



SEP 01 2006

DepED MEMORANDUM  
No. 308, s. 2006

CONDUCT OF THE READ-A-THON READING CONTEST  
FOR THE NATIONAL READ-A-THON PROJECT

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
Heads, Public Elementary Schools

1. In support of the "Every Child A Reader" Program (ECARP), the Department of Education (DepED) through the Bureau of Elementary Education (BEE) shall implement the National Read-A-Thon Project beginning school year 2006-2007 in all public elementary schools. The project, launched in Malacanang Palace last July 14, 2006 (see DepED Memorandum No. 248, s. 2006) is envisioned to foster a reading culture among pupils and all other DepED stakeholders. The guidelines for the implementation are enclosed.
2. In line with the project's implementation, a nationwide reading contest, entitled "National Read-A-Thon" shall be conducted to determine the best individual and team readers among elementary pupils in public schools. The contest shall proceed from the school level to the national level. Initially, the contest at the national level will be for Grade 3 pupils only. However, schools, divisions and regions are strongly encouraged to conduct the Read-A-Thon contest for all grade levels as part of their regular reading programs and are, likewise enjoined to provide incentives at their own levels charged against local funds. The contest proper for the National Read-A-Thon shall be held in Manila to be participated in by the best team readers from each region. Only one official coach shall be allowed per team of three (3) pupils. The mechanics for the Read-A-Thon contest for the schools, divisions and regions are incorporated in the enclosed guidelines for implementation.
3. Expenses incident to the implementation of the Read-A-Thon Project shall be charged against local funds. However, all expenses incident to the conduct of the National Read-A-Thon shall be charged against BEE funds except transportation expenses of regional participants which shall be charged against local funds.
4. Schools, divisions and regions are encouraged to tap LGUs, NGOs and the private sector to support the school, division and regional Read-A-Thon.
5. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

  
JESLI A. LAPUS  
Secretary

Encls.: As stated

Reference: DepED Memorandum: No. 248, s. 2006

Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)

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

CONTESTS  
PROJECTS  
PUPILS

Sally - Read-A-Thon  
August 25, 2006

**GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
NATIONAL READ-A-THON PROJECT**

- 1) The National Read-A-Thon Project shall be implemented in support of all existing reading programs of the schools, divisions and regions.
- 2) Each level shall organize its own programs to improve the reading skills of elementary grades pupils. These programs may be in the form of interventions such as remediation and the like to improve the reading habit of children. Incentives may also be provided for the pupils/ classes/ or schools that have shown marked improvement in achievement in Reading (English and/or Filipino).
- 3) At the school level, a Read-A-Thon reading contest shall be conducted in each class every quarter as a culminating activity of the reading interventions using a set of guidelines. The following are suggested:
  - a. All children in Grades I-VI will participate in the project.
  - b. The project will start every second grading period of the school year.
  - c. Teachers will organize all children in their classes into reading teams
  - d. Teachers will make a list of books of different genre to be read in each grade level. Books should be classified as easy, average and difficult.
  - e. All children will read at least one (1) book per semester.
  - f. Children who read more than the required number of books can be awarded tokens like bookmarks, pen/pencil/notepads, new book, or I-am-a-Reader T-shirt.
  - g. All children should be required to keep their own reading log and writing journal.
  - h. The best reader in the school may be a candidate for the division Read-A-Thon.
- 4) At their levels, the divisions and regions shall conduct the Read-A-Thon reading contest to determine the best readers at their levels who will compete for the next level.
  - a. The divisions shall also organize their own division Read-A-Thon committees who will determine the divisions' and the schools' mechanics and procedures of implementation. The division Read-A-Thon should be able to select the best team who will compete at the regional level. The team should be composed of three (3) pupils who may or may not come from the same school.
  - b. The regions shall organize their own regional Read-A-Thon committees to oversee the implementation of the Read-A-Thon. The committees will determine the mode of conduct and procedures of implementation to select their best teams for Grades III who will compete at the national level. However, each region should also conduct a Read-A-Thon for other grade levels. The organized team may or may not come from the same division.
- 5) The following working committees shall be organized at the national, regional, division and school levels. A list of members of each committee at the national level is shown below with the suggested members for the regional and division levels:
 

Honorary Chairman:	Secretary Jesli A. Lapus
Chairman:	Undersecretary Fe A. Hidalgo
Members:	Assistant Secretary Vilma Labrador
	Director Teresita G. Inciong

<b>Committee</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Regional</b>	<b>Division</b>
A. Steering Committee	Chair: Hon. Fe A. Hidalgo Co-Chair: Hon. Vilma Labrador	Regional Director ARD Supervisors	Superintendent ASDS Supervisors
	Members: Dr. Teresita G. Inciong Dr. Yolanda S. Quijano		

Committee	National	Regional	Division
B. Technical Working Group B.1 Communication and Advocacy	Chair: Merlita A. Nolido Co-Chair: Simeona Ebol Scholastic Members: Carol Cruz MarionGrace Murillo Romeo Mina	Supervisors	Supervisors
B.2 Contests	Chair: Mirla R. Olores Co-Chair: Fe Villalino Members: Ligaya Ilagan Ofelia Eustaquio Zenaida Concon Judy Ann Marquez	Supervisors	Supervisors
B.3 Ways and Means	Chair: Abelardo B. Medes Co-Chair: Consuelo Quiton Members: Jocelyn Tuguinayo Galileo Go Moises Sabordo	Supervisors	Supervisors
B.4 Awards and Prizes	Chair: Angelita Esdicol Co-Chair: Abelardo Medes Scholastic Members: Jaime Bunga Elizabeth Owit Thea Joy Manalo Carol Cruz	Supervisors	Supervisors
B.5 Documentation and Evaluation	Chair: Thea Joy Manalo Co-Chair: Dominador Mangao Scholastic Members: Carol Cruz Chit Singayan Marilou Pandiño Paz Levita Galapir	Supervisors	Supervisors

- 6) The following are the guidelines for the conduct of the National Read-A-Thon:
- a. The National Read-A-Thon shall be conducted in the second week of January 2007 and is initially opened to grade III pupils only. This is in consonance with the "Every Child A Reader" objective that all pupils should be reading at their level, and with the national policy that no child should be promoted to a higher grade unless he/she is a reader.
  - b. The National Read-A-Thon shall initially be an English language competition.
  - c. The following awards shall be given:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best Team Readers</li> <li>▪ Best School Award</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Special Individual Awards</li> <li>▪ Best Story Retelling</li> <li>▪ Best Oral Reading Interpretation</li> <li>▪ Vocabulary Reading Quiz</li> </ul>
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  - d. Only the winners of the regional finals shall compete in the national level Read-A-Thon contest. Each region should declare its regional winners, one (1) team of three (3) grade III pupils, to the contest committee on the first day of the contest. No substitution of contestant(s) is allowed. Each regional team finalist is allowed only one (1) coach/chaperon during the national finals
  - e. All regional winners will bring with them the following documents:
    - Reading log - a list of books read
    - Reading journal - summary of reading reports of books

## B. BEST IN STORY RETELLING

1. In story retelling, the contestants are judged according to their ability to recall and retell the story read.
2. The official coach of each team shall select the best story teller from among the 3 members to compete for the Best in Story Retelling Award. The chosen member shall no longer compete in other contests.
3. The contestants shall retell the same story identified by the judges. Each contestant shall be given half-day to read the story and 5 minutes to retell it.
4. The winners will be chosen by the panel of judges based on the general criteria below. Specific criteria will be drawn by the panel of judges during the contest proper.
  - a. STORY CONTENT- accuracy of recalled events, organization of events/ideas including making inference from texts and accurate outlining of the sequence of events as they happened in the story
  - b. MECHANICS- includes voice projection and expression, audience impact and level of confidence
5. The contestants shall be ranked and the top three (3) winners shall be determined.

## C. BEST IN ORAL INTERPRETATION

1. In oral interpretation, the contestants will be asked to read aloud a story from a story book. They are judged according to their ability to read orally with accuracy and correct oral interpretation.
2. The official coach of each team shall select the best reader from among the 3 members to compete for the Best in Oral Interpretation award. The chosen member should no longer compete in other contests.
3. The contestants shall read orally the same story identified by the judges, one at a time.
4. The winners will be chosen by the panel of judges based on the general criteria below. Specific criteria will be drawn by the panel of judges during the contest proper.
  - a. Interpretation- use of appropriate vocal expression including proper phrasing, timing and pacing
  - b. Projection- voice mechanics and level of confidence
  - c. Technical Reading- # of words read accurately
5. The contestants shall be ranked and the top three (3) winners shall be determined.

## D. BEST IN VOCABULARY

1. Each team will be given a half-day to read the books. Coaches/chaperons will not be allowed to interact with their teams during reading time.
2. A quiz master shall ask 20 vocabulary type questions classified as easy, average and difficult.
3. Contestants are given 10 seconds to answer each question. They are to write each of their answers on a slate. At a designated time, contestants must show their answers on a slate to be appreciated by the judges.
4. Contestants shall be ranked according to their scores after the 20 questions have been asked.
5. The top three (3) contestants with the most number of correct answers shall be declared winners.

#### E. BEST SCHOOL AWARD in READING

1. At the national level, only schools adjudged as the regional winners can compete for the Best School Award in Reading.
2. Regions must nominate their best school based on the following criteria:
  - functional reading programs for children
  - functional reading centers
  - pupil performance in NAT and Phil-IRI
3. A panel of judges shall conduct documentary analysis of the data submitted during the National Read-A-Thon. The judges shall select the best school in reading based on the same criteria mentioned above.
4. It must be noted that this award category is independent of the other contest categories during the Read-A-Thon. Thus, contestants in other contest categories may not necessarily come from the nominated schools.