CASH PRIZES

	Category 1 (prizes per sub- category)	Category 3 (prizes per sub-category)
Rank 1	4,000.00	4,000.00
Rank 2	3,000.00	3,000.00
Rank 3	2,000.00	2,000.00



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
BUREAU OF LEARNING RESOURCES

ADVISORY
18 June 2025

This is to inform all concerned that the Regional Offices (ROs) may now conduct pre-competition activities in line with the implementation of Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2025. These activities will be supported by the program funds already directly released to the regions through the Guidelines on the Utilization of Directly Released Funds Under FY 2025 Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials Fund.

The P350,000 allocation per region includes provisions for the engagement of one (1) GTA Shepherd per region, who must meet the following minimum qualifications: must have published two (2) children's or young adult fiction books at the national level. At least one onsite activity shall involve the GTA Shepherd, with additional activities permitted depending on feasibility and the local calendar of activities. The ROs are encouraged to plan and implement relevant pre-competition activities in alignment with the goals of GTA 2025. The names of the selected GTA Shepherds must be submitted to the National Technical Working Committee (NTWC) and emailed to **blr.creatives@deped.gov.ph**, with copies furnished to **blr.ed@deped.gov.ph** and **blr.lrp@deped.gov.ph** **on or before June 20, 2025**. A professional undertaking, including a nondisclosure agreement, shall be drafted by the Regional Technical Working Committee and agreed upon by the Regional Management Committee and the GTA Shepherd.

For the Negroes Island Region (NIR), the Interim RO may request program support funds to facilitate its regional and division-level activities. While funds were already released to DepEd Regions VI and VII, which previously housed the divisions under NIR, the fund allocation follows a per-region basis with no population consideration. As such, DepEd NIR remains without funding for the program at present.

Attached are the proposed guidelines for the main activities, including mechanics, qualifications, and standards, which are subject to the final approval and will be published as a DepEd Memorandum.

For information and guidance.

Director IV *AP* *acy*

Attached:

1. GTA 2025 Composition of Committees
2. Draft Guidelines and Mechanics of GTA 2025
3. 2025 TBIMs Guidelines

DIVISION CODE

[illegible]

Daye & Flanagan

□ 2019年12月31日

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Address: Banica, Roxas City
Contact Number: (036) 6518 456/0968-869-5867
Email Address: capiz@deped.gov.ph
Website: <http://depedcapiz.ph>



Gawad Teodora Alonso 2025

THE COMMITTEES OF GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO 2025

	Management Committee	Technical Working Committee	Screening Committee
Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees the conduct of activities • Approves plans, calendar of activities, and other components of the Competition as recommended by the Secretariat • Resolves issues and concerns on the conduct of the Competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans out programs, projects, and activities, and their calendar of implementation • Spearheads the conduct of the series of activities approved by the Management Committee • Upholds the integrity of the Competition by maintaining the confidentiality of records and exercising fairness in the treatment of entries and submissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects the best manuscripts and/or storybooks submitted • Upholds the integrity of the Competition by maintaining the confidentiality of the judging process and results
Composition – National	Bureau of Learning Resources Atty. Ariz Delson Acay D. Cawilan, <i>Director IV</i> Edward C. Jimenez, <i>Director III</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLR specialists • BCD specialists • BLD specialists • Recipients of Gawad Teodora Alonso as end-user representatives Chairperson: Besy C. Agamata Head, GTA Categories: Sharon B. Buti Head, GFA Categories: Julie Ann V. Vertudes Head, Results and Processes: Ryan T. Lactatiao	Storybook experts and academicians; published and celebrated authors and illustrators; book collectors and enthusiasts
			Screening Committee for Manuscript Categories includes members of the National TWC
Composition – Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Director • Assistant Regional Director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson: Chief Education Supervisor, Curriculum Learning and Management Division • Personnel assigned at the Learning Resources Management Section of the Regional Office 	Required members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author and/or illustrator of storybook • Reading specialist/s • Learning area specialist/s Optional members: (1) Non-DepEd academician specializing in reading (2) Enthusiast or collector of storybooks
Composition – Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Division Superintendent • Assistant Schools Division Superintendent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson: Chief Education Supervisor, Curriculum Implementation Division • Personnel assigned at the Learning Resources Management Section of the Schools Division Office 	Required members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading specialist/s • Learning area specialist/s Optional members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author and/or illustrator of storybook • Non-DepEd academician specializing in reading enthusiast or collector of storybooks



Gawad Teodora Alonso 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES SUMMARY ON THE CONDUCT OF GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO 2025

The following information were curated from the general guidelines and mechanics of the Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2025, subject to final approval, and will be published as a Department of Education Memorandum:

Categories Open for GTA 2025

- 1. Main Categories:** These categories are eligible for the Gawad Teodora Alonso and Gawad Fernando Amorsolo Honor Roll:

Categories	Description	Subcategories	Outputs	Qualifications
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 institution Option 1: one writer and one illustrator Option 2: one writer-illustrator
		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	
Comics for Young Adults	A single narrative told through sequential	DepEd Canon	Comics inspired by themes, characters,	Open to teaching and non-teaching personnel of

DIVISION CODE



[BLRM] Ground, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City; (02) 8634-1072; 8634-0901; 8634-1054;
(BLRC) Ecotech Compound Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City; (032) 230-7939; (032) 230-7948
Email Address: blr.od@deped.gov.ph; blr.lrpd@deped.gov.ph; blr.lrqad@deped.gov.ph; blr.cebu@deped.gov.ph



DepEd Philippines



@depedphilippines



@DepEd_PH



www.deped.gov.ph

	art (panels), with or without text (speech bubbles, captions, or sound effects)		settings, or plots from Ibong Adarna, Florante at Laura, Noli Me Tangere, and/or El Filibusterismo; minimum of 30 pages (6x9 layout)	the DepEd and full-time teachers of non-DepEd basic education institution
		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 comics entries.

2. Seasonal Categories. These categories are subject to change every year, anchored on the needs, advocacies, and exhibition try-out for newer categories:

Categories	Description	Subcategories	Outputs	Qualifications
Illustrated 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	Illustrated storybooks for Grades 1 to 3; 20, 28, or 36 pages (including cover), focused on Gender and Development themes.	Teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education and full-time teachers of non-DepEd basic education institutions
		Storybooks on Disaster Risk Reduction Management	Illustrated storybooks for Grades 4 to 6; 20, 28, or 36 pages (including cover),	

			focused on Disaster Risk Reduction Management themes	Option 1: one writer and one illustrator
		Storybooks on Local Tangibles	Illustrated children's stories for Grades 1 to 3; of 20, 28, or 36 pages, including cover pages, with themes of local tangibles, man-made, or natural	Option 2: one writer-illustrator
Lolay Storytelling Sessions	Live and 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	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
		Live Storytelling	Live sessions utilizing the ReadEx Picks of GTA 2025 Categories 1, 2, or 3	All attendees of the Storybook Recognition Rites and Reading Exhibit, except the members of the National Technical Working Committee
Untold Kuwento Ng Bayan Ko	Non-competitive category dedicated to education leaders, focusing on familiar local narratives	Stories from Education Leaders	Story narratives for Grades 4 to 6, focusing on legends and folklore	Education leaders occupying third-level positions within the Department of Education system

	from fresh perspectives			
	A category dedicated to lesser-known concepts and stories of Philippine communities	Stories of Untold Legends and Folklore	Lesser-known stories, legends, and folklore from the localities	Open to all teachers of DepEd and educational institutions, including retired teachers
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	

3. Special Categories. These categories will be selected based on specific merits.

Categories	Description	Qualifications
Gawad Teodora Alonso Honor Roll	An award given to storytellers who have won in the main categories a cumulative three times for GTA Volume III (GTA 2025, GTA 2026, and GTA 2027)	Three-time winners as writers in Category 1
Gawad Fernando Amorsolo Honor Roll		Three-time winners as illustrator in Category 1 and writer-illustrator in Category 2
Kuwentong Guro	An award given to entries in the main category that best address the intended learning competencies of the curriculum. Selected by Central Office specialists	The entry must be included in the ReadEx Picks list of the main categories.
Readers' Choice	An award chosen by the intended readers	

	Selected by learners of identified schools with diverse reading profiles	
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Entry Standards and Mechanics

1. Writing and illustrating entries must be done outside official office hours.
2. All entries must be original, unpublished, and not submitted to other competitions.
3. Entries must not contain identifying information of the author, illustrator, layout artist, school, or affiliated institution.
4. Authenticity is a key requirement. Entries must be entirely **original**, without artificial intelligence-generated content, stock images or videos, or manipulated existing materials.
5. Adaptations or retellings of local stories are allowed, provided they are done respectfully and with cultural sensitivity.
6. All entries must be written in Filipino, except for the illustrated storybook category, which must be rendered in diglot/bilingual format. The diglot format shall use either (a) Filipino and Mother Tongue or (b) Filipino and English.
7. Each entry must be aligned with one or more competencies from the current basic education curriculum, as specified in the individual category guidelines.
8. Themes should reflect tradition, culture, environment, art, or local concepts, consistent with the overarching theme #KuwentoNgBayanKo.
9. Entries must comply with the DepEd Social Content Guidelines.
10. Stories must be self-contained and must not include processing questions or supplementary activities.
11. Writers are encouraged to follow the Ortograpiyang Pambansa (latest edition). For other stylistic rules, the Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition, shall be the reference.

Shepherding Process

1. To further enhance the quality of submissions and provide meaningful mentorship to participants, GTA 2025 will implement a Shepherding Process at the regional level. This initiative will introduce external published authors and illustrators as "shepherds" to guide and mentor contest management personnel and participants while maintaining the integrity of the judging process.
2. Each of the 16 regions will have one designated Shepherd, whose name shall be endorsed to the NTWC for final approval.
3. Shepherds will not be employed in an administrative capacity but will serve as mentors and creative guides.
4. The Regional Technical Working Committee (RTWC), responsible for all administrative tasks related to the contest, will collaborate with their respective Shepherds to ensure the effectiveness of mentorship activities.
5. Shepherds will not be involved in the formal judging to maintain objectivity and fairness. However, they may recommend potential judges for the competition based on their industry experience.
6. Shepherds shall encourage originality and minimize reliance on AI-generated content.

Timeline of Activities

1. The following is the recommended timeline of activities:

Activity	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4A	Category 5	Category 6
Storybook Forum	May 27 to 29, 2025					
Division Manuscript Screening	July 31, 2025		July 31, 2025			
Regional Manuscript Screening	August 7, 2025		August 7, 2025			
Judging at the Regional Level	August 25, 2025					
Submission to the National Level	September 1, 2025				August 15, 2025	August 1, 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 Categories 5 and 6 will be open upon issuing the Official Guidelines.
3. The RTWC must convene all Division TWCs to prepare a local calendar of activities for their Competition for Categories 1, 2, 3, and 4.
4. The deadline for submission to the NTWC and all other activities from thereon may not be rescheduled by the Regional and Division TWCs.

Logistics

1. A logistical support to the RTWCs amounting to P300,000, chargeable against 2025 Current TBIM Funds of the BLR, was directly released to the ROs to cover expenses incurred during the various activities related to the program, including honorarium fees for Shepherds, local incentives to winners, and conduct of pre-competition and judging activities.
2. Additional budget for preparatory and related activities may be augmented by available local funds of the ROs and/or the Schools Division Offices.
3. All expenses are subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
4. Travel expenses incurred during the Storybook Forum, Storybook Recognition Rites, and Reading Exhibit were directly released to the ROs. The logistical support or any available local funds may augment this.
5. Competition winners will be invited through a formal letter to their respective ROs. Individual invitation cards, marked as "GTA Socmed Cards," will be sent to the respective registered email addresses of winners upon validation of their win, and sent before the formal invitation to the ROs.
6. Winners will receive Certificates and Plaques of Recognition. Tokens and other incentives will be given subject to existing rules and regulations.