

More Than a Celebration of Language: Scholastic Philippines Champions Filipino Stories This Buwan ng Wika

Every story begins with a voice. This August, Scholastic Philippines proudly celebrates **Buwan ng Wika** by highlighting its growing collection of books written by Filipino authors—works that showcase the richness of Philippine literature while encouraging readers to discover stories that feel both deeply personal and universally meaningful.

Scholastic has spent more than a century nurturing a love for reading across generations. In the Philippines, that mission extends beyond bringing world-class titles to local readers. It also means investing in Filipino authors whose stories reflect our identity, imagination, and shared experiences.

Every Filipino Story Deserves a Reader

Language is more than communication—it is memory, heritage, and identity. Through literature, these elements come alive, allowing readers to see themselves reflected on the page while discovering perspectives that broaden their understanding of the world.

"At Scholastic Philippines, we believe every child deserves to see themselves reflected in the stories they read," says **Jane Rustial A. Tiongco-Aguirre, Country Head of Scholastic Philippines, Inc.**

"Our commitment has always been to cultivate a lifelong love of reading while championing stories that celebrate Filipino voices. Local authors bring authenticity, imagination, and cultural richness that resonate deeply with readers, and we are proud to provide them with a platform where their stories can inspire future generations."

From magical adventures and historical fantasy to heartfelt contemporary fiction and graphic novels, Scholastic Philippines' local publishing program reflects the diversity of Filipino storytelling.

Stories Rooted in Filipino Creativity

Gail D. Villanueva

Internationally recognized author **Gail D. Villanueva** continues to enchant readers with stories that blend fantasy, family, and Filipino culture. Her acclaimed novels, **Sugar and Spite** and **My Fate According to the Butterfly**, explore themes of resilience, courage, and hope while celebrating the strength found in family and community.

Richard Mercado

With **Coming Out Perfect #1: A Graphic Novel**, Richard Mercado brings heartfelt LGBTQIA+ representation to young readers through an engaging graphic novel that explores friendship, identity, acceptance, and self-discovery. The book reflects Scholastic Philippines' commitment to publishing stories that embrace diversity and encourage empathy.

Joel Donato

Drawing inspiration from Philippine history and mythology, **Joel Donato's Alipin Trilogy**—*The Wing of the Locust*, *The Orphan Price*, and *Heirs to Flame*—has captivated fantasy readers with its richly imagined world and unforgettable characters. His work demonstrates that Filipino fantasy can be as epic, immersive, and compelling as any international bestseller.

Eugene Y. Evasco

Award-winning children's author **Eugene Y. Evasco** celebrates Filipino traditions through **Pahiyas**, a story inspired by one of the country's most colorful festivals. By highlighting local customs and community spirit, the book encourages readers to appreciate the beauty of Filipino heritage.

Sophia Lee

In **Soaring Saturdays**, Sophia Lee captures the joy of childhood and the quiet moments that shape our memories. Her heartfelt storytelling reminds readers that life's simplest experiences often become the most meaningful.

Building a New Generation of Filipino Readers

As reading habits continue to evolve in a digital age, local literature remains an essential bridge between young readers and their cultural identity.

By making Filipino-authored books more accessible to schools, libraries, bookstores, and families, Scholastic Philippines hopes to inspire children not only to read but also to imagine themselves as future storytellers.

"Our vision is simple," adds Aguirre. "When Filipino children walk into a library or bookstore, they should find stories that allow them to say, 'This is me. This is my home. This is my story.'"

Celebrating Filipino Voices Beyond Buwan ng Wika

For Scholastic Philippines, supporting Filipino authors is not limited to one month of celebration. It is an ongoing commitment to discovering new voices, nurturing local talent, and ensuring that Filipino stories continue to reach readers both here and abroad.

This Buwan ng Wika, readers are invited to explore Scholastic Philippines' collection of locally authored books and celebrate the writers whose creativity continues to shape the future of Philippine literature.

Because every great reader deserves to discover stories that feel like home—and every great story deserves to be told.



About Scholastic Philippines

Scholastic Philippines is part of the global Scholastic family, the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books. Alongside internationally celebrated titles such as *Harry Potter*, *The Hunger Games*, *Dog Man*, *Captain Underpants*, and *Clifford the Big Red Dog*, Scholastic Philippines is committed to publishing and championing Filipino authors whose stories inspire readers, celebrate local culture, and foster a lifelong love of reading.