



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS

August 7, 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM

No. **939** s. 2025

**SERIES OF ACTIVITIES ON THE GAWAD TEODORA ALONZO 2025:
REGIONAL SCREENING FOR THE 7TH NATIONAL
COMPETITION ON STORYBOOK WRITING**

To: Schools Division Superintendent
All Others Concerned

1. With reference to BLRPD-25-06-064-GTA-2025, this Office, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division - Learning Resource Management Section (CLMD-LRMS), announces the series of activities relative to the Gawad Teodora Alonzo 2025: Regional Screening for the 7th National Competition on Storybook Writing. The activities, schedules, and venues are shown in the table below:

Activities	Schedules	Venues	No. of Pax
1. Regional Screening / Harvesting of the Storybook Manuscripts	August 26-29, 2025	DepEd RO8 RELC-NEAP	22
2. Workshop on the Illustration of Top 3 Storybook Manuscripts for the 7 th National Competition on Storybook Writing in support to the NRP and NLRP	September 1-3, 2025	DepEd RO8 RELC-NEAP	33
3. Finalization Workshop on the Illustration of Top 3 Storybook Manuscripts for the 7 th National Competition on Storybook Writing in support to the NRP and NLRP	September 7-10, 2025	DepEd RO8 RELC-NEAP	33

2. The activity aims to:
- select and award the best storybooks originally developed by teaching and non-teaching of the Department of Education and full-time teachers of non-DepEd basic education institution;
 - design and illustrate best 3 storybook manuscripts;

- c. appreciate the role of stories and illustrated storybooks as a tool in the development of reading and learning curricular content standards;
- d. harvest original stories that demonstrate learning competencies of the MATATAG Curriculum;
- e. recognize skills and talents of classroom teachers, non-teaching personnel, education leaders, and learners in the production and illustration of storybooks for basic education; and
- f. contribute to the treasury of content materials for the utilization of reading resources and transformation into engaging media.

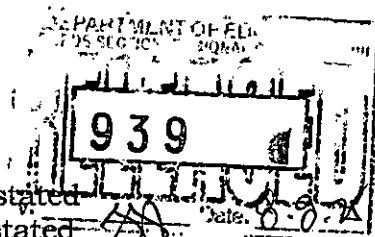
3. Only the best three storybooks per subcategory officially endorsed by the Division Technical Committees (DTWCs) are qualified entries at the regional level.

4. Top three (3) best storybook manuscripts and illustrations from categories I, II, III, and IV shall receive Certificate of Recognition and cash prizes, while a Certificate of Participation shall be given to all writers and illustrators of participating entries. The submission deadline at the regional level is **August 22, 2025**.

5. The advisory from the Bureau of Learning Resources (BLR), which includes administrative notes, standards and specifications, mechanics, qualifications, judging criteria, and other essential information, is attached to this Memorandum.

6. All expenses—including board and lodging, supplies and materials, honoraria for judges and shepherds, and cash prizes—incurred during the series of activities shall be charged to the BLR downloaded or directly released funds, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

7. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Memorandum are desired.



EVERLYN R. FETALVERO, CESO III
Regional Director

Enclosures: As stated

References: As stated

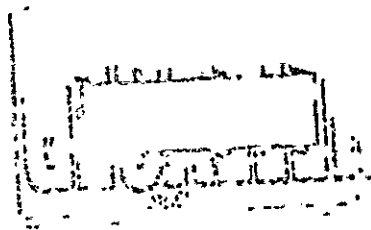
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:

COMPETITION

GAWAD TEODORA ALONZO

STORYBOOK WRITING

CLMD-LRMS-JBB



**THE DEPED ROS COMMITTEES OF GAWAD
TEODORA ALONZO 2025**

Committees	Composition	Terms and Reference
Management Committee	RD Evelyn R. Fetalvero, CESO III ARD Ronelo Al K. Firmo, CESO IV	- 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
Technical working Group	Gertrudes C. Mabutin, EdD OIC-Chief, CLMD – Chairperson Joy B. Bihag EPS, LRMS - Manager LRMS Staff - Members	- 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
Screening Committee	Dean Ric N. Endriano EPS, English Dandy G. Acuin EPS, Filipino Authors and Illustrators Reading Specialists Judges	- Selects the best manuscripts and/ or storybooks submitted - Upholds the integrity of the competition by maintaining the confidentiality of the judging process and results.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
BUREAU OF LEARNING RESOURCES

Office of the Director

ADVISORY
18 June 2025

**ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES ON THE CONDUCT OF PRE-COMPETITION
ACTIVITIES FOR GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO (GTA) 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.od@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 Negros 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.


ARIZ DELSON ACAY D. CAWILAN
Director IV *af/eq*

Attached:

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

BLR-D-25-04-064

DIVISION CODE

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Gawad Teodora Alonso 2025

THE COMMITTEES OF GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO 2025

	Management Committee	Technical Working Committee	Screening Committee
Terms of Reference	- 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	- 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	- 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>	- BLR specialists - BCD specialists - BLD specialists - Recipients of Gawad Teodora Alonso as end-user representatives Chairperson: Betsy C. Agamata Head, GTA Categories: Sharon B. Buti Head, GFA Categories: Julie Ann V. Vertudes Head, Results and Processes: Ryan T. Lactaoan	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	- Regional Director - Assistant Regional Director	- Chairperson: Chief Education Supervisor, Curriculum Learning and Management Division - Personnel assigned at the Learning Resources Management Section of the Regional Office	Required members: - 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	- Schools Division Superintendent - Assistant Schools Division Superintendent	- Chairperson: Chief Education Supervisor, Curriculum Implementation Division - Personnel assigned at the Learning Resources Management Section of the Schools Division Office	Required members: - Reading specialist/s - Learning area specialist/s Optional members: - 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
		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.	Option 1: one writer and one illustrator
		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	Option 2: one writer-illustrator
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



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	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	Three-time winners as writers in Category 1
Gawad Fernando Amorsolo Honor Roll	categories a cumulative three times for GTA Volume III (GTA 2025, GTA 2026, and GTA 2027)	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.

