

SprinNG 2020

Fellowship Report

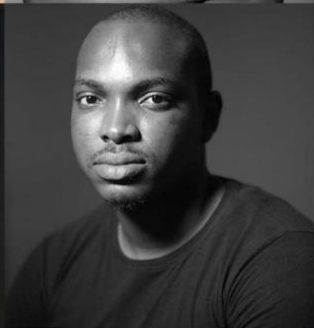


TABLE OF CONTENTS

SPRING	3
OUR MISSION.....	3
THE SPRING FELLOWSHIP	3
THE SPRING FELLOWSHIP TYPES.....	3
FELLOWSHIP CONTACT & RESOURCES.....	3
FELLOWSHIP ELIGIBILITY.....	4
SELECTION CRITERIA.....	4
THE SPRING FELLOWSHIP TIMELINE	4
SPRING 2020 FELLOWSHIP REPORT	5
LIST OF GRADUATING MENTEES	8
LIST OF 2020 MENTORS.....	8
2020 FELLOWS BIOGRAPHIES AND COMMENTARIES	9
MORE FELLOWSHIP FACTS AND FIGURES... ..	38



Established May 2016 as Springg Literary Movement and re-branded as SprinNG in December 2019.

Our mission: "SprinNG is a Literary Movement and Society for the Promotion, Revitalization, and Improvement of New Nigerian Generations in Writing and Literature."

- Through our website, we publish reviews, poems, stories, essays, and fiction, all of which engender the soul of the national literature.
- We founded and manage a Nigerian Writers Database that hosts the biography of 150+ writers.
- We have a SprinNG Lit page dedicated to promoting other literary websites worldwide and informing writers of opportunities outside what SprinNG offers.
- We conduct an annual creative writing fellowship, providing 1 month of free mentorship to select writers with resources such as airtime, paid access to books and more, during the fellowship.
- We discover and promote female Nigerian authors with the annual SprinNG Women Authors Prize – combating the unequal gender representation and participation in the industry.
- We also run an annual SprinNG Poetry Contest with a unique theme to celebrate our anniversary.

Email: Contact@SprinNG.org

The SprinNG Fellowship

The SprinNG Fellowship is an intensive 5 weeks online mentorship programme for developing writers with great potential and willingness to learn. SprinNG provides two fellowships to support Creative Writing, and Career & Academic Progression for writers.

The SprinNG Fellowship Types

SprinNG Writing Fellowship (SWF):

This programme focuses on 6 genres of literature: Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Book Review, Play/Drama and Blogging. For 5 weeks, mentees will be in contact with their mentors, sending them their works, getting reviews and commentaries. Mentors and mentees will aim to work on at least 1 piece of writing in their select genre per week. The SprinNG Writing Fellowship is only open to writers that **have not** published a book before (eBook/hardcopy).

SprinNG Advancement Fellowship (SAF):

Started in 2020, this programme is geared towards supporting past mentees in applying their creative writing skills and knowledge to their academic and career pursuits. For 5 weeks, mentees will receive feedback and guidance from their mentors on the following Career & Academic advancement materials: Resume or Curriculum vitae, Cover letter, Personal statement writing, Creative writing portfolio and LinkedIn account creation. Applicants to the SAF programme may or may not have published a book.

Fellowship Contact & Resources

The medium of communication between the mentors and mentees throughout this programme will be via email, phone calls, WhatsApp and text messages. All mentees will be provided weekly N500 airtime during the programme as well as paid access to an online bookstore to read books that support their programme learning. For all inquiries regarding the SprinNG Fellowship email: Fellowship@SprinNG.org

Fellowship Eligibility

- Applicant Must be a Nigerian citizen, residing in Nigeria
- Applicant Must be between the ages of 18 to 25
- The SprinNG Writing Fellowship (SWF) is only open to writers that have not published a book before (eBook/hardcopy)

Selection Criteria

We are searching for Nigerian writers who are goal-oriented and have the potential to develop.

In selecting the mentees for the fellowship, we will consider the following:

- **Writers with POTENTIAL:** Applicants must have basic writing skills but show the potential to develop. This fellowship is for writers who need guidance to develop.
- **Writers who are OPEN-MINDED:** Applicants must demonstrate the will to receive constructive feedback.
- **Writers that are AMBITIOUS:** Applicants must show passion and interest in developing their writings.

The SprinNG Fellowship Timeline

- January 1 – April 15: Application opens and closes
- March: 2020 Mentors will be announced
- April 15 - May 15: The SprinNG Team will review application submissions
- May 15: Finalists will be notified
- May 21: Mentees and mentors will be paired
- June 1 – July 15: Fellowship Period
- July 7 – 20: Fellowship rounds up
- August: Mentees profiles and fellowship report will be released
- December: Publication of mentees anthology

Follow us on social media and sign up for our newsletter to stay informed about the fellowships.

SprinNG 2020 Fellowship Report

“Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.”
— John Crosby



The SprinNG 2020 fellowship sparked a different flame this year. Out of 536 applications, 50 mentees were selected for the 4th cohort divided into the SprinNG Writing Fellowship (SWF) and the SprinNG Advancement Fellowship (SAF). Of the 50 participants, 48 completed the program requirements and graduated. Simultaneously, we hosted a record-breaking number of mentors. 46 writers, some of whom are published authors, award winners, and more, volunteered to serve as mentors in the fellowship, which held for 4 to 6 weeks.

Facts and figures by the 48 mentees who completed the fellowship:

All mentees agreed that

- Enough thought was put into the fellowship.
- The group chat useful in expressing their concerns and asking questions.
- The fellowship helped them to push boundaries in their writing skills.
- The fellowship had an impact on their professional development and etiquette.

97.9% (47 mentees) identified that the fellowship improved their confidence and provided a sense of direction to their creative writing pursuits.

97.9% (47 mentees) said they would re-apply to be SprinNG fellows in a different category.

95.8% (46 mentees) found the contest as a motivating factor to their fellowship experience.

93.8% (45 mentees) found the group chat useful in conversing and networking with other mentees.

Fellowship completion timeline:

- 24 mentees completed the fellowship in 6 weeks
- 19 mentees completed theirs in 5 weeks
- 5 mentees completed theirs in 4 weeks.

“To be a mentor and an effective one, one must care. You must care. You don’t have to know how many square miles are in Idaho, you don’t need to know what is the chemical makeup of chemistry, or blood or water. Know what you know, and care about the person, care about what you know and care about the person you’re sharing with.”

— Maya Angelou

When we asked the mentees to describe their mentor's qualities, they used the following words:

Teacher, courteous, knowledgeable, precise, wise, diligent, dedicated, committed, excited, genuine, patient, supportive, thoughtful, brilliant, polymath, detailed, kind, honest, attentive to details, productively busy, willing, a good reader, and a “badass” critic.

When we asked the mentees to describe their areas of improvement during the fellowship, they highlighted the following:

Use of diction

Use of symbols and punctuation

Effective communication

Editing

Time management

Goal setting

Self-esteem and discovery

Grammar

Exploration



Notably, a mentee wrote:

I realized how important constantly re-reading and editing one’s work could be. Before, I would just write and edit once. But now, the story comes out better when I read it countless times and keep adding or removing things. Consistency is key. You can't get better at what you do if you don't do it over and over again.

I started writing more during this fellowship. I made a mental note to write at least a few sentences each day and to read as much as I write. I realized that I have to read both the works I love and the ones I don't appreciate, there's always something to learn or a new perspective to gain.

Also, thanks to the SprinNG fellowship and my good mentor, I had to relearn the use of literary devices which I had forgotten. Michael introduced this to me during the poetry week, and I learned to apply it to every other work I do. First, you have to get the story out, then you work on what's missing, and that's when I think of the literary devices to employ.

Furthermore, I particularly learned this from the SprinNG manual - finding an audience is key. I used to want everyone to love and appreciate my work, but I realize now that's not how things work. Everyone cannot enjoy your work, there will be people who the work is specifically meant for, and they are the ones writers should be concerned about.

Finally, there are so many things that have improved about me both personally and professionally as a writer.

My confidence has improved, interacting with some of the cohort's mentees and observing the conversations in the group; I am no longer afraid of holding or writing my truth. I've decided to write shamelessly but also in a way that I will be able to defend my work. I learned that not everyone would understand your work, but you still have to do it anyway. The fellowship has made me want to be better, to want more for myself, and I will strive to do that.

Many mentors applauded the growth of the fellowship from what it was initially. They also highlighted areas of improvement that the SprinNG team will work on in the upcoming months. We are grateful for the services of all the mentors.

“What I think the mentor gets is the great satisfaction of helping somebody along, helping somebody take advantage of an opportunity that maybe he or she did not have.”

— **Clint Eastwood**

What next?

This fellowship has grounded us well in identifying what's truly working when it comes to mentoring developing writers in Nigeria. Next year, with the right effort, we hope to expand the fellowship's eligibility to include other select African countries. We will also include more professional development activities to help our writers become well-rounded.

List of Graduating Mentees
Class of 2020 - Congratulations on this milestone!

“Real courage is holding on to a still voice in your head that says, ‘I must keep going.’ It’s that voice that says nothing is a failure if it is not final. That voice that says to you, ‘Get out of bed. Keep going. I will not quit.’” —Cory Booker

Abdulrahman Adetunji Abubakar Aliyu Adedayo A. Onabade Adedayo Ademokoya Adenuga Adepeju Adeola Oke Adetola Babalola Ajayi D. Folorunsho Ayomide Akintayo Ayomide D. Oriolowo Busayo Orisasona Chisom C. Iboko Christabel W. Kwalbe Chukwunwike Obi Dorcas Odok Gbotemi Oni	Gimbiya Galadima Hammed Sulaiman Humainat Raji Ibukunoluwa Dada Ifemide Omolawal Ijeoma V. Ogbonnaya Islamiyyat A. Asiru Izunna Okafor Jesutofunmi Adetoogun Jola Dipe Jonathan Ayeni Josef Adewara Malik Kolade Mbanulisi O. Gabrielle Moses O. Odejobi Nureni Ibrahim	Obinna T-F. Ochem Oghenemaero Olori Ojo O. Emmanuel Okafor Oluwadamilare Olagoke F. Oluwatosin Oluwasegun Daramola Seyifunmi Dawodu Onuoha M. Emmanuel Orode O. Elizabeth Rachel Dada Roseline M-A. Okorie Temiloluwa A. Aogo Tochukwu N. Daniel Tolulope D. Olaoye Umar Salman Winifred O. Odunoku
--	--	--

List of 2020 Mentors

We thank you for participating in this opportunity of service to improve and revitalize Nigerian literature through mentorship!

Aanu Jide Ojo Abdulsalam A. Dante Abimbola Mosobalaje Adedayo Agarau Adekunle Adebajo Aremu Adams Adebisi Christie Jay Ebukun G. Ogunyemi Ejiro Lawretta Egba Emmanuel Faith Emmanuel Michael Goodness O. Ayoola Henneh Kwaku Ishola Abdulwasiiu Iyanu Adebiji	Jerry Chiemeke Jide Badmus Joseph Wodo Kanyinsola Olorunnisola Kehinde Badiru Kizito Okorowu Kolawole Adebayo Mazpa Ejikem Mbanefo Chibuike Mesioye Johnson Michael Akuchie Michael I. Oladele Nome E. Patrick Ogunfowodu Olufemi O-Jeremiah Agbaakin Ola W. Halim	Olanrewaju Oranyeli Oluwatobi Adesanya Pamilerin Jacob Patience Lawal Salawu Wuraola A. Seun L. Williams Shoola Ifeoluwa Shoola Oyindamola Tola Ijalusi Tomi Adesina Tryphena Yeboah Tukur Loba Ridwan Uduak Akpan Wale Ayinla Wendy Okeke
--	---	--

2020 Fellows Biographies and Commentaries



Mentor: Aanu Jide Ojo

Mentee: Dorcas Odok is a Nigerian poet and short story writer. She writes to eradicate societal stratification of gender roles among many things, to also deconstruct and reconstruct gender complementarity and other societal mishaps. Her poems are geared towards violence, pain, voicelessness, loss as well as a portrayal of hope.

Dorcas uses her poems to address these defects as she seeks for a resolve, comfort and or balance in these urgent societal concerns. She also hopes to make her poems a home for weary souls– a place where one can find oneself in a different light. She is also a strong believer in humanity, and she explores this concern in her writings.

She won the Linda Imoke Essay Competition (2013) and the University of Calabar Literary Contest, Poetry Category (2019). She has been shortlisted for the Hilltop Creative Foundation Prize for Short Stories (2020).

Her works have been published on Shuzia.com (2020); SprinkleStoriez.blogspot.com (2018); Aceworld Publishers (2020) etc.

When she is not reading or writing, Dorcas can be found drawing or making beautiful calligraphies.

My mentor's patience was a recurring theme in my weekly feedback. Even when my questions seemed too much, or I turned in my assignment too late, or I didn't do what she had directed, she would explain and share notes that will buttress her point rather than get angry.

Interestingly, from her mentorship, I learned how to be patient with my work(s) and that the first draft isn't the end of the road. I saw the importance of doing more to push boundaries outside my designated fields.



Mentor: Abdulsalam Abdul Dante

Mentee: Gimbiya Galadima is a fifth-year medical student of the University of Benin and a creative writer. When she is not writing, she can be found watching a movie or reading a book. Gimbiya is very passionate about African literature and mental health issues that affect young people. She can be reached on social media.

My mentor Abdulsalam Dante is kind and patient. Despite his busy schedule, he took out time to review my work. I would make the corrections, and he would let me know what other changes needed to be done. He has an eye for detail and is quite semi-formal. He doesn't like to be addressed as Sir, which was surprising for me. He was professional, friendly, and kind at the same time. He is the first person I have ever heard the term, "reverse mentorship" from; believing in learning from his mentees as much.

I improved in my writing, especially in the flow of my articles. I also learnt that the repetitive use of semicolons would affect the readability of my work. I learnt how to structure my resume and ace job interviews. I read more books than I would usually have, and this improved my knowledge.



Mentor: Abimbola Mosobalaje

Mentee: Christabel W. Kwalbe is a Creative Writer who sees the world through the eyes of a narrator. She explores themes, including love, self-esteem, and forgiveness. She writes with the ink of hope: to inspire the young at heart to evolve into better versions of themselves.

She is a graduate from Kaduna State University with a degree in Mass Communication. She invests her time in creating melodies and learning new things.

My mentor, Abimbola Moshobalaje, has been instrumental in my improvement as a writer. He offered corrections and compliments on submissions with much grace. He was easily accessible and was dedicated to seeing me become better.

Once, after submitting an assignment, I told him I was not sure if what I wrote was okay. He told me to take my time and read through it until I was certain. He said I didn't come this far to write what I was unsure of; that was a turning point for me. It has helped me to pay more attention to what I write and spend much time reading through it. He made the learning process easy and worthwhile. I will remember my mentor for helping me push boundaries and write outside my safe haven.



Mentor: Adedayo Agarau

Mentee: Ojo Olumide Emmanuel is a writer, teacher and spoken word artist. His works have appeared and are forthcoming on The Nigerian Review (TRN), Quills, Writer Space Africa(WSA), Poets in Nigeria (PIN), Pictorial Poetry; Expanding Horizons, Love My Religion, Raindrop of Love, Voice of Voiceless Anthology, The Conclusion Magazine, Imomotimi Anthology (WRR), 50 Poetry Salutes for Ikeogu Oke, Ibabanaija.com and elsewhere.

He is a co-editor at Coauthor-Labs. Their first international book "Six Feet from Tomorrow" which he co-edited is available on Amazon. He is joint-winner of the Pin 10-days Poetry Challenge (May 2019) and Winner Poet Choice Award by Rotaract Club of Churchgate, India.

He is currently the curator of the monthly Online Wakasoprize for Poetry and Abubakar Gimba Prize for Short Fiction (both administered by The Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation). He was an alumnus of the SprinNG Writing Fellowship. To him, Poetry is an outlet for reincarnation and a place where one can always find a phoenix.

Adedayo Agarau is one I call my boss of life. He broke my boundaries, made me see poetry from another dimension. He even gave me free eBooks to study and links to works that have inspired him. His feedback helped improved my craft. During my final weeks, he ensured I sent some of the poems I wrote during the fellowship to literary journals. That for me is a giant step towards making a mark in the Nigerian Literary scene. I will remember him for the selflessness he brings to his mentoring.



Mentor: Adekunle Adebajo

Mentee: Oni Gbotemi Jerry holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Obafemi Awolowo University. After that, he was awarded a scholarship to pursue his master's degree programme at the African Centre of Excellence for Mycotoxin and Food Safety where he is studying Molecular Biology and Bioinformatics. Jerry has a strong flair for writing and researching. His genre of writing is expository essay which flexibly covers the academic, technical, journalism and business aspects. Some of his articles are notably accessed on his Academia and Nairaland page. He is working on his first book.

He is also very keen about leadership, community development and has led several other youths during his national youth service. He has a rich volunteer experience having volunteered with several Non-Governmental Organizations which include Save the City Initiative (SCI), Young Minds for Good Stewardship, Community & Peace Building (YMGCP), African Development & Empowerment Foundation (AfricanDEF), Junior Achievement Nigeria (JAN), Brain Builders Initiative (BBI), Nigeria. He is a Network Member, Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) as well as the World Youth Alliance (WYA). He is also a Country representative, Global Youth Aspiration Program (GYAP). He was awarded a Certificate of Achievement by Junior Achievement Nigeria (JAN) during the 2019 Junior Achievement Nigeria (JAN)/Sigma Pensions Career Success Program. Whenever he is not reading or writing, he is most likely playing games.

I was deeply impressed and challenged when I went through my mentor's profile at the beginning of the fellowship. He was flexible enough and patient with me despite my inconsistencies and tight schedule. I appreciate the fact that he checked on me as often as possible. He was quick to commend me for introducing my paragraphs smoothly without the use of indicators. He also encouraged me to be fully loyal to the UK English variety in spelling, unless perhaps I am writing to institutions or people in the United States.

During the period of mentorship, I learned how to use Google docs effectively for the purpose of sharing and reviewing articles. My mentor gave me some priceless tips on how to come up with captivating themes or titles. I look forward to leveraging this platform created by SprinNG to grow.



Mentor: Aremu Adebisi

Mentee: Daniel Ajayi is a Nigerian poet and writer. He is a fellow of SprinNG Writing Fellowship 2020. A graduate of Human Resource Management, Daniel probes truth, nature and humanity. He has works published in numerous local and international magazines and anthologies likewise, including Piker Press, Praxis, Failed Haiku, Oddball Magazine, Visual Verse and elsewhere. He was shortlisted for EOPP 2019 and is currently with a team that reviews for The Blue Nib. He writes from his courtyard in Lagos. When not writing, he is an internet researcher.

My mentor tried as much to be open so that I can open up. He pushed my boundaries and taught me to show than just tell. I will remember him for being a real teacher.

With his support, my writing improved. My use of diction, symbols, communication, and imagery developed. Most importantly, I learned how to write a good poem.



Mentor: Ayoola Goodness

Mentee: **Ayomide Akintayo** is a poet and blogger who is passionate about making the world a better place through her writing. Her works address issues relating to family, love, leadership, abuse and cultural orientations. Her poem "A place called Home" was awarded the second runner up in the OSCA Woven Word Poetry Competition, in 2018. She is currently a final year Law student at Bowen University. If she is not reading or writing, she is somewhere teaching children. Say hi to her on Instagram [@theayomideakintayo](#).

My mentor, Ayoola Goodness, is such an amazing and patient mentor. He was indeed committed to the fellowship as he regularly sent texts that enhanced my writing. His diligence and attention to detail are one of a kind. I am grateful for the privilege of being mentored by him.

From his support, I wrote with much more precision. My mentor taught me the art of beating my poems into perfection. My rhymes are no longer forced but occur naturally. I have been able to consistently write poetry, which is something I didn't find easy to do before the fellowship.



Mentor: Christtie Jay

Mentee: **Oluwasegun Isaac Daramola** is a Nigerian poet and Biomedical science undergraduate at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His work has been published or forthcoming in Cephalopress, Lumin Journal, Thorn magazine, Mineral literary magazine, What are birds, Milly Magazine, Pangolin Review, Teen Belle, Pithead Chapel, Neon Mariposa, amongst others. He was a participant in the 4th cohort SprinNG writing fellowship.

During the fellowship, I discovered aspects of poetry that were unknown to me. I understood lineation better and wrote my first sonnet. I also learnt the art of precision in poetry writing.

I will remember my mentor for her persistence because she didn't stop until she saw improvements.



Mentor: Ebukun Gbemisola Ogunyemi

Mentee: Roseline Mgbodichinmais, a Nigerian poet, writer, and blogger. In 2018, she won the audience's favourite award powered by Union Bank and Okadabooks for her short story, Silence that spoke. Her poem, The Giant, was published in the Poets in Nigeria (PIN) 2019 Anthology, and we were superheroes (another poem) was selected by Theresa Lola, the young people's laureate for London to be featured in the Say your peace campaign.

Roseline takes pride in using imageries to tell stories that resonate with diverse audiences, she portrays gender discrimination and injustice as a major theme in her work and hopes to use her writing to give women a voice and change stereotypical societal narratives.

My mentor Ebukun Gbemisola Ogunyemi was more than I expected. She was very involved, and in her, I found both a mentor and a friend as she made the whole experience seamless for me. I am a better writer because of her mentorship and will remember her for the selfless, thorough, and amazing teachings.

During the fellowship, I grew more confident in sharing my work; because I learned how to create and write for my audience and community. Also, I am now well equipped to handle rejections and leverage wins.



Mentor: Emmanuel Faith

Mentee: Chukwunwike Obi is a Law graduate, seasoned editor and creative writer. He has performed his poetry at the Black History Film Festival, Femi Osofisan Poetry Concert and Chris Okigbo Poetry Festival. His works have appeared on Kreative Diadem, Irawo, L'Avocat Magazine and elsewhere. He lives a quiet life in the ancient city of Abeokuta.

My mentor, Emmanuel Faith, is an epitome of excellence and altruism. He was generous with learning materials, approachable and willing to answer every question. He is a genius in the field of CV and Cover Letter writing. He is a fantastic interviewer and human resource expert. It is a privilege to have been mentored by him.

He has contributed a lot to make me a better version of myself. My LinkedIn Profile is much more presentable than it used to be, and my CV now highlights my achievements at my different internships/volunteering experiences. I am also much better at writing Personal Statements and knowledgeable about acing interviews as a result of the fellowship.



Mentor: Henneh Kwaku Kyereh

Mentee: Ìbùkúnolúwa Dàda is a poet, journalist and graphic designer. His works hover around themes of culture, mental health, nature, the human condition & spirituality. His poem 'Oar' appears in the UITESWRITES ANTHOLOGY 4. He enjoys reading and listening to music. He was a fellow in the 2020 SprinNG writing fellowship.

I started writing drafts and improving on my works patiently; something I didn't do before the fellowship. I read more interviews and poetry than before. I no longer try to get a standard understanding of poetry but understand as it relates to me.

My mentor made me see what needs to be done. I never felt like someone was pushing me around, and he helped me go through the process of understanding mistakes and improving them.



Mentor: Ifeoluwa Shoola

Mentee: Mbanulisi Onyeka Gabrielle holds a BSc in Biotechnology from the University of Benin. She has professional memberships with the National Institute of Management (NIM) and the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) respectively.

She currently works in the Oil and Gas/Energy Industry as a Technical Industry Regulator in Lagos state, Nigeria. Her experience cuts across brand management and marketing strategy positions in the FMCG industry as well as an HSE Technical specialist for upstream and downstream operations Oil, Gas and Energy industry.

For fun, she plays chess, writes, and reads. She also cooks and helped her mother set up a restaurant business in Lagos.

She was a winner of an International Business Case challenge called "RB Maverick" and writes plans for businesses as well as for new products development.

My mentor had a way of constructively criticizing and bringing out the best of my work. I admire her work ethics as she took the fellowship to heart. I will remember her for her patience. At first, I honestly feared she might not

be able to relate to what I was interested in developing but throughout the fellowship, she proved me wrong.

With her mentorship, I improved my time management skills. I also developed a personal writing style and found value in embracing my other passions with a clear way to act on them after the fellowship. I improved in communicating my thoughts clearly and directly while still being authentic in my style.



Mentor: Ishola Abdulwasiu Ayodele

Mentee: Ayeni Jonathan is a short story writer and a student of Microbiology from Lagos. His works generally explore the tragedies of existence and because of his inclination to thrillers, crime too. Over repeated readings of Dan Brown's Ouvre, he has developed a knack for creating intriguing cliffhangers and twists.

His flash fiction "If Wishes Were Horses," recently appeared in the LightIn Anthology, a collection of writings by young contemporary writers curated/edited by the fabulous Stephen Alabi. In the spirit of consistency, he also dishes out daily doses of his writing to his online community across his social media accounts.

He is a lover of restorative art, as well as origami. So, in his spare time, he can be found having fun folding old paper into aircraft which he flies off his living room.

He loves music and listens to Asa, Joyner Lucas, Eminem, DAX etc. Apart from Dan Brown, he absolutely adores Chimamanda, Elnathan, and Wole Soyinka's works.

Ishola Abdulwasiu was an excellent mentor. He provided feedback in such a way that didn't feel condescending or derogatory. His edits were absolutely stunning and detail-oriented — no matter how small the error, he would find it and correct it. He was also always readily available for questions, long discussions, and reviews of my work. His enthusiasm was very infectious, and he provided valuable insights about poetry.

During the fellowship, I experimented with several novel styles and perspectives. I learnt to see things not only from the viewpoint of the reader but also from the perspective of the characters. I am not the best writer yet, but I am undoubtedly a better one, thanks to SprinNG.

Six weeks ago, I thought poetry wasn't for me. I was wrong. I now have a much better perspective of writing that gives me the creative freedom I cannot explain. It just makes me more eager to express myself. I've discovered my style, and although, it's still coming along, I'm getting to feel more comfortable with it. Lastly, I have more confidence in my writing skills and feel very comfortable submitting my work to literary journals.



Mentor: Iyanu Adebisi

Mentee: Rachel Ebunoluwa Dada is a poet, fiction writer and copyeditor, who is passionate about mental health, sustainable development and gender equality. In her writing, she often explores pressing social issues like rape, violence, racism and domestic abuse. She aims to advocate against and create awareness of social ills to inspire positive change.

She is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Ibadan. While she might not be able to manage being a jack of all trades, she believes she can pull off being a jack of two trades (medicine and writing). Her work has been published in bulletins and magazines, including the Medscion magazine.

Rachel is currently working on publishing an anthology of poems in the nearest future. She is also looking forward to making her debut in the spoken word poetry industry very soon. When she is not writing or studying, she works as a freelance copyeditor.

My mentor is an amazing writer. She typed up word documents with my tasks for each week and included words of encouragement. She checked in by mail, WhatsApp and phone calls and her friendly personality helped us connect.

I loved how detailed she was in her feedback. Her comments on my pieces were very thorough. She'd highlight every line with her comments and corrections. She's organized so, I found it easy to follow her detailed instructions. While she made corrections, she made sure to spice things up with words of encouragement, so I didn't get discouraged. It was very obvious that she always took time to go over my work, and even when I repeated mistakes, she was patient. She was the perfect mentor for me. The fellowship helped me to improve a lot, and I am a much better writer than I was in May.



Mentor: Jerry Chiemeka

Mentee: Winifred Odunoku is a graduate of Microbiology from Olabisi Onabanjo University and an avid reader with great enthusiasm for writing non-fiction, essays and poems. She writes because she enjoys the art of self-expression. Her works are centered on themes like love, survival, and more recently, science fantasy. She's also trying her hands at book reviews, in a bid to analyze the works of other writers and learn from their artistic prowess. She plans to start working on a book to be published.

Beyond writing, Winifred is dedicated to making impacts through volunteering and is passionate about pursuing a career in academia while contributing to Life Science research. She loves to surf the net for relevant opportunities, take courses online and enjoys listening to songs with a headset. She currently lives in Ijebu-Ode, where she writes from.

Mr. Chiemeka gave honest feedback and encouraged me to move out of my comfort zone. He believed in me and taught me how to write excellent book reviews. Particularly, he gave attention to details and shared as many resources as were pivotal to my improvement. Because of him, I gained access to the works of many writers who I wouldn't have had. Finally, I liked that he listened, acknowledged, and responded to my concerns. I improved my vocabulary, use of tenses, coherence of story plot, and narrative style.



Mentor: Jide Badmus

Mentee: **Adedayo Ademokoya** is a poet and content writer who loves to write on love, loss, family, death and anything that catches his fancy.

He has been published on online literary websites such as Brave Arts Africa, Thought Catalog, Parousia magazine, Praxis magazine, Indian Periodical, The Rising Phoenix Review, Kalahari Review and else.

As a student of poetry, he is found devouring books on poetry, especially Kahlil Gibran's poetry. When he is not reading, he is writing.

He hopes his poems will impact lives as others works have enlightened him.

He writes from Southwest Nigeria.

My mentor pushed me to confide in my works; to take them as mine and own them. A good conversationalist, he was very informal, which helped me settle quickly. Notably, his eye for details is exceptional! I will remember him as someone who believed in me and pushed me out to be myself never holding back, whether in words or thought.

With his guidance, I improved in editing, use of punctuations, imagery, the flow of thoughts, choice of words and knowledge of poetry styles.



Mentor: Joseph Wodo

Mentee: **John 'Dare Okafor** was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He is an enthusiast of African fictional and poetic works. His literary works are a mirror of societal ills and the experiences of his sojourn through life. Some of his works have appeared in Kalahari Review and other online literary platforms.

He is an alumnus of the SprinNG Writing Fellowship - Cohort Four. He is currently studying at the University of Ibadan for a B.Ed. in Counseling Psychology.

My mentor had an ever-willing heart and was always ready to help at every crossroads. His subtle and persistent force didn't tolerate laxity. From the onset, he had a mindset to meet deadlines, so that I could meet mine. I'm grateful to SprinNG for connecting me with a great young man like Joseph Wodo. This is a relationship I would always cherish, and I will remember his selflessness nature.



Mentor: Kanyinsola Olorunnisola

Mentee: Obinna Tony-Francis Ochem is an Igbo-Nigerian writer. He writes from the comfort of his tranquillity, exploring the theme of gender, class, sexuality, climate change and shape-shifting monsters. He is an alumnus of the L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Online Workshop and SprinNG '20 cohort writing mentorship programme.

His works are published in Moskedapages, Kalahari Review, Punocracy Longlist, Tush Magazine essay finalist and The WorkBooth magazine. He was a finalist for 2019 Quramo Writers' Prize for his manuscripts, Deep Ocean, and one other finalist. He is studying Marine Sciences at the University of Lagos and blogs on www.obynofranc.wordpress.com. He tweets [@obynofranc](https://twitter.com/obynofranc).

Week one was all I needed during the fellowship. When my mentor read my piece, he pointed out something vital, and since then, my writing has been terrific. I will remember him for being a good reader who has a way with words. During the fellowship, I saw improvement in the following areas: Narrative voice, point of view, story delivery, pacing and sentence structure.



Mentor: Kehinde Badiru

Mentee: Adetola Emmanuel Babalola is a final year dental student at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He is an award-winning poet and essayist, who is on a desperate path to building a better and more sustainable world; a global citizen with a particularly keen interest in good leadership. He derives passion in seeking justice, peace, equality and equity for underrepresented people. Adetola is also interested in the modalities of how we can build better societies.

As a young Nigerian, he has keen interests in Yoruba culture and tradition. He lives in Lagos and spends his free time playing chess.

My mentor was kind-hearted, very detailed and had a listening heart. I will remember Kehinde Badiru as a man committed to seeing his student attain maximum potential. With his support, I improved in my grammar, use of words, creativity, punctuation and expanded my reading band.



Mentor: Kizito Okorowu

Mentee: Adepeju Adenuga is a creative writer interested in drawing from an in-depth understanding of human psychology.

She holds a master's degree in English Literature at the University of Lagos and a bachelor's degree at the same institution. She is a certified Public relations executive with the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations and certified content marketer and an alumnus of SprinNG Writing Fellowship – cohort 3 and 4.

With over three years of content writing experience, Adepeju has helped brands tell amazing stories about their history, challenges, successes, and value proposition, which in turn helped the brands across various industry with favorability, visibility and increased profits.

Her writing talent bloomed as an English Literature undergraduate at the University of Lagos. There she was exposed to the beautiful world of novels, fiction, new people, big ideas and global concepts, all of which helped in shaping the person she is today.

When she is not writing, Adepeju can be found watching movies, dancing, reading for the next certification and travelling.

Mr Kizito went the extra mile to ensure that each concept was well understood. He took his time dealing with every question I had. He was very caring and even sought after my emotional well-being. Being in the fellowship, I improved in the following areas: critical thinking, mental alertness, self-awareness, and creative presentation.



Mentor: Emmanuel Faith

Mentee: Dawodu Oluwaseyifunmi is a young writer of Yoruba descent with poetry as her forte. She is a lover of art, culture and African heritage.

A lover of words and weaver of words, she believes in telling the African story in the most relatable way, harnessing the power of creativity and authenticity in enunciating her originality.

To build her skill set, she has taken the Spring Literary Movement's Mentorship Programme on Poetry, the Christian Literary Hub's master class on Poetry, Unbox the hub's class on copywriting.

She is a lawyer in training, a freelance writer and an editor. You would find her reading a book or good poetry at leisure.

My mentor, Emmanuel Faith, was 'perfect'. He took his years of experience and did a lovely job turning them into something relatable. He was honest, engaging, attentive, brilliant, specific, and thorough. I honestly could not have asked for a better mentor. I would remember my mentor for being a brilliant polymath.

Before the fellowship, I had never attempted to write a personal statement or create a Portfolio. Updating my LinkedIn profile had also been on my to-do list for the longest time possible. However, I did that as a result of the fellowship.



Mentor: Kolawole Samuel Adebayo

Mentee: Hammed J. Sulaiman, born in the 90s, is a Nigerian writer, budding poet, (student) journalist, social activist and a final year law student at Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS). Apart from law, he is passionate about media and writing. His works have appeared on reputable literary, local and international platforms - these include but not limited to Praxis Magazine, Herald Newspaper, The Nation Newspaper, Opinion Nigeria, Qiraat African and many other news platforms and local blogs.

His poem titled the "THE FEAT" was selected amongst top 30 best poems of the Brigitte Poirson Poetry Contest (BPPC) February 2019 published by WRR Publishers Ltd. He performed his poem titled "MAY MY ROAD BE ROUGH" at the first-ever open-mic poetry performance organized by pioneer poetry community in UDUS. In December 2019, he emerged 2nd Runner Up in a writing competition organized by National Association of Kwara State Students.

He is currently serving as Principal Editor for UDUS PEN PRESS; PR and Communication Officer at Upskill Writing; Content Creator/Media Manager at Know Covid-19 Nigeria; Writer at Qiraat Africa. He is an active volunteer with local and international organizations.

I will always be grateful to SprinNG for merging me with my mentor, which I find to be a privilege. My mentor, Adebayo Kolawole Samuel, despite his multiple responsibilities, made time for me.

The first conversation (via telephone), he wanted knowing much about me. Apart from writing, he expected me to have created social impacts and questioned me of it (glad I proved myself as a social activist, lol.) When our SprinNG Fellowship began - in the first week, he confessed that his aim is not only to mentor me but to make me see myself in a new light; beyond the syllabus. From poetry to essay writing, from op-eds to blogging, he mentored me - with clips, images, voice notes, short videos, audios and books on grammars.

I remember him telling me my talent is unquestionable. I'm glad and proud of his impacts in my life, and again, I'm fortunate to be mentored by him.



Mentor: Lawretta Egba

Mentee: **Izunna Okafor** is a Nigerian Novelist, Poet and Journalist from Anambra State. He is also an Editor, Translator, and Igbo Language Activist who is passionate about sustaining and promoting the Igbo Language and culture.

He has a BSc in public administration from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, and also holds an O.N.D in Public Administration from the same school.

A published and best-selling author, Izunna has authored several books including: 'The Curse of A Widow', 'The Faithful Children', and 'Ajo Enyi,' his debut Igbo novel and the fourth book which was published in 2015. He has also been published in many anthologies, both nationally and internationally.

My mentor showed a deal of knowledge in the field. She was very passionate about my career and professional advancement. She was humble and would go any length to make me understand her teachings. I will remember her for her mentoring diligence.

During the fellowship, I learned how to write a personal statement, something I didn't know much of that made me miss many opportunities. I have also learned the various types of resume and the best way to write each. I learned why many qualified applicants are not selected at the end of the interview and how to stand out. The fellowship exposed me to what a typical writer's LinkedIn profile and the page should look like, and how best to format my professional presentation. Most importantly, the fellowship generally taught me how to make money from my writing.



Mentor: Mazpa Ejikem

Mentee: **Humainat Raji** is a poet, blogger and content creator. She is the Social Media Manager at StudentBuild, a social enterprise aimed at building human capacity in Africa. She is also a content creator at Startup Lagos, an Independent Grassroot community, working to support the tech community and accelerate the growth of Nigeria startups.

Humainat is a final year Electrical and Electronics Engineering student at the University of Ibadan. She blogs about her experience on her Medium page: <https://medium.com/@Umaynah>

My mentor was very thorough and provided honest, constructive feedback to my work. This program is the first training I will ever go through as a writer so, I learnt a lot from the fundamental questions used in the manual.

I learnt about the writing processes available and how to move from one stage of the writing process to another. I got better at editing and reviewing my work from a different perspective. The weekly reading culture helped me get better at identifying different writing styles and how to use them. I also learnt how to process feedback to make my work better.



Mentor: Mbanefo Chibuike

Mentee: Pius Daniel is an undergraduate of the University of Benin where he studies English and Literature. He sees writing as an adventure where he can fit into different stories. His work is forthcoming in Praxis magazine. When he isn't writing, he is either arguing with friends, watching movies or reading journals.

My mentor was very transparent. He told me my works were bad when I did poorly, although I got hit by his words, they made me do better. I can say that his transparency helped a lot in developing my skill, and I am so grateful for that.

I learned how to defy grammar subtly for the beauty of poetry to be evident. I learned the simplicity of poems. I also learned the use of proper imagery in the right proportion. My reading grew vast. I developed more interest in reading poetry radically. I was told the

necessary things to look out for because these things are what judges would also look out for in a poem. I also learned that receiving quality feedback for your works is the best step to self-improvement.



Mentor: Mesioye Johnson

Mentee: Adewara Jones is a young Nigerian writer, poet, and spoken word artiste. He uses poetry as a tool to amplify his tiny voice to the world. As a young boy learning how to hold a torch in this dark world, he sees life as a system which only can be brought into bits through imaginations.

His poems and other pieces of writings have appeared on literary spaces including Punocracy, Tush magazine, Writers space Africa, among others. He won Wakaso Poetry Prize, January 2020 edition, and was awarded the first runner up of Christopher Okigbo Poetry Prize 2020.

He writes to express the joy and transformation he receives from God, and sometimes he pens down his grieves in a paper for some temporary healings. He is much concerned about impacting lives with his writings,

as a means of expressing humanity.

Apart from writing, he performs poetry on stages and off stages, and he has appeared on several platforms within the shores of the country.

My mentor, Mesioye Johnson, made the session easier by creating a friendly atmosphere to be free with him. Before the fellowship, I had read about him in many places and already knew he was a good poet. So, it was a great experience connecting with him. Meeting my mentor on an informal page improved my confidence when approaching intellectual individuals of higher ranks.

That I almost read the whole manual as a result of the fellowship means my reading ability is drastically improved. In writing poetry, I've learnt better use of imageries and metaphors. Relationship-wise, I increased my network from meeting with other fellows on the WhatsApp platform and having a smooth rapport. The esteemed facilitator, Oyindamola Shoola is more than an inspiration, and I was awed by her leadership style. I've learnt much from her.



Mentor: Michael Emmanuel

Mentee: Temiloluwa Adeniyi-Aogo is a young writer and poet passionate about gender equality, sexual assault, nature and food, among others. She writes about these and basically what she fancies sharing with the world, from her day to day interactions, with people and her environment.

She aims to create a tenderness in the hearts of her readers for words and the art of stringing them together beautifully. She also aims to spark conversations about tradition, unpopular opinions and challenge the status quo via her writing, while striving to do so from a different perspective.

Temiloluwa is an avid reader of literature ranging from prose to poetry and plays; Rupi Kaur, Oyindamola Shoola and Poetolu being a few of the writers she loves to read.

She currently studies Dentistry at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. When she's not reading or being a student, she loves to try out new recipes, take a walk or grab a seat at the next available stage play.

She is from Osun state and resides in Ibadan, Oyo state.

My mentor is a great teacher/mentor. He has pushed me beyond boundaries I set, provided useful resources, gave honest contributions and corrections to my work. He was genuinely invested in my mentorship. I am much more confident in my skill as a writer. I have learned to take criticisms for what they are and see them really as an opportunity for improvement. I have also learned how brevity is an important tool in writing and how to express myself much better in poetry.

During the fellowship, I was exposed to other forms of poetry like prose-poetry and Haiku. As a result, I am more open to learning about different writing techniques and reading even more poetry to improve. I also started putting myself out there more as a writer, submitting my works, and being more active on social media.



Mentor: Michael Inioluwa Oladele

Mentee: Chisom Iboko is a Nigerian writer and feminist. She is a law graduate from Ebonyi State University and has been called to practice in the Nigerian Bar.

She discovered her love for telling stories when she found herself making up stories to tell the children in the neighbourhood, which they enjoyed and always came back for more. Her major themes revolve around feminism, depression, love, vengeance to mention but a few.

She cites Chimamanda Adichie as one of her literary idols. Chisom writes mostly fictions and hopes to influence the Nigerian/African literature in future. Also, she has plans to explore screenplay. She is one of the Mentees of SprinNG Writing Fellowship 2020.

When she's not writing, she lives in her head a lot. People – watching and travelling are some of her favourite past times.

I realized how important constantly re-reading and editing one's work could be. Before, I would just write and edit once. But now, the story comes out better when I read it countless times and keep adding or removing things. Consistency is key. You can't get better at what you do if you don't do it over and over again.

I started writing more during this fellowship. I made a mental note to write at least a few sentences each day and to read as much as I write. I realized that I have to read both the works I love and the ones I don't appreciate, there's always something to learn or a new perspective to gain.

Also, thanks to the SprinNG fellowship and my good mentor, I had to relearn the use of literary devices which I had forgotten. Michael introduced this to me during the poetry week, and I learned to apply it to every other work I do. First, you have to get the story out, then you work on what's missing, and that's when I think of the literary devices to employ.

Furthermore, I particularly learned this from the SprinNG manual - finding an audience is key. I used to want everyone to love and appreciate my work, but I realize now that's not how things work. Everyone cannot enjoy your work, there will be people who the work is specifically meant for, and they are the ones writers should be concerned about.

Finally, there are so many things that have improved about me both personally and professionally as a writer. My confidence has improved, interacting with some of the cohort's mentees and observing the conversations in the group; I am no longer afraid of holding or writing my truth. I've decided to write shamelessly but also in a way that I will be able to defend my work. I learned that not everyone would understand your work, but you still have to do it anyway. The fellowship has made me want to be better, to want more for myself, and I will strive to do that.



Mentor: Nome E. Patrick

Mentee: Dipe Jola is a poet from Lagos, Nigeria. Being an alumnus of the SprinNG Fellowship (4th Cohort, 2020), she has contributed to literary movements with few published poems to her name.

She joined She-Can-Nigeria as a volunteer in 2019. In 2020, she became a newsletter writer for PhotoWaka: the most significant photography walk in Africa. She also contributed to *Momento: an Anthology of Contemporary Nigerian Poetry* (Animal Heart Press 2020) edited by Adedayo Agarau. Aside from being the first runner up for the Eriata Oribhabor Poetry Prize in 2018, Dipe Jola has been on quite a good number of shortlists with some of her poems featured on journals and magazines.

Some of her published works can be found on *Kalahari Review*, *Echelon Review*, *Turnpike Magazine*, *African Writer*, *Synchronized Chaos*, and elsewhere. She can be reached via Twitter [@jola_ng](https://twitter.com/jola_ng).

My mentor is so brilliant and honest with everything. During the fellowship, we grew together, and he had my back. I will remember him for his time commitment to instilling the relevant knowledge.

One of the ways I've improved with the aid of the fellowship is the capacity to read books. I don't like books, and I hardly read them, but with the fellowship, I can tell you; I once finished a book with 262 pages under 24 hours; I was so happy. Another critical improvement in the aspect of reading is understanding and connecting the lines.



Mentor: O-Jeremiah Agbaakin

Mentee: Kolade Malik investigates mental health. He is a graduate of Electrical Engineering from The Polytechnic, Ibadan. His works are published or forthcoming in *Agbowó*, *Tell!*, and *WRR Anthology*. He has twice been a finalist for the Brigitte Poirson Poetry Contest and was shortlisted for the 2018 Albert Jungers Poetry Prize.

Agbaakin O-Jeremiah left a lasting impression from our first interaction, plus the days of him sending voice notes of more than 15 minutes explaining poetry to me. This is just a few among all. I know I haven't reached the height I wanted in my writing career, but he became the catalyst to improve my writing skills.

With his guidance, I improved in my choice of words, understanding of imagery in poetry, use of imitation and found my voice. I also realized why I write poetry and the type of poetry that I write.



Mentor: Ogunfowodu Olufemi

Mentee: **Busayo Orisasona** is a 300L student studying Law at the Ekiti State University. She is a poet, a blogger and a fiction writer. The focus of her works circles around themes and topics such as Skin, Love, Pain, Separation and Mental Health. She draws inspiration by placing herself as a muse to express the experience and emotions of others and from Rupi Kaur's works among many other notable writers.

Her goal is to write poetry which can be easily understood, felt within and often connects to the feelings of her readers. She spends more time alone, focused on maintaining a strong mental and emotional health, and she continually looks for ways to improve and publicize her works. Currently resident in Ekiti State, Nigeria, Busayo looks forward to publishing her first poetry collection. In her spare time, she enjoys reading poetry and books of vast focuses, listening to music, writing and researching.

My mentor, Ogunfowodu Olufemi, was dedicated to my growth in poetry writing. Although, I felt tensed during my first two weeks of conversing with him as time went on. He quickly figured and asked about my restriction in putting more emotions into writing. He was a fun person to be around, and even though his work schedule was a bit tight, he would find time to call, edit my work and give feedback. He was also really jovial and patient. He also gave me accolades whenever I seemed to have improved (those were my best moments).

My mentor really helped me out, and he would always ask questions to know about my welfare and how far I have gone, I really appreciate that, and I am grateful.



Mentor: Ola w. Halim

Mentee: **Adedayo Onabade** is a Nigerian writer. She holds a B.A. from Olabisi Onabanjo University and an MA from the University of Lagos, both in English Literature. She creates fiction mostly about strangers and how ordinary situations can birth profound truths about humanity.

Adedayo volunteers with STER (Stand to End Rape Initiative), a nonprofit organization that works to create a safer world for women, girls and vulnerable people.

In these past weeks, my writing has improved in these areas: Brainstorming the story idea with intentionality; Fleshing out the idea to a considerable point where the story becomes believable to the reader; Deliberate structuring to enhance sequence, coherence and flow of the story; Editing and revision; and leveraging dialogue.

My mentor, Ola and I worked together with ease. I love how he connected with my struggles of putting certain thoughts together. He helped identify valuable ways to complete writing even when the idea seems to be jumbled up. His insights helped me a great deal, and I'll remember him for his readiness to answer my questions!



Mentor: Olanrewaju Oranyeli

Mentee: **Abubakar Aliyu** hails from Bauchi state, Nigeria. He is currently a 500L undergraduate student of computer engineering, at the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Kaduna state, Nigeria.

As a member of the Ahmadu Bello University Creative Writer's Club (ABU-CWC), he sometimes volunteers to work on some creative projects. He spends most of his time developing his skills in leadership, poetry, prose/essay writing, volunteerism, activism, and advocacy with emphasis on curbing the issue of the increasing number of out of school children in Nigeria. Apart from expressing his innermost thoughts, feelings/emotions, and his perception about life through writing and poetry, one of his most important goals is to create awareness through writing about the fate of the vulnerable children roaming on the streets in Nigeria, and the impact it is has in the future of our country.

He has a strong passion for politics, writing, and serving humanity. He likes to read, write and spend time with family and friends.

My mentor was very supportive, flexible, approachable, and motivating. He was always ready to give his honest and direct feedback with diplomacy. I will remember his tremendous impact on my writing endeavours.

During the fellowship, I learned time management and consistency, I realized the significance of editing or the lack of it on my work and consciously proofread my work. I now look out for anything that could be improved, or any possible error before making it public.

I realized how significant it is to focus solely on the message I want to convey when writing, and never to write without giving a thought or researching on a topic. I got to understand the significance of originality and how the lack of it could make one's work less imaginative and creative. So, I always try to write about the things I know by simply deriving inspiration from my life, nature, and the little things around and then write it in a very simple way that hits the heart.

Lastly, I realized how easy it is to write when one flows in simplicity, and noticed a tremendous improvement on my creativity, and imagery, which still evoke the desired emotion from my readers.



Mentor: Oluwatobi Adesanya

Mentee: Umar Salman is a budding writer with interest in expository writing, poems and prose. His writings have focused on socioeconomic and political issues. His objective of writing is to educate, inform and sanitize with facts about social issues.

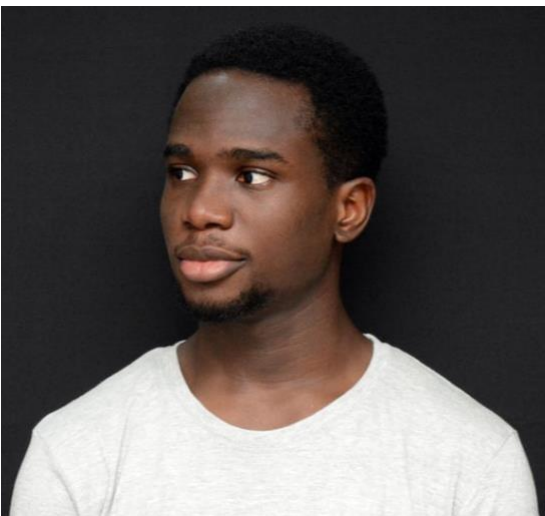
He has won many writing awards such as First Prize Winner of Greatest Scribe Essay Competition, 2016 by Peace Institute of Language Studies and Winner of Remi Aworemi Foundation Essay Competition 2018. He plans to have a compendium of his expository writing in newsletters, magazines and online website for a broader scope of audience.

His favourite book is 'Things Fall Apart', and he admires some great writers like Chinua Achebe, Chimamanda Adichie, and Fisayo Soyombo. His hobbies are reading, writing, teaching and publicity. He finds computer MS office packages and Corel Draw interesting.

Umar is a graduate of the University of Ibadan where he studied Special Education/English. He is passionate about issues of youths and humanity. He has an excellent moral and spiritual life.

My mentor, despite being busy, would do all in his capacity to guide and teach me. He was very humble with correction and guidance and respected me. He praised my work and made me feel proud while simultaneously, being blunt to correct me.

From participating in the SprinNG Fellowship, I improved in my time management skills and ability to be goal-oriented. I discovered new talents and skills, such as in prose writing. My self-esteem improved too.



Mentors: Oyindamola Shoola and Turkur Loba Ridwan

Mentee: Ayomide 'Wes Oriolowo is a Nigerian poet and essayist, a lover of God and Counterintuitive thinking. His poem was longlisted for the Syncity NG's 'Poetry in Times of Corona' 2020 Anthology. Some of his works are featured or forthcoming in Praxis Mag, Kalahari Reviews, Odd Magazine, Feral Press, Mineral Lit Mag, The African Writers and elsewhere.

He enjoys the poetry of Pamilerin Jacob, Mahmoud Darwish and Rudy Francisco; you might find his works largely influenced by them. Ayomide is a final year student of Bowen University and currently lives in Ibadan. You can reach out to him on Instagram and Twitter @ayo_soars. You can also send a mail to ayomidewesoriolowo@gmail.com.

Both mentors were uniquely amazing and gave their all to the fellowship. I will remember Oyindamola Shoola for her precision, wisdom, and diligence. I will remember Ridwan Tukur for his knowledge and dedication. With Oyindamola, I was introduced to many of the nuances of professional writing and applications. With Tukur, I learned effective communication skills and conciseness in writing. I also improved my poetry with various skills in stanzas, rhymes, meters etc. My knowledge of the traditional forms of poetry improved drastically as a result of the fellowship.



Mentor: Pamilerin Jacob

Mentee: Adetunji Abdulrahman is a student of law at the University of Ibadan. He considers poetry to be a hobby and hopes to publish his collections of poems someday. He has featured in literary anthologies like UITES Write, AFAS Review, SprinNG, and others.

He sees his writing as a form of self-expression, and his favourite books are the ones he is currently reading. He is passionate about leadership, volunteering, and the Football Manager game. He truly loves Arsenal, which only comes second to dòdò, because dòdò never disappoints.

He tweets [@Phrayz](#).

My mentor was amazing. From the first conversation, he set the tone of the mentorship to a more personal level, avoiding all the formalities that could lead to awkwardness. He was very detailed with his reviews and didn't just recommend books, but also sent them. He sent at least 70% of the books I read during the whole program. He was a delight in every way.

From participating in the fellowship, I learnt about the value of simplicity in poetry and applied it to my poems. I understood better the underlying themes of most of my poems, thus, allowing me to "unbox" myself. I learnt about punctuation in poetry and applied it to my poems which were usually not punctuated. I learnt about other poetry forms and experimented with some. I read interviews of various writers where the writing process was discussed. Before now, I didn't pay much attention to my writing process and how it influenced my works and determined their quality.



Mentor: Seun Lari-Williams

Mentee: Tolulope Dimeji-Olaoye is a visual artist, writer and musician. Her love for writing began early in life when she realized her imagination ran wilder than most of her peers and begged for expression. She draws inspiration from societal issues and her personal and experiences. She loves to write and does so by invoking strong imagery in her works. She has the unique ability to craft poetry out of stories.

She is currently a studio instructor at the Universal Studios of Art Iganmu, Lagos. She also has a private studio in her house, where she draws and paints. She is working on becoming a published author and is currently reading the works of authors from different literary genres.

My mentor gave me honest and constructive criticisms in all my poems. He sent me videos and materials that opened my literary senses to more possibilities.

He was also very understanding during periods when our schedules didn't work together, and I would remember him for his supportive approach.



Mentor: Patience Lawal

Mentee: Ogbonnaya Vivian Ijeoma is a writer, editor, blogger and a website content developer. Having worked with several NGOs, she is passionate about youth involvement in national development and have served in several capacities in these organizations where she has developed programs that have enhanced several young people in personal and organizational leadership.

As a trained educator, Ijeoma enjoys teaching and has spent many years teaching in schools and private arrangements.

Ijeoma Ogbonnaya is an avid reader and has a strong interest in history and politics.

Currently, she is serving in some youth organizations, volunteering at the Teacher Ekong Educational Foundation and working on some of her books.

My mentor was busy and patient. She was also very detailed and wouldn't accept a half-baked work. Sincerely, she pushed me out of my comfort zone and challenged many things I thought I knew about writing, introducing me to new knowledge and concepts. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to have worked with her and will always remember her for being thorough.

With her support, I learned the value of research in any writing genre. I have understood that poetry can be written to be understood. I now read in-between the lines. My hunger for reading and observing also doubled. I learned how to develop a story properly, and the different techniques a plot twist can be enhanced.



Mentor: Kizito Okorowu

Mentee: Ifemide Omolawal is a Physiotherapy student of the University of Ibadan. She is a poet and writer and has had one of her works published in the second edition of Scribble the Future anthology “The Architect”.

She writes imagining her readers crack up in laughter. Her first poem was “The journey of life” which she wrote at a young age. Writing comes easy for her and has been her source of expression. Her genre covers every aspect of life. As far as her eyes can see, thus far, she writes.

Ifemide hails from Ondo State and was born on 1st October at Ilesha. She resides Ibadan, where she is currently undergoing her

undergraduate studies.

My mentor was very thoughtful and readily available to see my growth. SprinNG is blessed to have him on the platform. During the fellowship, my creativeness improved. My construction of words became better, and I learned how to engage my readers better. I also learned the importance of receiving objective feedback.



Mentor: Tola Ijalusi

Mentee: Bayo Moses is a nonfiction writer and editor with more than half a decade's experience. He is also a Personal Development Consultant who helps young people overcome life's hurdles and achieve results by design.

Following his career as freelance Ghostwriter and Editor, impelled by his newfound love for the Nigerian book landscape, he founded Madda Media Co. (www.maddawriting.com), a book writing and publishing company that caters to the full needs of business people, experts, and leaders who seek the authentic connection with clients and society that commercial nonfiction books provide. His proven writing methods and publishing model best assist aspiring authors who seek a non-literary book style.

Residing in Delta, he is also the lead Coach at the Madda Nonfiction Webinar, an online medium that has helped dozens of authors finish their first drafts or publish their first books.

My Mentor Samuel Tola Ijalusi is a man of wisdom and patience. I can't thank him enough for being a standup man who never shied once from speaking truth. He called me to order every time I slipped. He issued long, detailed corrections and insisted I completed each task and got on each contest. I am yet to figure out how he tailored his mentoring methods to match my most-preferred learning style, even from the very first call. He would look through my exercises, politely but firmly make suggestions. He let me speak every time I felt I had to. If I made absolutely no sense at all, he just brought in the correct perspective and emphasized it in different ways until he was sure I had caught it. We never had any arguments. It was always a case of sharing and building upon conversation, and he always brought in the bird's view.

Participating in the SprinNG fellowship helped to increase my network in Nigerian literature. From the mentee's group chat, I saw the spirit of other up and coming writers, filled with a forward-thinking mindset. It also challenged my critical thinking. Because of SprinNG, I have grown. My resolve and drive for being a writer: the best I could become has doubled. Before SprinNG, I passionately wanted to do it. Now, after the fellowship, I have clarified my big why and how.



Mentor: Tomi Adesina

Mentee: Olori Oghenemaero is a writer, presenter and an entrepreneur. She writes to inspire, educate and relax the minds of her readers. Maero majors on fiction, non-fiction, songwriting, screenwriting and blogging but also explores other forms of writing passively.

She believes strongly in self-expression as a form of connection and achieves this by sharing herself through writing and spoken word videos. She is currently the director of a platform set up to inspire and groom young writers known as The Writer's Hub.

She publishes her works on her blog, newsletters, and social media and has also performed on open mics and the likes.

My mentor, Tomi Adesina, is a hardworking writer devoted to her work and also to whatever task is given to her. She successfully balanced her life, work and fellowship seamlessly and made it very easy to work with her. She reminded me that everyone, even mentors, are human beings, and it's possible to foster a connection that can inspire growth. I am grateful for my mentor.

I will remember Tomi for helping me shape my work into something that made sense. Normally, every writer believes whatever they've written is perfect; I thought so too. However, Tomi helped me to see the gaps that were in my writing and how to fill them. She was genuinely interested in my growth, and I am grateful for that.

The fellowship also helped me to understand myself as a writer. The exercises, Why I Write, What I Write etc. gave me the chance to look deeper than the surface of my writing journey. I was able to identify the common mistakes I made as a writer. I also became more confident, writing from my own space (not being intimidated by other writers), writing from my heart with honesty and writing outside my comfort zone.

Lastly, during the fellowship, I almost gave up on writing, but I chose writing again, this time intentionally and with a strong purpose.



Mentor: Tryphena Yeboah

Mentee: **Islamiyyat Ayomide Asiru** is an avid reader and a short story writer. She has a degree in the English Language from Obafemi Awolowo University. Her favourite writers include Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Lola Shoneyin, Elechi Amadi, among others.

She is enthralled by the transformative power of writing and is dedicated to portraying the dynamism of life and give an insight into the evolving human condition in her work. Her prose explores themes of morality and confronts popular conceptions of reality.

With a focus on writing that is redemptive and hopeful, she chooses to express herself through storytelling that is driven by a recognition of possibilities and change, by recreating a world that is vibrant and alive.

Writing challenges her to find ways of being present and alive to the world around her as well as urging her to grow and redefine the landscape of her art form.

Islamiyyat was born in Oyo State in Nigeria and currently resides in Oyo town.

My mentor is absolutely awesome. For those six weeks, she was always there to help, exercised the highest level of patience I have ever seen and gave constructive feedback. She was really open and honest about the tasks and assignments. She pushed me to do better, even when I thought I could not go further. She helped me to become a better writer.

Because of the fellowship, I became more consistent with the tenses I used while writing. I realized that one shouldn't withhold too much information assuming that the readers know what one is trying to say. I learned to clarify whatever I have written as needed. The structures and the introductory line of my stories improved.



Mentor: Uduak Akpan

Mentee: **Jesutofunmi Adetoogun** is an advocate of intentional living, committed to encouraging young people to be their most authentic self and rise to their highest potential. She discovered comfort and vast knowledge in the world of books at a young age and has since channeled her love for books, reading and writing into crafting book reviews and essays that challenge stereotypes and broaden the perspectives of her readers. She is a fourth-year medical student of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ife and volunteers with mental health awareness and human capacity development initiatives. She is an alumna of the SprinNG writers' fellowship, cohort four.

Throughout the fellowship, Uduak Akpan was open and friendly. Her diligence and attention were encouraging. Despite her busy schedule, she often took out time to give detailed feedback on each of my assignments and also discuss how I can improve my writeups.

The fellowship helped me gain clarity regarding my purpose of writing. The assignment on "Why I Write" forced me to answer a question I've not considered before the fellowship, and that gave me a sense of direction. The experience also helped me to realize specific areas I need to improve in my writing.

Writing other genres, especially with deadlines, challenged me to push certain boundaries as well. In all, going through the fellowship improved my confidence as a writer, and that has expanded my horizon.



Mentor: Wale Ayinla

Mentee: Onuoha Munachiso is a Nigerian poet, critic, and musician. He is a law student at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. His works appear or are forthcoming on Spoon-feed mag, and Invincible Quill magazine. He is [@MunachisoOnuoh2](#) on Twitter.

My mentor made me feel that he wasn't just my mentor, but a friend. He was precise with his criticism, but also careful not to crush my spirit. With his guidance, I found my voice, it's still shaking, but I found it. I understood that ambiguity isn't all there is to poetry. I learned how to combine similes with metaphors without reading watery. I also learned a few tricks in editing and how to find the personae in a poem.



Mentor: Wendy Okeke

Mentee: Adeola Oke is passionate about painting pictures with words to improve human life.

She's currently studying at the University of Ibadan for a B.A in Communication and Language Arts. She is a creative writer, content creator, a poet and a storyteller.

She is the author of Live Each Day with A Poem (LEDWAP) anthology, a collection of 100 poems with various themes which include; love, friendship, femininity, music, earplugs, religion, etc. She is a blogger at dellar3tes' blog, with focus on articles, poetry, book review, short stories and interviews. Adeola's writing has featured in a few magazines and writing platforms, like Spur Nation Magazine, Teens with a Difference International Magazine, Sparkle Writers Hub and ZenPens.

She is currently the head of content creators at Precious Love Foundation, a charity-based organization working towards establishing SDGs 2, 4 and 17. Where Adeola is not writing, she's listening to music.

My mentor inspired me to improve my writing by becoming an avid reader. She is an excellent teacher and mentor, always wanting me to get better. I will remember her for these two phrases—'Adeola! No hand-holding' and 'Don't play it safe.'

From participating in the fellowship, I know how to use descriptive words better as well as the importance of imagery and metaphors in poetry. I learned how to cut poetry into prose line and improved in 'showing readers,' and 'not telling.'



Mentor: Wuraola A. Salawu

Mentee: Nureni Ibrahim

A graduate of English Literature from the Ahmadu Bello University, Ibrahim is an experienced researcher, communication and resource management enthusiast with a demonstrated history of working in the private sector. He is passionate about the future of the African continent, most importantly, how to build a better ecosystem for Africans in education and business-related areas.

He was virtually educated on and certified in Human Resource Management by the International Business Management Institute, Berlin-Germany in 2019. He also participated in the Strategic Communication and Stakeholder Engagement training program, organized by Infovore

Learning in the same year. In addition to his learning profile, Ibrahim bagged a Diploma in Civil Law from the Ahmadu Bello University.

My mentor has deep-rooted knowledge of CV and cover letter writing. She took the time to go through my works. I would always remember her for her honest feedback after the mock-interview session.

I also learn more on how to write scholarship, optimize my LinkedIn page and maximize it for opportunity searching.

Notable mention:

About two weeks of concluding the SprinNG Creative Writing and Career Advancement Fellowship, Ibrahim Nureni secured a fully funded postgraduate scholarship to study Technology and Entrepreneurial Design. The fellowship and his mentor, Wuraola Salawu, helped him to prepare well for the interview process.



Mentor: Michael Emmanuel

Mentee: Orode Oghenetjiri Elizabeth is a poet, content developer, and a human resource enthusiast. She is a graduate of Economics from the Prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. She hopes to build a career in Human Resource Management in the nearest future.

Elizabeth started writing quotes before sticking with poetry. She is the Founder of Purple, a nonprofit organization dedicated to groom writers, mostly poets, in honing their creative skills. They showcase their works majorly on Instagram @purple2754. In 2016, Elizabeth coauthored Mementoes, an anthology of poems alongside four poets on their individual memorable experiences as an undergraduate in Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. She was the first Editor-in-chief for her departmental Annual Economics students' Conference Magazine in 2017. For Elizabeth, writing is a medium for expressing her thoughts. She writes to inspire and enjoys writing short poems such as Haiku. Apart from writing contemporary short poems, she enjoys

reading, meeting people, watching movies and cartoons.

My mentor spoke from a wealth of experience. He was very accessible and made me feel comfortable all through the SprinNG fellowship. During the fellowship, I improved on my structure of writing, style of writing, choice of words, and punctuation usage.



Mentor: Ola w. Halim

Mentee: Olagoke Favour Oluwatosin is an avid reader, writer, and poet. A fourth-year student of law at the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University, Favour is passionate about words and wordplay, and she represents the school as a professional Scrabble player.

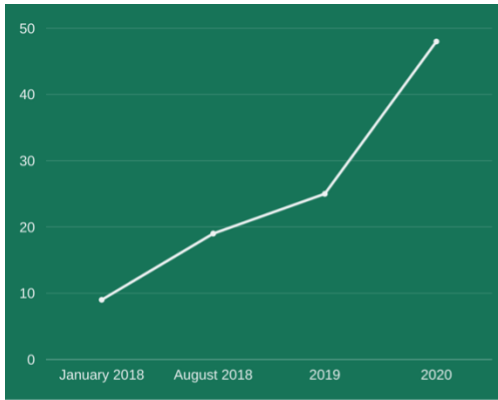
Favour's writing experience has spanned across a series of poems, and she writes about love, heartbreak, and the pervasiveness of human society. She has also ghostwritten various short stories and is on the path to beginning her first novel.

Besides reading and writing, Favour also likes solitude, and one of her favourite pastimes is to stare at her ceiling while listening to soft, soulful music.

My mentor, Ola, is the absolute best. We hit it off right from the very first day. Our communication came naturally and flowed smoothly. He was also very helpful and didn't hesitate to point out my strengths and flaws, encouraging me to do better. The best part is that Ola was always available, and I could just think up questions out of the blue, and he almost always gave immediate replies to each of my questions. If he were to be rated over 10, I'd give him a million points.

Above other things, I learned how to read and appreciate good fiction. I like to read stories, but I'd only been reading to appreciate the superficial aesthetics and not the essential ingredients that make up a good story. I've learned to read with a fine-tooth comb, eager to absorb all of the literary goodness that great stories have. Additionally, my dialogue and plotting have greatly improved, without a doubt.

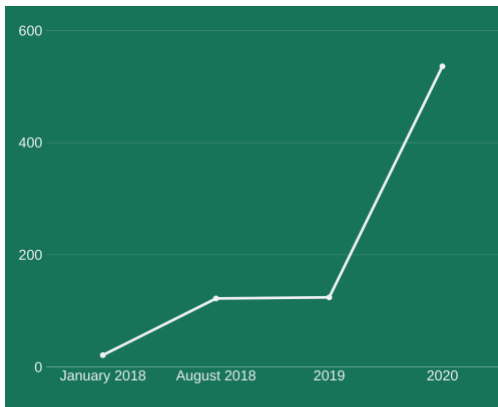
More fellowship facts and figures...



SprinNG Fellowship Report

GRADUATING MENTEES IN THE SPRINNG FELLOWSHIP

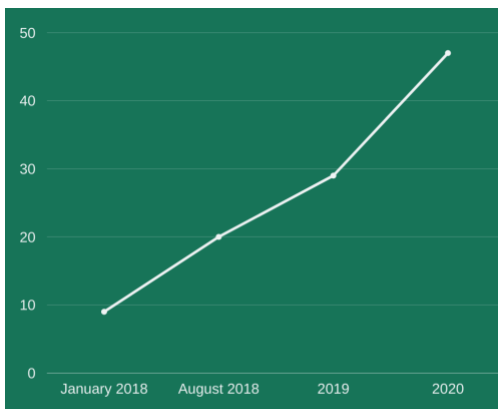
This chart represents the total number of mentees who completed the SprinNG Fellowship requirements. So far, within three cohorts, we have provided mentorship to 59 writers, 53 who completed the fellowship requirements.



SprinNG Fellowship Report

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE SPRINNG FELLOWSHIP

This chart represents the total number of submissions we received for the SprinNG Fellowship in the past cohorts. Over the past three years we have received more than 800 application submissions.



SprinNG Fellowship Report

PARTICIPATING MENTORS IN THE SPRINNG FELLOWSHIP

This chart represents the total number of mentors who volunteered in the SprinNG Fellowship.