



CARLOS PALANCA MEMORIAL AWARDS FOR LITERATURE



RULES OF THE CONTEST – 2026

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. The contest is open from **15 May to 30 June 2026** to all Filipino citizens, or former Filipino citizens, of all ages except current directors, officers, and employees of the Carlos Palanca Foundation, Inc. (the “Sponsor”).

B. DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES

1. The contest has the following divisions and categories open for submission for this year’s Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature (CPMA):

ENGLISH DIVISION	FILIPINO DIVISION	REGIONAL LANGUAGES	KABATAAN DIVISION
Short Story	Maikling Kuwento	Short Story – Cebuano	Kabataan Essay
Short Story for Children	Maikling Kuwentong Pambata	Short Story – Hiligaynon	Kabataan Sanaysay
Essay	Sanaysay	Short Story – Ilokano	
Poetry	Tula		
Poetry Written for Children	Tula Para Sa Mga Bata		
One-act Play	Dulang May Isang Yugto		
Full-length Play	Dulang Ganap ang Haba		
Novel	Dulang Pampelikula		
	Nobela		

C. CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS

1. In the **SHORT STORY/MAIKLING KUWENTO (ENGLISH OR FILIPINO OR CEBUANO OR HILIGAYNON OR ILOKANO)** categories, an entry must consist of a manuscript of at least ten (10) but not more than twenty-five (25) typewritten pages and must include a separate one-page synopsis after the Title Page. The theme is open and free.
2. In the **SHORT STORY FOR CHILDREN/MAIKLING KUWENTONG PAMBATA** categories, an entry must consist of a manuscript of not more than ten (10) typewritten pages and must include a separate one-page synopsis. It may deal with any subject, and must be within the grade-school reading level of children ages 7-12.
3. In the **ESSAY/SANAYSAY** categories, an entry must consist of a manuscript of at least ten (10) but not more than twenty-five (25) typewritten pages. The category is open only to informal (personal) essays.
4. In the **POETRY/TULA** categories, an entry must consist of a *collection* of at least ten (10) but not more than fifteen (15) poems.
5. In the **POETRY WRITTEN FOR CHILDREN/TULA PARA SA MGA BATA** categories, an entry must consist of a *collection* of at least ten (10) but not more than fifteen (15) poems, and must include a separate title page displaying only the title of the entire collection. It may deal with any subject and must be comprehensible within the grade-school reading level of children ages 7-12, and can be appreciated in its oral form by younger children.
6. In the **ONE-ACT PLAY/DULANG MAY ISANG YUGTO** categories, an entry must be of sufficient length to approximate a performance time of forty-five (45) minutes and must include a separate one-page synopsis. The theme is open and free.
7. In the **FULL-LENGTH PLAY/DULANG GANAP ANG HABA** categories, an entry must consist of two (2) or more acts and must include a separate one-page synopsis.
8. In the **DULANG PAMPELIKULA** category, the entry must be a script for a full-length film with a running time of approximately two (2) hours and must include a separate one-page SYNOPSIS. The theme is open and free.
9. In the **NOVEL/NOBELA** categories, an entry should be at least two-hundred (200) but not more than three hundred (300) typewritten pages, and must include a separate one-page synopsis. The theme is open and free. These categories are open every other year and are included in this year’s contest.
10. The **KABATAAN ESSAY/KABATAAN SANAYSAY** are special youth categories open to persons below 18 years of age as of 15 May 2026. It is open only to informal (personal) essays. The theme for 2026 **KABATAAN ESSAY** is: *“As the world becomes more connected yet increasingly shaped by differing ideologies, beliefs, and perspectives, young people face the challenge of understanding the divisions*

around them and helping shape a more hopeful future. How can today's youth rise above differences and become bridges of understanding, promote peaceful coexistence, and help build societies rooted in empathy, mutual respect, and collective progress?" and "Habang ang daigdig ay lalong nagiging magkakaugnay, patuloy din itong hinuhubog ng magkakaibang ideolohiya, paniniwala, at pananaw. Nahaharap ang mga kabataan sa mga pagsubok na unawain ang mga pagkakawatak-watak o paghahati-hati sa lipunan, habang nagsisikap na makabuo ng isang bukas na puno ng pag-asa. Paano makaahon ang mga kabataan sa ganitong kalagayan? Paano sila magsisilbing tulay ng pagkakaunawaan, magtataguyod ng mapayapang pakikipamuhay, at makatutulong sa pagbuo ng isang lipunang nakaugat sa malasakit sa kapwa, respeto sa isa't isa, at sama-samang pag-unlad?" for **KABATAAN SANAYSAY**. An entry must be at least four (4) but not more than five (5) typewritten pages.

D. FORMATTING

1. The Author's Name and/or Pen Name **MUST NOT appear anywhere in the entry.**
2. ALL ENTRIES must be submitted in **PDF format** and comply with the following:
 - **Typed and double-spaced** (except for Poetry/Tula/Poetry for Children/Tula Para sa mga Bata categories)
 - Formatted on **8½ x 11-inch** bond paper
 - **One-inch margins** on all sides
 - Page numbers centered at the bottom of each page
 - **Arial, Times New Roman, or Book Antiqua** font only, **size 12**

E. SUBMISSION

FORMS	NOTE
1) OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM FOR ENTRIES FROM THE PHILIPPINES (Entries from the Philippines)	Must be NOTARIZED at the time of submission.
2) OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM FOR ENTRIES FROM ABROAD (Entries from abroad)	Need NOT be notarized at the time of submission. However, IF AN ENTRY WINS , upon receipt of the Notification Letter from the Sponsor, the Entry Form must be AUTHENTICATED by the Philippine Embassy or Consulate or properly apostilled , and must be received by the CPMA Office ON OR BEFORE 15 October (PH time) of the contest year in order to qualify to receive an Award.
3) CONSENT FORM (For Derivative Works)	For ADAPTATIONS only. If your entry is an original work, there is no need to submit this form. Must be NOTARIZED at the time of submission.

All entries **MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE** through the official CPMA website: www.palancaawards.com.ph – please follow the instructions under the **Contest** page. Printed and/or email submissions WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

F. ENTRY CONDITIONS

1. Authors may submit only one (1) entry per category; however, they may submit entries across multiple categories, provided that each entry is distinct.
2. An entry or excerpt thereof, may only be submitted in one (1) category and may not be entered in any other category.
3. A translation of an entry submitted in one (1) division shall not be eligible in any other division.
4. A work which has been awarded a prize in another contest before 12:00 M.N. of 30 June 2026 is not qualified for the awards.
5. Published/produced works which were first published or first produced between 01 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, and/or unpublished/unproduced works, may be entered in the contest. However, for the Novel and Nobela categories, which are opened every other year, authors may submit either published or unpublished works, provided that published entries were first published between 01 June 2024 and 30 June 2026. Only UNPRODUCED WORKS may be entered in the DULANG PAMPELIKULA category.

G. REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES, AND UNDERTAKINGS

1. In submitting an entry, a contestant represents and warrants that the work is his own and that he has absolute ownership of all intellectual property rights thereto. If the entry is an adaptation of another author's work, the

contestant shall submit the written consent of the author of the existing work, allowing the contestant to adapt the work and enter the adaptation in the contest [**Consent Form (for Derivatives Work/s)**]. The Consent Form shall include a clear and categorical statement that the Sponsor shall be exempt from any and all liability in the event that the adaptation is alleged to infringe the intellectual property rights of the author of the existing work.

2. Entries submitted must comply with government policies on ONLINE matters. Online copies of winning entries shall remain with, and become the property of the Sponsor.
3. In submitting an entry, the author and parent/guardian (if applicable) (the “**Contestant**”) accept the rules of the contest (the “**Rules**”) and grant and assign to the Sponsor **the concurrent and non-exclusive right to exercise the copyright and other intellectual property rights granted to the author and the author’s assignees, with respect to any winning work (the “Work(s)”)**. The grant and assignment also extend to all forms of storage, transmission, dissemination, and communication presently existing or subsequently created. The prize money which may be awarded to the Contestant for the Work shall constitute full payment of the foregoing rights assigned to the Sponsor, and shall be in lieu of any royalties or other compensation to the Contestant.
4. To promote Philippine Literature in the modern world of information technology, the Sponsor intends to make the winning entries accessible through the internet or other electronic media, to serve as a literary archive of the contest. The website or other media to be established for this purpose are intended to be a repository of the award-winning Works, recording the history of the development of Philippine literature over the years through the Palanca Awards. In making the Work(s) thus available to the public, the Sponsor intends purely to promote literary appreciation for and public awareness of such Work(s), and not to commercially exploit the same. Contestants must indicate in the Official Entry Form whether they agree to have their Work(s) posted in the CPMA website and made available for downloading by the public for free in the event that a prize is awarded for the entry; **in the absence of any indication in the entry form, it is presumed that the author has agreed to such inclusion of the Work**. To encourage use for educational purposes, winning Work(s) shall be posted on the website in their entirety. Should any winning author subsequently instruct the Sponsor in writing to include or remove the Work(s) from the Internet archive, such instruction will be honored and the Work shall be included or removed from the Internet archive within a reasonable time from Sponsor’s receipt of the author’s written instruction. The exclusion of any winning Work or Works from the website shall not constitute a waiver of any of the Sponsor’s Rights.
5. In connection with the grant, assignment, or transfer to the Sponsor of the rights stated in Sections G(3) and G(4), and pursuant to the requirements of R.A. No. 8293, entries must be accompanied by the author’s written consent and authorization to abide by the rules of the contest acknowledged before a Notary Public. In case of minors, particularly with respect to the Kabataan Essay and Kabataan Sanaysay categories, the written consent of the parents or legal guardians shall also be required. Such written consent and authorization are embodied in the Official Entry Form, which is available at the Carlos Palanca Foundation, Inc. office or through the CPMA website.
6. The exercise of the above rights by the Sponsor shall not be deemed a waiver of any right of action which the Sponsor of this contest may have against the contestant if it is discovered later on that said person is not the creator or owner of the copyright to the award-winning work or has otherwise violated any of these rules. Moreover, the contestant likewise undertakes to indemnify the Sponsor for any and all damages, fees, costs and expenses that the Sponsor may incur by reason of the infringement by the contestant of the intellectual property rights of another.

H. AWARDS AND PRIZES

1. There are two **special awards** for contestants who have garnered multiple first prizes.

HALL OF FAME AWARD – This is bestowed on Palanca awardees who have won five (5) first prizes from different divisions in the REGULAR CATEGORIES, excluding the Kabataan Essay/Sanaysay.

KABATAAN AWARD OF DISTINCTION – This is awarded to Palanca awardees who have won four (4) first prizes in the KABATAAN ESSAY/KABATAAN SANAYSAY categories.

2. The prizes, in Philippine Pesos (PHP), for each contest category are the following:

- a. Short story/Maikling Kuwento/Regional Languages (Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Ilokano)

	ENGLISH	FILIPINO	CEBUANO	HILIGAYNON	ILOKANO
First prize	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00
Second prize	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
Third prize	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00

- b. Short Story for Children/Essay/Poetry/Poetry Written for Children/One-act Play
Maikling Kuwentong Pambata/Sanaysay/Tula/Tula Para Sa Mga Bata/Dulang May Isang Yugto

	ENGLISH	FILIPINO		
First prize	18,000.00	18,000.00		
Second prize	12,000.00	12,000.00		
Third prize	9,000.00	9,000.00		

c. Full-length Play/Dulang Ganap Ang Haba

	ENGLISH	FILIPINO		
First prize	21,000.00	21,000.00		
Second prize	14,000.00	14,000.00		
Third prize	9,000.00	9,000.00		

d. Dulang Pampelikula

		FILIPINO		
First prize		35,000.00		
Second prize		20,000.00		
Third prize		17,000.00		

e. Kabataan Essay/Kabataan Sanaysay

	ENGLISH	FILIPINO		
First prize	11,000.00	11,000.00		
Second prize	7,000.00	7,000.00		
Third prize	4,000.00	4,000.00		

f. Novel/Nobela

	ENGLISH	FILIPINO		
Grand prize	50,000.00	50,000.00		
Special prize	15,000.00	15,000.00		

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Sponsor has the sole right to designate the persons who shall constitute the Board of Judges in each of the contest categories. The decision of the majority of the Board of Judges in all categories shall be final.
2. The Board of Judges shall declare only one winner for each prize. There shall be no co-winners and/or splitting of the prize money. The Board of Judges shall have the discretion not to award any prize if, in its judgment, no meritorious entry has been submitted.
3. The names of the winners and the members of the Board of Judges shall be announced on the month of November 2026.
4. **ALL PARTIES SUBMITTING ENTRIES ARE DEEMED TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE RULES OF THE CONTEST, AND AGREE TO ABIDE THEREBY.**

ALL ENTRIES MUST STRICTLY COMPLY WITH THESE RULES.

ALL DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION.