English
Quarter 3 – Module 6
Elements of One-Act Play

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Grade & Section: ___________________________
Name of School: ___________________________
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Development Team of the Module

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writer:</th>
<th>Maricel R. Alfaro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editors/QA:</td>
<td>Edna A. Natividad, MAELS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Entizar V. Ibrahim, MAEd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rosalie M. Alvarez, EdD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewer:</td>
<td>Valeria Fides G. Corteza, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layout Artist:</td>
<td>Jovie R. Cruz, MAEd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Team:</td>
<td>Roy C. Tuballa, EMD.JD.CESO VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jay S. Montealto, CESO VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norma T. Francisco, DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mildred D. Dayao, EdD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Valeria Fides G. Corteza, PhD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aida Coyme, EdD</td>
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</table>

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Office Address: Pres. Corazon C. Aquino Regional Government Center, Balintawak, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur Province 7016
E-mail Address: region9@deped.gov.ph
Participating in one-act plays can help you develop your self-confidence and poise and improve your diction, voice, and articulation. A good play allows you to feel and experience a release of suppressed emotions.
Likewise, it serves as an avenue for students to express themselves intellectually and emotionally.
Thus, as a learner, you must have a clear understanding of the one-act play to perform well the moment you will be included in the cast.
This module is specifically done for you to understand more about one-act play and, at the same time, learn its basic elements.

In this module, you are expected to:

a. explain how the elements specific to one-act play contribute to the development of its theme.

**What I Need to Know**

Directions: Write the word TRUE if the statement expresses truth and FALSE if otherwise on a separate sheet of paper.

1. The characters in a One-Act Play are limited in number.
2. Dialogue is of the least importance in the One-Act Play.
3. It has a beginning, a middle, and an end, like the dramas.
4. A one-act play is a play that has only one act but may consist of one or more scenes.
5. One-act plays are not written concisely.

**Lesson 1**

**ELEMENTS OF ONE-ACT PLAY**

One-Act plays were written and staged throughout the 18th and 19th centuries as "The Curtain Raisers" and "The After Pieces". They were chiefly farcical. They served to amuse the audience before the actual drama commencement or were staged for their amusement just after it had come to an end.
The famous one-act "Monkey's Paw" was first staged as a "Curtain Raiser" and it proved to be more entertaining than the main drama. It may be said to mark the beginning of the modern one-act play.

The origin of the one-act play may be traced to the beginning of drama – in ancient Greece, Cyclops, a play on the forest God, by Euripides, is an early example. The one-act play requires no elaborate setting and costumes, which comes in handy to be staged in amateur dramatic societies and clubs.

Previously, you have learned the different elements of a story. So, this time you will expand your knowledge on one-act plays and the elements that comprise them.

The basic elements that we will discuss are setting, characters, dialogue, plot, and theme. Each element is important as it contributes to the successful conduct of one-act play.

**What's In**

Directions: Read the plot summary of *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare and answer the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

On a hot summer's day, the young men of each faction fight until the Prince of Verona intercedes and threatens to banish them. Soon after, the head of the Capulet family plans a feast. His goal is to introduce his daughter Juliet to a Count named Paris, who seeks to marry Juliet.

Montague's son Romeo and his friends (Benvolio and Mercutio) hear of the party and resolve to go in disguise. Romeo hopes to see his beloved Rosaline at the party. Instead, while there, he meets Juliet and falls instantly in love with her. Juliet's cousin Tybalt recognizes the Montague boys and forces them to leave just as Romeo and Juliet discover one another.

Romeo lingers near the Capulet's house to talk with Juliet when she appears in her window. The pair declares their love for one another and intends to marry the next day. With Juliet's Nurse's help, the lovers arrange to marry when Juliet goes for confession at the cell of Friar Laurence. There, they are secretly married (talk about a short engagement).

Following the secret marriage, Juliet's cousin Tybalt sends a challenge to Romeo. Romeo refuses to fight, which angers his friend Mercutio who then fights with Tybalt. Mercutio is accidentally killed as Romeo intervenes to stop the fight. In anger, Romeo pursues Tybalt, kills him, and is banished by the Prince.

Juliet is anxious when Romeo is late to meet her and learns of the brawl, Tybalt's death, and Romeo's banishment. Friar Laurence arranges for Romeo to spend the night with Juliet before he leaves for Mantua. Meanwhile, the Capulet family grieves for Tybalt, so Lord Capulet moves Juliet's marriage to Paris to the next. Juliet's parents are angry when Juliet doesn't want to marry Paris, but they don't know about her secret marriage to Romeo.

Friar Laurence helps Juliet by providing a sleeping draught that will make her seem dead. When the wedding party arrives to greet Juliet the next day, they believe she is dead. The Friar sends a messenger to warn Romeo of Juliet's plan and bids him come to the Capulet family monument to rescue his sleeping wife.
The vital message to Romeo doesn't arrive in time because the plague is in town (so the messenger cannot leave Verona). Hearing from his servant that Juliet is dead, Romeo buys poison from an Apothecary in Mantua. He returns to Verona and goes to the tomb where he surprises and kills the mourning Paris. Romeo takes his poison and dies, while Juliet awakens from her drugged coma. She learns what has happened from Friar Laurence, but she refuses to leave the tomb and stabs herself. The Friar returns with the Prince, the Capulets, and Romeo's lately widowed father. The deaths of their children lead the families to make peace, and they promise to erect a monument in Romeo and Juliet's memory.

Source: Summary of Romeo and Juliet | Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

1. Whom is Romeo in love with at the beginning of the play?
   A. Rosaline  
   B. Cecilia  
   C. Verona  
   D. Maria

2. In the 'balcony scene,' Juliet famously says, "wherefore art thou Ro" What does this actually mean?
   A. Why do you keep hanging around outside my window?  
   B. Oh, why did you have to be Romeo - a Montague!  
   C. Where are you, Romeo?  
   D. Why do you have such a silly name?

3. Why does the Friar agree to marry Romeo and Juliet?
   A. Their love may help to end the feud between their families.  
   B. If he doesn't marry them, they'll run away together.  
   C. He likes Romeo and wants to help him.  
   D. He is a romantic man.

4. What is Romeo's punishment for killing Tybalt?
   A. He is forbidden from seeing Juliet ever again.  
   B. He is sentenced to death.  
   C. He is banished from the city.  
   D. He is locked up in prison.

5. How do the Montagues and Capulets agree to commemorate their children?
   A. Build a statue of them.  
   B. Bury their feud and become friends.  
   C. Have a feast.  
   D. Write a play about them.

6. Why did Lord Capulet move Juliet's marriage to Paris?
   A. The Capulet family was in grieve.  
   B. The Capulet family was overjoyed about the incident.  
   C. The Capulet family was worried about the expenses.  
   D. The Capulet family was in great fear.

7. Who is the last person to see Juliet before she stabs herself dead?
   A. Tybalt  
   B. Paris  
   C. Romeo  
   D. Friar Lawrence
8. To which city does Romeo go after being exiled from Verona?
   A. Padua
   B. Mantua
   C. Rome
   D. Venice

9. Why is Romeo exiled?
   A. for marrying Juliet
   B. for killing Tybalt
   C. for killing Mercutio
   D. for loving Rosaline

10. Where did Romeo and Juliet meet?
    A. at Montague’s Feast
    B. at Capulet’s Feast
    C. at Friar’s Lawrence cell
    D. at the pier

What’s New

Directions: Accomplish ” SWBST T” below by filling in each box with brief details from the plot summary of Romeo and Juliet. Answer this on a separate sheet of paper.

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<th>Somebody</th>
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<th>But</th>
<th>So</th>
<th>Then</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who is the main character?</td>
<td>What does the main character want?</td>
<td>What is the problem or conflict?</td>
<td>How does the problem get solved?</td>
<td>What is the result or outcome?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

What Is It

A one-act play is a play that has only one act, as distinct from plays that occur over several acts. It is a short piece of drama that consists of only one act. Usually, it has one or more scenes but does not exceed one act.

Below are the elements of one-act play:

1. Setting – is the place, together with other conditions, such as time and the environment, involved in which the events occur. The setting can be presented through the visual element deals with the scenes, costumes, and special effects. The setting can as well be enhanced by using viewable elements, sound effects, and music.
2. **Characters** – are the people, or sometimes animals, subjected in the drama and are portrayed by the actors and actresses in the play. They are one of the main components that move the action of the play forward. Characters can be categorized into three types according to the roles they play. The main character of the play is known as the **protagonist**. The **antagonist** is the character who opposes the protagonist. The other characters that are neither the protagonist nor the antagonist are called the **secondary** characters. They may have a major part of a minor involvement in the drama.

3. **Dialogue** – The question of style in a play is confined to dialogue. The dialogue should be spoken and heard with ease. It is intended to be spoken by the character and heard by an audience who understands what it is all about. The effectiveness of the dialogue depends on the following:
   a. the dialogue must preserve its basic relation to the plot and action;
   b. the dialogue should be clear so that the reader can easily get what the writer wants to communicate;
   c. the dialogue must reveal the nature of the characters;
   d. the dialogue must carry the action forward; and
   e. the dialogue must be interesting in itself.

4. **Plot** – referring to the play's basic storyline, is the structure of a play that tells what happens as the story goes. The plot structure can be divided into six stages: exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement.
   o The **exposition** is simply an introductory part that provides the background information needed to understand the story properly.
   o The inciting incident, or **conflict**, if sets the action of the play in motion. It is what gets the story going.
   o The **rising action** is a series of events, including complications and discoveries, which follow the inciting incident and create a dramatic climax.
   o The **climax** is the turning point, or the peak, of a plot that holds the play's utmost emotional intensity.
   o The **falling action** is a series of events following the climax that leads to the conflicts' solution.
   o The **denouement** serves as the conclusion of the plot in which the conflicts are unraveled. It is the ending scene of the drama.

5. **Theme** – Most plays have a theme or main ideas, such as the value of prayer, the rewards of showing patience, or the healing power of love. The play's outcome implies some lessons or morals about the theme or affirms some meaningful observation or conclusion about life.

6. **Genre** – is the type of play. The examples of the play's genre include tragedy, comedy, romantic, mystery, and historical play.

7. **Audience** – is a group of people who watch the play. An audience can be the most important element of drama to be considered since it is the audience that determines whether the play is successful. Many playwrights also write the drama's plot with great concern regarding their groups of the audience rather than their interests.
What's More

Directions: Read and understand the summary "A Marriage Proposal" by Anton Chekhov and answer the comprehension questions after it on a separate sheet of paper.

In the short play "A Marriage Proposal" Anton Chekhov describes the odd courtship of Lomov, who seeks marriage with a neighbor's daughter. Lomov, aged 35, is a long-time neighbor of Choobookov. He is a landowner who has inherited property from his aunt. Though he is well-fed and healthy, he is hypochondriac. He suffers from palpitations and sleeplessness due to his nervousness. He has passed a critical stage of marriage. He now knows that he will never marry if he searches for an ideal woman or true love. So, he is now desperate to marry Natalia. He thinks that she is not bad-looking and has some education. He wants to lead a steady and regular life. So, he visits the house of his neighbor Choobookov early morning, dressed in a formal suit. Choobookov is surprised at the unexpected arrival of Lomov in his formal dress. Lomov asks Natalia's hand in marriage. Choobookov is also desperately looking for a suitable man for his 25-year-old daughter, Natalia. As a father of a grown-up daughter, he immediately gives joyful permission to marry Natalia.

She is invited into the room. Lomov becomes nervous, and instead of putting his proposal, he begins to beat about the bush. When he says that his Ox Meadows touch her birch woods, she begins to argue with him about the ownership of that piece of land. After her father notices they are arguing, he joins in and then sends Lomov out of the house. Choobookov then tells his daughter that Lomov was there to propose to her. Natalia repents and asks her father to call him back. Lomov comes, and she asks him about his hunting program. He says that he will start hunting after harvest because his best dog has gone lame. At this point, Natalia contradicts him again and claims that her dog Leap is better than his dog Guess. Thus the quarrel begins again till over-excitement makes Lomov faint in a chair. Seeing him quiet and unmoving, Natalia thinks that he is dead and becomes hysterical. Lomov comes to his senses, and Choobookov forces them to kiss each other and accept the marriage proposal. Immediately following the kiss, Natalia and Lomov start quarreling. Choobookov shouts for Champagne because he wants to celebrate their marriage, and at the same time, he feels free from the burden of his grown-up daughter.

Source: "A Marriage Proposal" – Summary | Major English Class 12, merospark.com

Activity: Answer Me!

Directions: Read and understand each question carefully. Answer it by writing only the letter of your correct answer on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Who is the playwright of the above-mentioned play?
   A. Stephan Choobookov  
   B. Anton Chekhov  
   C. Leo Tolstoy  
   D. Ivan Lomov

2. What do you think is the setting of the play?
   A. village farmhouse  
   B. Lomov's country  
   C. village market  
   D. Choobookov's country
3. Where did it take place?
   A. Choobookov’s city palace
   B. Lomov’s country house
   C. Lomov’s uncle’s house
   D. Choobookov’s country house

4. What character does Choobookov portray in the play?
   A. landowner
   B. merchant
   C. lawyer
   D. physician

5. Why did Lomov go to the neighbor’s house?
   A. to borrow money
   B. to give a marriage proposal
   C. to settle a dispute
   D. to complain

6. How old was Natalia in the story?
   A. twenty years
   B. thirty years
   C. twenty-five years
   D. thirty-five years

7. Who was Lomov?
   A. a player
   B. a businessman
   C. a landowner
   D. a shepherd

8. Which of the following features is correct about Natalia?
   A. a confident woman
   B. a beauty queen
   C. a businesswoman
   D. a grown-up lady

What I Have Learned

Activity 1. Match Me!

Directions: Match column A with the correct answer in column B. Write only the letter of the correct answer on a separate sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. These are the persons involved in the play.</td>
<td>A. Dialogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. These are words intended to be spoken by the characters.</td>
<td>B. Setting</td>
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<td>3. It is the sequence of events leading to the outcome or point of the play.</td>
<td>C. Audience</td>
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<td>4. It is the environment in which the action takes place.</td>
<td>D. Plot</td>
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<td>5. It is the main idea or underlying meaning a playwright explores in the play.</td>
<td>E. Characters</td>
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<td>6. It is a group of people who watch the play.</td>
<td>F. Theme</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Activity 2. Tell Me!

Directions: Read each statement carefully and write the number that expresses fact. Write it on a separate sheet of paper.

1. A one-act play is a short piece of drama that consists of several acts.
2. The dialogue must reveal the nature of the characters.
3. The play's outcome implies some lessons or morals about the theme or affirms some meaningful observation or conclusion about life.
4. The exposition of the situation out of which the problem will arise is an essential element of dialogue.
5. The play follows a pattern that should be followed.
6. The mood of the setting must reflect the play's theme.

What I Can Do

Directions: Using the summary plot "A Marriage Proposal" by Anton Chekhov, fill in the story map below with the necessary information. Work on a separate sheet of paper.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>SETTING</td>
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<td>THEME</td>
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<td>PLOT</td>
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<td>END</td>
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Assessment

Directions: Read the statements carefully. Choose the letter of your best answer, then write it on a separate sheet of paper.

1. The play or drama is organized into _______.
   A. chapters  
   B. episode  
   C. acts and scenes  
   D. pages and numbers

2. _______ are the people who are acting in the play.
   A. Antagonist
   B. Characters
   C. Narrator
   D. Protagonist

3. The person who writes the play is called _______.
   A. author
   B. narrator
   C. director
   D. playwright

4. The problem between the two characters is called a/an _______.
   A. conflict
   B. set
   C. character
   D. dialogue

5. “Choobookov is a landowner who inherited property from his aunt.” Which element is being described in this statement?
   A. character
   B. audience
   C. genre
   D. setting

6. Which of the following terms means the leading character in a story?
   A. main
   B. protagonist
   C. minor
   D. antagonist

7. Which of the following parts of the plot is considered as the highest point in a story?
   A. rising action
   B. exposition
   C. climax
   D. falling action

8. A story with a happy ending that uses humor is a/an _______.
   A. tragedy
   B. drama
   C. expository
   D. comedy

9. The actors make use of these items to make the play more believable are called _______.
   A. lines
   B. props
   C. songs
   D. plants

10. Which term means “the character in conflict with the protagonist?”
    A. antagonist
    B. audience
    C. director
    D. minor
Activity 1: Feel Me!
Directions: Place a √ mark before the statement that expresses truth and an X if it is false. Answer this on a separate sheet of paper.

1. The names of all participants in a drama is called the antagonist.
2. The plot is the series of events in a play.
3. The written text of a play is called a script.
4. The dialogue is the words the character says to one another.
5. The items or things that the cast of characters used to perform their part are called lines.

Activity 2: Find Me!
Directions: Identify all the elements of a one-act play that you can find from the word grid. Write them on a separate sheet of paper.

Activity 3: Try Me!
Directions: After reading the plot summary of *The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?* by Edward Albee accomplish the graphic organizer by providing the necessary information. Work on a separate sheet of paper.

Scene One
A husband and wife—Martin and Stevie—are in the living room of their home preparing for the imminent arrival of Ross, Martin’s best bud. Martin is a very successful architect who just became—at age 50—the young recipient of a very prestigious architectural design award. Martin has also been tapped to design a 200-billion-dollar city of the future called World City. Ross is also the host of a television city called “People Who Matter” and as a result of the whirlwind rise to the top of his career, Martin has become just that. As a result, Ross is going to interview his friend for the show.
Before the arrival of Ross, Stevie and Martin playfully banter back and forth like any married couple, but with the distinctive weirdness of the wife—having sniffed an odd odor on her husband—joking about his having an affair with a goat.

The arrival of Ross coincides with Stevie’s exit, leaving the two men to conduct the interview. Martin’s mind, however, seems to be decidedly somewhere other than the topic of the interview. And since the topic of the interview is Martin himself, Ross put a stop to it to ask what’s bothering his friend. Off the record. Finally, Martin confesses to what is distracting him: he has been indulging in an affair. After some more prodding by Ross, the full truth comes out when Martin shows his friend a photograph of his forbidden love. Turns out it is really forbidden: Sylvia, the object of his affections, is a goat.

Scene Two

It is the same living room, but a day later. Martin and Stevie are now joined by their teenage son, Billy. Steve is in possession of a letter written by Ross; a letter which details Martin’s indiscretions in their entirety. Billy’s outraged objection to his father’s lust for a goat is met by a reminder that Billy’s own sexuality is not exactly welcomed by the world outside. Billy is a homosexual. Both parents demand that Billy leave the room and he does so in a state of profound emotional pain.

Martin proceeds to explain to Steve how his relationship with Sylvia commenced at a roadside vegetable stand and quickly moved from an “epiphany” stimulated by a meeting of their eyes to a love of such ecstasy and purity it cannot even be imagined unless experienced. Stevie counters this expression of love with a goat as the height of pure love with a rising anger that manifested in the physical form of destroying just about every object d’art in the exquisitely decorated room. Martin proceeds to plead his case by demanding that Stevie understand he loves both her and Sylvia to equal degrees. A Stevie counter by insisting that Martin cannot that he has completely destroyed their lives. She storms out of the house in almost uncontrollable anger.

Scene Three

Three hours later, Billy returns to a demolition site. Nothing of any value remains intact inside the living room of his home. He questions his father as to the location of his mother. Martin replies that the only the thing he knows for sure is that she has vowed to destroy him. Martin moves to embrace Billy in a show of paternal affection and protection, but the gesture rapidly takes on a completely different tone when father and son soon find themselves in the midst of a passion kiss which is only broken by the arrival of Ross. Ross immediately sets upon Martin with an almost Biblical intensity of charges of perversion against nature and all things normal in the world. Martin’s only defense is to remind Ross that love and sex are not always so clearly defined and desire can very often find a way to disturb the expected course of relationships. He then takes the opportunity to remind Ross of the ethical vacuum existing in writing a letter to another man’s wife discussing private admissions spoken within the expectation of privacy and confidence.

Stevie then finally returns. She is not alone, however. She has brought with her Sylvia. Or, to be precise, the lifeless corpse of what was once a thriving member of the animal kingdom. Sylvia is now nothing more than a bloody carcass. Martin is, of course, absolutely shattered and ravaged by this turn of events, but rather than setting upon the women he loves who murdered the goat he loves, he instead breaks down in a painful plea for forgiveness from his family. The play draws to an end with an equally devastated Billy looking from one parent to the other, overcome and overwhelmed by inexplicable events, asking and pleading for the world to return to normal with just two words: “Dad? Mom?”

Source: https://www.gradesaver.com/the-goat-or-who-is-sylvia/study-guide/summary
Title: _____________________________________

Playwright: _______________________________
### Answer Key

#### What's More

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#### What I Know

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#### Assessment

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#### What I Have Learned

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#### Additional Activities

**Activity 1**

1. X
2. /
3. /
4. /
5. X

**Activity 2**

1. Dialogue
2. Audience
3. Character
4. Theme
5. Setting
6. Plot
7. Genre

**Activity 3**

Students’ answers may vary.

1. X
2. /
3. /
4. X
5. X

**Activity 4**

1. Setting
2. Audience
3. Character
4. Theme
5. Setting
References


Development Team

Writer: Maricel R. Alfaro  
Pasonanca National High School  
Zamboanga City

Editors/QA: Edna A. Natividad, MAELS  
Entizar V. Ibrahim, MAEd  
Rosalie M. Alvarez, EdD

Reviewer: Valeriafides G. Corteza, PhD  
Education Program Supervisor

Layout Artist: Jovie R. Cruz, MAEd

Management Team:  
Roy C. Tuballa, EMD.JD.CESO VI  
Jay S. Montealto, CESO VI  
Norma T. Francisco, DM  
Mildred D. Dayao, EdD  
Valeriafides G. Corteza, PhD  
Aida Coyme, EdD