21st Century Literature from the Philippines and the World
Quarter 1 – Module 4: Historical Overview of Philippine Literature: Post-colonial Period
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21st Century Literature from the Philippines and the World

Quarter 1 – Module 4: Historical Overview of Philippine Literature: Post-colonial Period
Introductory Message

This Self-Learning Module (SLM) is prepared so that you, our dear learners, can continue your studies and learn while at home. Activities, questions, directions, exercises, and discussions are carefully stated for you to understand each lesson.

Each SLM is composed of different parts. Each part shall guide you step-by-step as you discover and understand the lesson prepared for you.

Pre-tests are provided to measure your prior knowledge on lessons in each SLM. This will tell you if you need to proceed on completing this module or if you need to ask your facilitator or your teacher’s assistance for better understanding of the lesson. At the end of each module, you need to answer the post-test to self-check your learning. Answer keys are provided for each activity and test. We trust that you will be honest in using these.

In addition to the material in the main text, Notes to the Teacher are also provided to our facilitators and parents for strategies and reminders on how they can best help you on your home-based learning.

Please use this module with care. Do not put unnecessary marks on any part of this SLM. Use a separate sheet of paper in answering the exercises and tests. And read the instructions carefully before performing each task.

If you have any questions in using this SLM or any difficulty in answering the tasks in this module, do not hesitate to consult your teacher or facilitator.

Thank you.
What I Need to Know

In general, this module aims to encourage the learners to appreciate and critically study the various dimensions, genres, elements, structures, contexts, and traditions of the 21st Century Literature from the Philippines. Moreover, the learners are expected to show understanding and appreciation of 21st Century Philippine literature from the regions by writing a close analysis and critical interpretation of literary texts and by doing an adaptation using various multimedia platforms. Specifically, this module focuses on literature during post-colonial period up to the present which includes the 21st Century.

The module covers only one topic, that is:

- Lesson 4 – Philippine Literature during Post-colonial Period

After going through this module, you are expected to:

1. identify the geographic, linguistic, and ethnic dimensions of Philippine literary history in the post-colonial up to contemporary period;
2. differentiate/compare and contrast the various 21st century literary genres and the ones from the earlier genres/periods citing their elements, structures and traditions;
3. determine representative texts and authors from different regions through oral history research; and
4. situate selected texts in the current context to enrich understanding.

MELC:
Write a close analysis and critical interpretation of literary texts and doing an adaptation of these require from the learner the ability to identify:
(EN12Lit-Ia)
- the geographic, linguistic, and ethnic dimensions of Philippine literary history from pre-colonial to the contemporary
- representative texts and authors from each region (e.g. engage in oral history research with focus on key personalities from the students’ region/province/town)

Compare and contrast the various 21st century literary genres and the ones from the earlier genres/periods citing their elements, structures and traditions (EN12Lit-Id-25)
Choose the letter of the best answer. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Which term is also associated with the post-colonial period?
   A. Apprenticeship period
   B. Contemporary period
   C. Emergence period
   D. Revolutionary period

2. Who assumed the presidency after the death of Manuel Quezon during the post-colonial period?
   A. Diosdado Macapagal
   B. Ferdinand Marcos
   C. Manuel Roxas
   D. Sergio Osmeña Sr.

3. What term associated with Martial Law did Marcos use in stabilizing the chaotic condition of the Philippines?
   A. Edsa Revolution Movement
   B. New Society Movement
   C. Peaceful Reform Movement
   D. Social Reform Movement

4. What refers to the prestigious award given to gifted Filipino writers and their outstanding literary works and is considered as the counterpart of Pulitzer Prize in the United States?
   A. Gawad Urian Awards
   B. National Artists of the Philippines
   C. Palanca Awards
   D. Premio Zobel

5. Who among the authors does NOT belong to the post-colonial period?
   A. Jose Dalisay, Jr.
   B. Jose Garcia Villa
   C. Nick Joaquin
   D. Pedro Paterno
6. What is the modern counterpart of Balagtasan?
   A. Blogs
   B. Fliptop
   C. Text Tula
   D. Spoken Words

7. Which website contains short articles known as posts?
   A. Blog
   B. Internet
   C. Social Media
   D. The Web

8. In which period in history was the short poetry Tanaga first emerged?
   A. American Period
   B. Japanese Period
   C. Pre-colonial Period
   D. Spanish Period

9. What greatly influenced the 21st century literary forms?
   A. Books
   B. Culture
   C. Science
   D. Technology

10. Which 21st century literary genre addresses issues concerning woman that is often depicted in humorous or light hearted manner?
    A. Chick Lit
    B. Flash Fiction
    C. Hyperpoetry
    D. Text Tula
As an aftermath of war and a series of foreign invasions in our country, the term post-colonialism was popularized. The lasting impact of imperialism and colonialism had been the utmost concern at this period.

American colonial rule already loosened but its influences and control are still somehow affecting us in terms of social, political and economic aspects of our country as manifested in the form of literature produced in various genres.

**What’s In**

Can you name all of the Presidents of the Philippines? List them down and choose one that you admire the most. Provide a brief description of your chosen President. Write your answer on a separate sheet.

**Notes to the Teacher**

Ask the learner on how politics plays a crucial role in the form of literature being produced as a springboard for the lesson.
Literary works of Filipino authors started to be recognized through the initialization of Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards in 1950 and realization of the need to grant National Artist Awards in 1972 under the former President Ferdinand Marcos.

The influences of Spanish and American cultures can be observed. More and more Filipino writers continued to write more fluently using the English language since gaining independence from the Japanese occupation in 1945. In fact, many of the literary works in both Palanca and Order of National Artists were written in English. Most of these writers were considered as social realists.

Short stories became the most popular form of literary expression and more novels were published which mostly dealt with freedom from both economic and political bondage. Social issues such as poverty, survival, gender inequalities, justice system and domestic conditions have been prevalent themes and subjects in literature. Moreover, the leaders of the country have to deal with issues concerning economic stability, new and contrasting ideas, and morality to name a few. The most significant period that greatly influences many Filipinos is the period of Martial Law during the Marcos regime.

**WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND:** The writers' experiences, aspirations, and feelings reflect the literary works they produce. Nowadays, people are turning into their social media accounts to express their deep thoughts and feelings. If you were to share something about the current condition of the Philippines to the World in any of your social media account, what would be your status about? Use the space provided below for your answer.

What's on your mind?
What is It

POST-COLONIAL PERIOD (1945-present)
AFTER THE WAR

✓ In 1944, Sergio S. Osmeña, Sr. assumed the presidency upon the death of Manuel L. Quezon while the Philippine Commonwealth government was in exile in the U.S.
✓ Manuel A. Roxas defeated Sergio S. Osmeña, Sr. as the President in April 1946 for the Independent Second Republic of the Philippines.
✓ Elpidio R. Quirino assumed the remaining term of Roxas when the latter died of a heart attack in 1948.
✓ In 1953, Ramon F. Magsaysay was elected as the new president but died in an airplane crash on March 16, 1957.
✓ Magsaysay's position was assumed by Carlos P. Garcia who was re-elected and served until 1961.
✓ Diosdado P. Macapagal became the President after Carlos P. Garcia. He changed the date of Philippine Independence from July 4, 1946 (Liberation from America) to June 12, 1896 (Liberation from Spanish by the revolutionists). He also recognized the presidency of Jose P. Laurel.

PHILIPPINES DURING THE MARTIAL LAW PERIOD
✓ Ferdinand E. Marcos took office for presidency in 1965 who got re-elected in 1969 making him the first to win two presidential terms.
✓ He declared Martial Law on September 21, 1972 and led the country into what he calls "The New Society" against lawlessness which incited a lot of opposition.
✓ Marcos was forced to hold an election in 1978 and 1981 to stabilize the country's chaotic condition where he won again.
✓ The death of Benigno Simeon "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr. became the beginning of calling for Marcos' removal.
✓ EDSA People Power Revolution (bloodless revolution) through the initiative of Maria Corazon C. Aquino and her supporters erupted which marked a significant national event.
✓ Snap election was conducted in 1986 which seated Corazon Aquino- the widow of Benigno Simeon "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr. as the 11th President of the Philippines and ended the 21 years of what many claimed as the tyrant rule.
✓ Marcos went on exile in Hawaii, where he died on September 28, 1989.
PHILIPPINES AFTER THE MARTIAL LAW PERIOD (5TH REPUBLIC TO PRESENT)

✔ The political and economic condition of the Philippines during Cory Aquino's administration was described as chaotic.

✔ Monopolization of the agricultural industry took place after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forced the Philippines to pay its debt amounting to 27.2 billion dollars which they claimed to be inherited from Marcos administration.

✔ Fidel V. Ramos (also known as "Centennial President") took office in 1992 where he immediately worked on the country’s recovery. He was awarded the Peace Award by UNESCO in his effort to achieve a Peace Agreement with MILF.

✔ Film actor Joseph Ejercito Estrada won presidency with his pro-poor campaign in 1998 but was ousted in 2001 because of corruption and gambling issues.

✔ Maria Gloria Macapagal Arroyo assumed office in 1998, got re-elected, and served until 2010. During her term, many impeachment complaints were filed against her due to corruption and electoral sabotage where she got hospital arrest for her spinal surgery.

✔ Former Senator Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III (aka PNoy or Noynoy Aquino) seated as the next president in 2010.

✔ Next to him is our current President - Rodrigo Roa Duterte who is both a lawyer and politician.

Dimensions of Philippine Literature

✔ Filipino writers began to develop new themes, styles, and techniques. The first notable work that appeared right after the second world war under Japanese occupation in the Philippines is a novel written by Macario Pineda entitled *Ginto sa Makiling* which was considered as a narrative of the Philippines’ social, political, and moral aspects (Macansantos, et al, n.d.). It was noted for its resemblance to the work of Rizal and more on the work of Balagtas in terms of plot and style.

✔ The rise of English writers began after exposure to American language and culture, although there were still many Filipino writers observed using the vernaculars. Sarvia (n.d.) considers the following factors contributory to the flourishing of Filipino literature: 1) establishment of the University of the Philippines in 1908 where English was primarily used as the medium of instruction, 2) the founding of the Philippine Writers’ Association in 1953, and 3) the establishment of the Carlos Palanca Memorial Award in 1955 to name a few.

✔ According to Macansantos et al (n.d.), among the common literary themes in novels and short stories were war experiences which can be seen in the works of Stevan Javellana’s *Without Seeing the Dawn* (1947) and Edilberto Tiempo’s *Watch in the Night* for the English category. While for Filipino literature that used the vernaculars, the works of Lazaro Francisco were profoundly noted for his style associated to Rizal’s influence such as *Bayaning Nagpatiwakal* (1932), *Sugat sa Alaala* (1950), *Maganda pa ang Daigdig* (1956), and *Daluyong* (1962). The influence of both Spanish and American styles could be observed in the work of Nick Joaquin where his flashback technique was highly appreciated by critics. Some writers attempted to incorporate a taste of folk
tradition especially in poetry such as epic and other oral forms of literature which still existed like Balagtasan. However, oral tradition became less popular as people became more interested in short stories.

What’s More

Activity 1: Post-War Philippine Literature in a Nutshell

The rise of fluent writers in English during the post-war period up to the present shows how flexible, imaginative, and talented Filipinos are. Rizal’s influence is eminent among the social realist writers. Spanish influences can still be observed in terms of cultures and languages used in literature by some prominent writers such as Nick Joaquin. Our experiences during colonial period which stretches up to the present truly reflected in the most notable Filipino works in the field of literature.

ASSESSMENT 1a: Complete the table below by supplying the necessary information. You may use another sheet if the space provided is not enough.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contemporary Historical Period</th>
<th>Language or Medium Used</th>
<th>Dominant Literary Forms or Genres</th>
<th>Theme/Subject</th>
<th>Some Notable Writers and their Literary Works</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third Republic (1946-1972)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth Republic (1972-1986)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martial Law Period or New Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fifth Republic (1986- present)</td>
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</table>
Activity 2: LITERATURE THEN AND NOW

How similar are our preferences and aspirations as a people then and now as reflected in our literature? How do the current literary genres fare in comparison with their earlier counterparts? Do they mirror each other albeit in different contexts and audiences? Do we see continuing traditions or has the recent advancement in technology and lifestyle created totally different literary forms?

Try making a connection between the literature of your grandparents and the literature of your generation. Match earlier works with those of current writers which you can find in the Internet.

The 21st century literature (sometimes called "contemporary literature") is viewed as the literature of the new generation. Specifically, this refers to literary piece or diverse postmillennial texts that have been produced since 2000 or 2001 up to the present. The shift from paper to the screen first took place in this type of literature and the use of technology for human expression such as e-book, blog, digi-fiction, etc. has been very common.

✔ CHARACTERISTICS OF 21ST CENTURY LITERATURE:
- written by contemporary authors within the last decade
- deals with current issues and themes
- reflects technological culture
- literature of emerging genres
- often breaks traditional writing

How the novel gave way to short stories as life became busier and more fast-paced after the Industrial Revolution in the Western World would also explain the emergence of new genres which complemented dependence on the internet and the gadgets required to access them. The 21st century learners were born with the computer already as part of the daily life essential. Some literary genres which the computer and internet helped create are the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blog</td>
<td>This is also known as web log or a website containing short articles called posts that are changed regularly. Some blogs are written by one person containing their own opinions, interests and experiences, while others are written by many different people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chick Lit</td>
<td>This genre fiction addresses issues of modern womanhood, often humorously and light-heartedly. The genre became popular in the late 1990s, with chick lit titles topping best seller lists and the creation of imprints devoted entirely to chick lit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Nonfiction</td>
<td>Also known as literary nonfiction or narrative nonfiction, it is a genre of writing that uses literary styles and techniques to create factually accurate narratives. Creative nonfiction contrasts with other nonfiction, such as technical writing or journalism, which is also rooted in accurate fact, but is not primarily written in service to its craft. As a genre, creative nonfiction is still relatively young, and is only beginning to be scrutinized with the same critical analysis given to fiction and poetry.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Flash Fiction
This is characterized with a style of fictional literature or fiction of extreme brevity. There is no widely accepted definition of the length of the category. Some self-described markets for flash fiction impose caps as low as three hundred words, while others consider stories as long as a thousand words to be flash fiction.

### Hyperpoetry
It is a form of digital poetry that uses links using hypertext mark-up. It is a very visual form, and is related to hypertext fiction and visual arts. The links mean that a hypertext poem has no set order, the poem moving or being generated in response to the links that the reader/user chooses. It can either involve set words, phrases, lines, etc. that are presented in variable order but sit on the page much as traditional poetry does, or it can contain parts of the poem that move and / or mutate.

### Mobile Phone Text Tula
A particular example of this poem is a *tanaga*, a type of Filipino poem, consisting of four lines with seven syllables each with the same rhyme at the end of each line - that is to say a 7-7-7-7 syllabic verse, with an AABB rhyme scheme. The modern *Tanaga* still uses the 7777 syllable count, but rhymes range from dual rhyme forms: AABB, ABAB, ABBA; to freestyle forms such as AAAB, BAAA, or ABCD.

### Speculative Fiction
This is an umbrella term encompassing the more fantastical fiction genres, specifically science fiction, fantasy, horror, weird fiction, supernatural fiction, superhero fiction, utopian and dystopian fiction, apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fiction, and alternate history in literature as well as related static, motion, and virtual arts.

(Source: Glossary of 21st Century Literature from the Philippines and the World Curriculum Guide)

**ASSESSMENT 2a:** *The Kundiman* - is the traditional Filipino love song which became popular in the late 19th century and well into many decades of the 20th century. The King and Queen of *Kundiman* were Ruben Tagalog and Sylvia La Torre respectively. Here are samples of lyrics from kundiman songs. Can you find similar Filipino compositions from the present? Write their lyrics next to those of the given *Kundiman*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kundiman</th>
<th>Filipino love song from the present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O, Ilaw (By Ruben tagalog)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
O. ilaw  
Sa gabing malamig  
Wangis mo’y  
Bituin sa langit  
O, tanglaw  
Sa gabing tahimik  
Larawan mo, Neneng  
Nagbigay pasakit |
Ayy...
Gising at magbangon
Sa pagkagupiling
Sa pagkakatulog
Na lubhang mahimbing
Buksan ang bintana
At ako’y dungawin
Nang mapagtanto mo
Ang tunay kong pagdaing

Ibong Sawi (by Sylvia La Torre)

Ako’y isang ibong sawi
Na hindi na makalipad
At sa puso’y may sugat
wala pang luminga
Isang saglit ng hating gabi
sa madilim na paglipad
saan ngayon ang aking pugad
sa mata mo’y may isang
langit ng pangarap
sa puso mo’y mayron kang
pugad ng paglingat
kung ako’y mamamatay
sa kapighatian.
Sa puso mo lamang
muli kang mabubuhay.

ASSESSMENT 2b: Have you watched a Balagtasan? It is a verbal joust named after 18th century literary great Francisco Balagtas, author of the Florante at Laura. Look up examples of the Balagtasan from popular video-sharing sites. Does your generation have a counterpart for it? What is it called? Contrast the Balagtasan with present-day form of verbal jousting. How do their elements (language, theme, participants, setting, rules) differ. Answer this on a separate sheet.

ASSESSMENT 2c: Those 21st century literary genres are very much complemented by if not dependent on technology. Instead of the printed “pocketbooks” that your elders used to buy from the sidewalks at the University Belt or from a popular bookstore, your generation just download or read an e-book online. Instead of buying vinyl records of your grandparents’ favorite Kundiman singers, your peer would just log-on to music-sharing sites and listen to a variety of music at a click of a gadget. Themes have also adjusted to the moods, whims, and preferences of present-day youth. The manner by which friendship was forged and courtship was conducted in the olden days would not appeal to you and your contemporaries. Lyrics of present-day love songs will reflect that as well as scenes from films that depict present-day
ways of life. Consider the Tanaga of old. Its younger counterpart would be the Text Tula (see definition above) which became a trend when everyone started getting a mobile phone device. How would you write a few lines of poetry of your own? How would they differ from the rhyme, sound, density, and theme of the old? Write your own Text Tula on a drawing of a mobile phone screen on your paper.

**What I Have Learned**

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete the crossword puzzle below.

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\hline
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 \\
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1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
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**Across**

1. Modern "Balagtasan"
4. Occurring or existing after the colonial period
6. Also known as web log
9. ____________ poetry or digital poetry
10. Another term for 21st century literature

**Down**

2. Prevalent in 21st century literature
3. Shortest short story
5. Literary form that greatly flourished after the colonial period
7. Fantastical form of fiction
8. Favorite theme or subject among contemporary authors

**NOTE:** Include space for those answers consisting of two words.
What I Can Do

A. REMEMBERING THE GREATNESS OF OUR FILIPINO WRITERS: Search for some of the prestigious literary awards and competitions in the Philippines during the contemporary period. Choose one awardee in literature and write an editorial to commemorate his/ her significant contribution to our nation’s literary identity. Use a separate sheet for this activity. Refer to the rubric in writing an editorial by One World Education, Inc. which you can access through its website www.oneworldeducation.org.

Assessment

Multiple Choices. Choose the letter of the best answer. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What subject or theme is the most common during the contemporary period?
   A. Educational issues
   B. Psychological issues
   C. Social issues
   D. Spiritual issues

2. Post-colonialism is a broad term that can also be used to study literature. What is the utmost concern of this term?
   A. Impact of imperialism and colonialism
   B. Establishment of own governance
   C. Threat of another colonizers
   D. Welfare of the writers

3. Why do a lot of Filipino thinkers say that the Philippines remains a neocolony of the U.S.A?
   A. Because our country’s economy and foreign policy are both dependent on American government
   B. Because Philippines is directly governed by American government
   C. Because we love Western cultures only
   D. This belief is not true.

4. Which phrase best describes the first Edsa Revolution in our country?
   A. Bloody Revolution
   B. Bloodless Revolution
   C. Corrupted Mind
   D. The New Society
5. Modern literature comprises both contemporary and 21st century literature. How does contemporary literature differ with 21st century literature?
   A. It is stricter in terms of the convention and mechanics in writing.
   B. Technology is commonly embedded in contemporary literature.
   C. Contemporary literature is better in quality.
   D. It is commonly written in English language.

6. What does 21st century literature mean?
   A. It is any type literary text produced roughly from 2001 up to the present.
   B. It is the type of literary that only uses technology.
   C. This is the literature of emerging genres.
   D. Both A and C.

7. Which literary text only existed during 21st century literature?
   A. Acrostic Poems
   B. Chic Lit
   C. Essay
   D. Proverbs

8. Which literary text only existed during 21st century literature?
   A. Comedia
   B. Haiku
   C. Myth
   D. Speculative Fiction

9. Which among the poems only existed during 21st century literature?
   A. Concrete Poem
   B. Lyrical Poetry
   C. Hyper Poetry
   D. Sonnet

10. Which best characterizes 21st century literature as compared to the other periods?
    A. The use of technology is embedded in the creation of this type of literature.
    B. This is a literature written by contemporary authors within the last decade.
    C. This literature often breaks traditional writing.
    D. All of the above.
**Additional Activities**

**FLASH FICTION WRITING:** Let’s try your talent at fiction-writing. Gadgets and apps have forced brevity onto the way we communicate and tell our stories. The following are examples of six-word-stories. Can you see all the elements of a story in them? How do you know they tell a story?

1. Hello, goodbye, all in a hurry.
2. Looked down, challenged, persevered, proven, hailed.
3. The silent moments were our loudest.
4. Superhero fails to play role well.

Be ready to tell a story that will reflect our experiences in three periods of our history. Choose one of the micro-plots above and add details to make it longer but still short enough to qualify as flash fiction (Word Limit: 200). Ask a peer to read your work and comment on its flow and other elements. Revise if needed before submitting to your teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Flash Fiction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-colonial Period</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Colonial Period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-colonial Period</td>
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### Answer Key

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- What I Have
- (answers may vary)
References


For inquiries or feedback, please write or call:

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