

# The 2021

## *SprinNG Writing Fellowship Report*



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SprinNG - [www.SprinNG.org](http://www.SprinNG.org)



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 350+ 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 6-weeks of free mentorship to select writers with resources such as airtime, paid access to books and more, during the fellowship.
- The SprinNG Advancement Fellowship is a self-paced (3 weeks) fellowship that helps develop career content and improve your professional communication skills to attain academic and career goals.
- We discover and promote female Nigerian authors with the Annual SprinNG Women Authors Prize #SWAP – combating the unequal gender representation and participation in Nigeria's literary industry.
- We also run an annual SprinNG Poetry Contest with a unique theme to celebrate our anniversary.

**You can donate to SprinNG:** [www.springg.org/donate](http://www.springg.org/donate)

**Email:** [Contact@SprinNG.org](mailto:Contact@SprinNG.org)

**Social Media:** @SprinnGLM



## **The SprinNG Fellowships**

SprinNG provides two fellowships to support Creative Writing and Career Advancement.

### **SprinNG Writing Fellowship (SWF):**

This programme focuses on 6 genres of literature: Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Book Review, Play/Drama, and Blogging. For 6 weeks, mentees will contact their mentors, send them writing pieces to get 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).

The communication medium between the mentors and mentees throughout this programme will be via email, phone calls, WhatsApp, and text messages. In addition, all mentees will be provided weekly N500/ ₦10 airtime during the programme and paid access to an online bookstore to read books that support their programme learning.

### **SprinNG Writing Fellowship (SWF) Eligibility**

- Applicant must be a Nigerian or Ghanaian citizen residing in Nigeria or Ghana.
- 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).

### **The SprinNG Writing 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

### **SprinNG Advancement Fellowship (SAF):**

The SprinNG Advancement Fellowship (SAF) is a self-paced (3 weeks) programme that helps develop career content and improve your professional communication skills to attain academic and career goals. The fellowship covers six core courses: Resume Writing, Cover Letter Writing, Personal Statement Writing, Interview Preparation, Answering Interview Questions, and S.M.A.R.T Goal-Setting.

Fellowship participants are provided concise learning materials, including videos, worksheets, short guides, and assignments to build their career portfolio for pursuing opportunities like jobs, internships, fellowships, university admissions, and more. They will receive feedback and guidance from SprinNG to perfect their career content and stand out.

The fellowship is designed to be completed over 3 weeks (August 1- 21). The final week of the fellowship will be spent on networking to provide the fellowship participants an opportunity to ask questions relative to professional development. Fellowship participants will also receive a certificate upon completing the fellowship.

### **SprinNG Advancement Fellowship (SAF) Eligibility**

- Applicant must be a Nigerian between the ages 16 - 35.

## **The SprinNG Advancement Fellowship Timeline**

- June 5: Application opens
- July 5: Application closes
- July 20: Finalists will be notified
- July 21 - 25: Finalists will pay their N25,000 fee to secure their spot in the fellowship
- July 26 - 30: E-orientation about the fellowship with the select participants
- August 1 - 30: Fellowship Period

## **SprinNG's Fellowship Accomplishments**

Past mentees of our fellowships have gone ahead to win writing contests, publish books, secure jobs, internships, scholarships, and university admission opportunities to top programs nationally and internationally.

Key accomplishments of our fellowship alumni include:

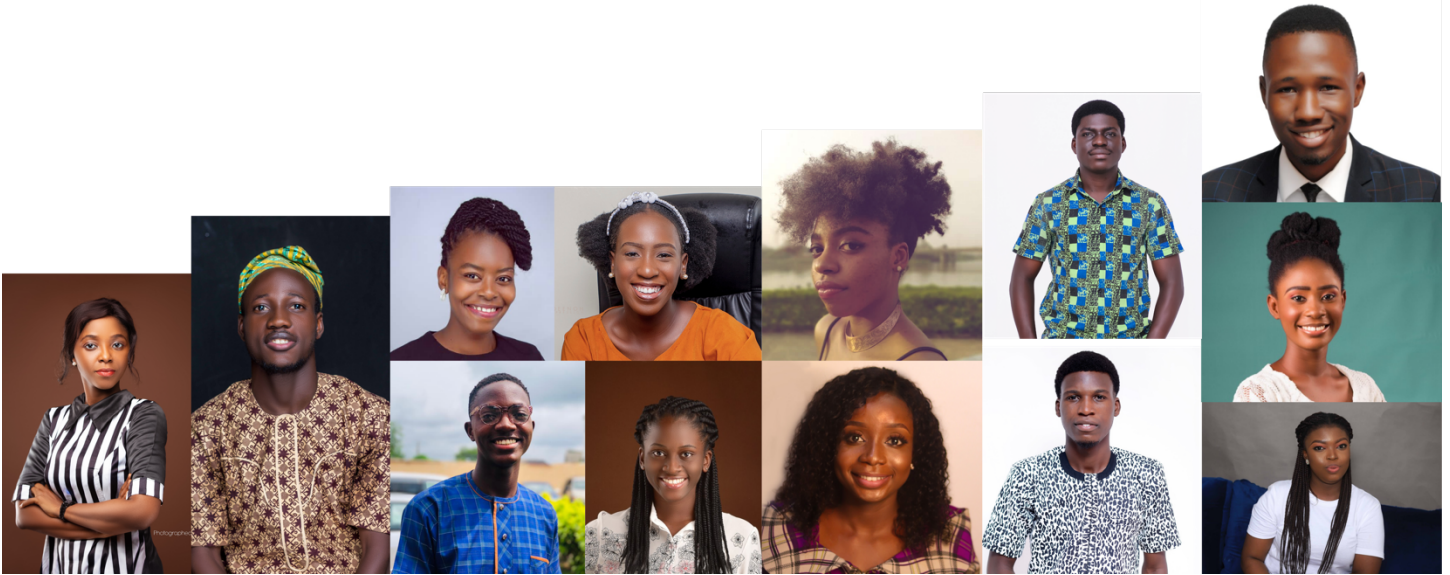
- Okpara Ugochukwu Damian, selected in the Chimamanda Adichie's Purple Hibiscus Workshop and winning the 2nd Prize of the Nigerian Student's Poetry Prize (N100,000) in 2019.
- Pamilerin Jacob, who published books like Memoir of Crushed Petals, won several contests and even secured leadership roles, including the Poetry Column of Nigerian News Direct.
- Ibrahim Nureni, a two-time fellow (both in the writing and advancement fellowship), who received a fully funded postgraduate scholarship.
- Obinna Tony-Francis Ochem, who won several contests in 2020, including the Tush Magazine Writing Bi-Monthly Contest, Kito Diaries Prize for Writing Longlist, and Punocracy Prize for Satire Longlist.

At SprinNG, we educate individuals on how to be strategic in accomplishing their goals. We support them in the content-creation aspect of their goals and provide resources to ensure their success. Even after the fellowship, we ensure they have a network that supports them.

For all inquiries regarding the SprinNG Fellowships, email: [Fellowship@SprinNG.org](mailto:Fellowship@SprinNG.org)

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

# The 2021 SprinNG Writing Fellowship Report



Every year, I am always most excited about this SprinNG project because it is an opportunity where writers form a community of support, learning, and growth. In addition, I draw a lot of confidence from knowing the expertise, knowledge, and passion that every mentor brings to the table in ensuring the success of their assigned mentees.

This year, we received 567 applications for the SprinNG Writing fellowship. We accepted 44 mentees into the programme, 41 who completed the fellowship requirements and received their certifications. 40 mentors volunteered for this year's fellowship.

Without a doubt, the mentors' participation and commitment made this experience meaningful for the mentees. In the feedback forms that the mentees submitted, their words to describe the mentors' impact in their lives are so memorable. They talked about each mentor's compassion, relatability, support, and dedication.

Although the fellowship was only 6-weeks, these mentees have gained an experience they will cherish for life. The young stars of the 2021 SprinNG Writing Fellowship have discovered themselves, learned something new, gained strengths to overcome challenges, and realized that this is only a starting point of their potential.

For some, this fellowship is the closest experience to pursuing a master's in creative writing because it puts them through a similar creative and mental rigor. Many mentees feel more confident about pursuing other literary, academic, and career opportunities as a result.

From this fellowship, mentees learnt beyond creative writing. They learned compassion, connection, time management, communication skills, proactiveness, self-advocacy, and more. They became well-rounded and improved their perspectives of themselves and the possibilities that life has to offer. They developed a different hope about their creative pursuit, contrary to common negative stereotypes against artistic interests. I am so proud of them for all these accomplishments and more.

I can only praise the effect of the fellowship so much. However, the fellowship report compiles the perspectives of the mentees in their own words. One that captures my attention is a comment by Olatunde Ilerioluwa, mentored by Jerry Chiemeka. Olatunde, who was mentored in book review writing, shared,

*I saw improvement in my book reviews. Comparing the first review I submitted with the last review, the improvement was apparent. This can be attributed to the opportunity of learning from a renowned book reviewer.*

*One thing I learned from the fellowship was time management and consistency. I saw myself committed to something, and I was amazed. The deadlines on each task taught me discipline. I had to plan my weekly schedule to include the weekly tasks of the fellowship, taking into consideration the deadline.*

*I improved on my writing skill in general, and this is one reason I enjoyed interacting with the fellowship manual and the additional materials. The manual was concise and insightful, giving me the specific information and guidelines I need as a writer. For instance, learning that editing goes beyond brief reading for typos and spelling errors and includes re-writing, choosing the exact word needed, removing unnecessary words helped my writing. Before the programme, editing was an activity I avoided like a plague; however, this fellowship instilled the consciousness of ensuring my work is proofread and revised before submitting it.*

*The weekly tasks allowed me to reflect, and I am adopting this pattern into my life. There were days I had to sit quietly alone to answer the questions, for instance, "Why I write." I could not write anything without asking myself that question first. As a result, it was a journey of discovery for me. I discovered my identity, message, and choice of the genre as a writer. I started writing more during the fellowship. I have made a mental note to write daily, read books beyond the surface to learn, and gain perspectives to write a review.*

Olatunde Ilerioluwa's words capture the true essence of this fellowship.

The SprinNG Team is grateful to the mentors for their volunteering, the mentees, their commitment, and the literary platforms that supported our expansion of the fellowship to Ghana. We are also grateful to the sponsors who provided scholarships for select graduating mentees to pursue the SprinNG Advancement Fellowship. Special thanks to the SprinNG Team, particularly Abdulsalam Abdul Dante, for managing the 2021 fellowship mentees and the SprinNG 2021 Intern, Adedolapo Lawal, for her unwavering support.

### **Facts and figures by the 2021 mentees and mentors of the fellowship:**

All mentees agreed that

- Enough thought was put into the fellowship.
- The group chats were 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.

95.1% (38 mentees) identified that the fellowship improved their confidence and provided a sense of direction to their creative writing pursuits.

85.4% (35 mentees) said they would re-apply to be SprinNG fellows in a different category.

87.8% (36 mentees) found the contest as a motivating factor to their fellowship experience.

86.5% (32 mentors) said they want to be a mentor again.

### **Fellowship completion timeline:**

- 9 mentees completed the fellowship in 6 weeks
- 23 mentees completed the fellowship in 5 weeks
- 9 mentees completed theirs in 4 weeks

SprinNG will keep pursuing its goal of revitalizing Nigerian literature and do so with passion, commitment, and the right support.

Best,  
Oyindamola Shoola - *SprinNG's Co-Founder and CEO*

***“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**

**List of Graduating Mentees**  
**Class of 2021 - Congratulations on this milestone!**

Abdulmued Balogun Adewale Adedayo Adedoyin Onabade Adefolatomwa Toyé Afolasade Ola Aiyejinna Abraham Oshokunofa Ajilore Deborah Oluwatosin Akinlaja Felix Augusta Chinazom Declan Balpolam Idi Chideraa Ike-Akaenyi Christiana Egbata Damilola Omotoyinbo Ebubechukwu Udeoba Ekpeti Ifeoluwa Euphenia	Enock Asante Osei Favour Chinenye Okpor Grillo Adedolapo Oluwalogbon Halimat Ojone Usman Ife O. Olatona Jessica Ajuonuma Joseph Hope Josés Adewara Lynda Nneka Nnagboro Mazeed Mukhtar Oyeleye Modester Chinonyelum Alo Nentapmun Esther Gomwalk Olatunde Ilerioluwa Olayemi Adewale	Olumide Gabriel Areo Omireh Chiamaka Osamudiamen Akinwale Joseph Overcomer Ibiteye Oyim Theresa Ogu Praise Tar Samuel Monty Akanimoh Shitta Faruq Adémólá Tolulope Hope Kayode Torsu Sewornu Williams, Ibrahim Adeniyi Ofoegbu Chidinma Peace Okafor Ozioma
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**List of 2021 Mentors**

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

Abdulsalam Abdul Dante Adedayo Agarau Ivana Akotowaa Ofori Ama Diaka Ayomide ‘Wes Oriolowo Ayoola Goodness Chinua Ezenwa Ohaeto Ebukun Gbemisola Ogunyemi Ehi-kowochio Ogwiji Emmanuel Faith Fui Can-Tamakloe Henneh Kwaku Imotola Akintola	Ishola Abdulwasíu Ayodele Iyanu Adebíyi Jay Kophy Jerry Chiemeke Jide Badmus Kanyinsola Olorunnisola Kehinde Badiru Kolawole Samuel Adebayo Mbanefo Chibuíke Michael Emmanuel Michael Inioluwa Oladele Muyiwa Adesokun Nome E. Patrick	Ola W. Halim Oluwatobi Adesanya Oyindamola Shoola Pamilerin Jacob Roseline Anya Okorie Seun Lari-Williams Sherif Ogundele Tola Ijalusi Tolu Akinyemi Tomi Adesina Tryphena Yeboah Turkur Loba Ridwan Uduak Akpan Wale Ayinla
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## Notable Mentions

**Contest Winners in the 2021 SprinNG Writing Fellowship:** The following participants were semi-finalists and winners of contests included in the fellowship.

### Why I Write – Week 1

**The winner: Joseph Hope**

#### Other Semi-finalists

- ◆ Omireh Chiamaka
- ◆ Williams, Ibrahim Adeniyi

### Poetry Contest – Week 2

**The winners: Favour Chinenye Okpor and Tolulope Hope Kayode**

#### Other Semi-finalists

- ◆ Nentapmun Esther Gomwalk
- ◆ Abdulmueed Balogun Adewale
- ◆ Ajilore Deborah Oluwatosin
- ◆ Overcomer Ibiteye

### Flash Fiction Contest – Week 3

**The winner: Olayemi Adewale**

#### Other Semi-finalists

- ◆ Aijejinna Abraham Oshokunofa
- ◆ Halimat Ojone Usman

**Honorary Ribbon & Star Recognitions:** The following SprinNG Writing Fellowship participants received an honorary ribbon and star on their certification for demonstrating exemplary performance, consistency, perseverance, and achievement during the fellowship.

- ◆ Enock Asante Osei
- ◆ Praise Tar
- ◆ Tolulope Hope Kayode
- ◆ Williams, Ibrahim Adeniyi
- ◆ Overcomer Ibiteye
- ◆ Christiana Egbata
- ◆ Grillo Adedolapo Oluwalogbon
- ◆ Halimat Ojone Usman
- ◆ Abdulmueed Balogun Adewale
- ◆ Adefolatomwa Toye
- ◆ Joseph Hope
- ◆ Lynda Nneka Nnagboro
- ◆ Ajilore Deborah Oluwatosin
- ◆ Nentapmun Esther Gomwalk

**SprinNG Advancement Fellowship Scholarship Recipients:** The following SprinNG Writing Fellowship participants received a N25,000 scholarship to the SprinNG Advancement Fellowship.

Christiana Egbata

Adedolapo Grillo

Williams Ibrahim Adeniyi

# 2021 Fellows Biographies and Commentaries

## **We asked our mentees the following questions...**

What part of the fellowship did you find most thoughtful, surprising, or engaging?

Did the fellowship boost your confidence and sense of direction about your creative writing pursuits?

Did you face any challenges during the programme?

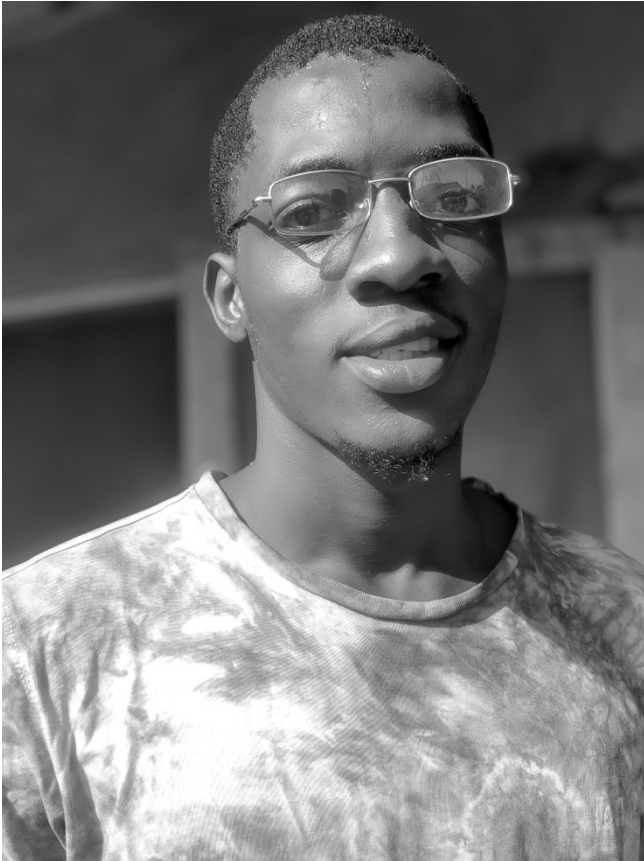
What is your honest appraisal of your mentor?

How did you improve during the programme?



## Abdulmueed Balogun Adewale

Mentor: Muyiwa Adesokun



*I found the mentor to mentee relationship, timely information dissemination, and the internally organized contests to bring out the best in every one of us very thoughtful.*

*My mentor's comments were always full of vigour - that kind that tells you, you are limitless. I remember in one of his comments he said: "You write like Shakespeare," that's the first time someone likened me to any great figure in the literary sphere, and that comment will stay with me for a long time. When I doubt myself, I will reread it and constantly brew strength from it.*

*I will remember my mentor for his bold, prolific, and inspiring care. From him, I learned that I could be more than just a poet, and since then, I have sampled new genres of art. During the fellowship, I wrote out of my genre for the first time. In addition, I dedicated much time to my craft and honed it. I also learned more about time management.*

Abdulmueed Balogun is a Nigerian Poet and an undergraduate at the University of Ibadan. He is a 2021 HUES Foundation Scholar and a Poetry Editor at The

Global Youth Review.

Abdulmueed won an Honorable Mention in the 2021 Whispering Crescent Poetry Prize. In addition, he was the runner-up in the Reform Naija Writing Contest- "FREEWILL" in November 2020, was longlisted for the 2021 Ebarcee-Prize, and shortlisted for the Brigitte Poirson Poetry Contest (BBPC) February/March 2021.

He is an alumnus of the 2021 Spring Writing Fellowship. His poems have been published/are forthcoming in Avalon Literary Review, JMWW Journal, Ligeia Magazine, Kreative Diadem, Subnivean Magazine, Lothlorien Poetry Journal, The Incandescent Review, The Remnant Archive, and elsewhere.

He tweets from AbdmueedA.

## Adedayo Adedoyin Onabade

Mentor: Kehinde Badiru



*While I initially started writing essays and fiction with considerable ease, I have always had a strange relationship with poetry. Having studied English, poetry has been a core part of my educational experience, but it has been a somewhat mixed reaction of doubt and attraction. But with Kehinde's guidance over the past few weeks, I have learned not to be overwhelmed with how to create good poems.*

*While I am still a long way off from where I need to be, I am excited to learn more. I loved the feedback sessions where my mentor made commentaries on my work, offering explanation and clarity for how and why things should (not) be written in a certain way. I loved that my mentor allowed me to explore ideas and try out everything that I wanted to, and then he would later use the same ideas from what I had written to explain the week's outline. He always gave examples, illustrations, and more, and they always seemed to be so easy for him to conjure.*

*Although juggling the writing, reading, study commitments with tight work deadlines and flowing with my mentor's spontaneous input was challenging, I eventually got the hang of things. When I was so*

*overwhelmed and shared with my mentor, he was very supportive and gave me the encouragement I needed. In addition, he gave me a bit more time to catch up on where I was lagging.*

*My mentor guided me in the technicalities of poetry and commended my use of word improvisation, alternative imagery, line break, stylistics, etc. But more than these, he taught me to put heart, soul, and meaning into every line. He taught me that my writing would only improve when I read more, experience more art, and interface with more knowledge through research and other people's works. He explained that the richness of my work is not standalone, but by learning from others, I can write better.*

Adedayo Onabade is a Nigerian essayist, fiction, and poetry writer. She holds a B.A. from Olabisi Onabanjo University and an M.A. from the University of Lagos, both in English Literature. Her works have been shortlisted for SynCity's 'Poetry in times of Corona' and #TwitterWritingContest.

Adedayo volunteers with STER (Stand to End Rape Initiative), a social justice organization that works to combat sexual and gender-based violence against women, girls, and vulnerable people. Outside writing, she is fascinated by NatGeoWild, art galleries, reading, and documentaries.

**Adefolatomwa Toye**  
Mentor: Iyanu Adebisi



*This fellowship provided me with an opportunity to reflect deeply on my writing style and goals. As a result, I am more aware of my writing potential than before.*

*My mentor was very invested in my growth as a poet. The weekly feedback, which occurred multiple times a week, helped create a good setting for my improvement. I appreciate my mentor for always thoroughly reading my poetry reflections and tailoring my weekly tasks in that direction. I would remember her advice to keep writing and connecting with my writing on a personal level.*

*Through my mentor and the fellowship, I was exposed to the works of poets I have come to admire. I have been able to practice new poetry styles like shadow writing and prose poetry. My poems have become more considerate of my intended readers, and I have continuously improved the poems I write.*

Adefolatomwa Toye is an architecture student and poet from Lagos. Her poetry is inspired by the diversity of human experiences and the need to represent the mundane moments in daily life. Her works explore human emotions, societal and environmental issues.

Adefolatomwa was a finalist in the 2018 International Writer Talk Poetry Competition and performed at the Lagos Poetry Thon the same year. In addition, her literary works have been published online and in print on Society of Architecture Students' 18 Yearbook, The Eye of the African Woman, and CIA Fab Lab 03-Words.

In 2020, she exhibited her works at ARTCREATE 1.0 organized by the Department of Architecture, University of Lagos, and was selected as a SprinNG Writing Fellow the following year (2021). Adefola's writing seeks to connect poetry with visual appreciation. Her blog *Photo with a Poem* fuses poetry and photography.

When she isn't buried in a book or writing, you can find her crocheting or listening to history podcasts (usually at the same time).

## Adewara Joses Jesufikayo

Mentor: Henneh Kyereh Kwaku



*The one-on-one mentorship aspect was really encouraging. I was able to have a smooth rapport with my mentor. The fellowship helped and made me see more interesting things in creative writing.*

*I was able to network with more resourceful writers and my reading list improved. I learned about surrealist poetry and how there is more creativity. My major challenge was trying to balance schoolwork with the fellowship schedule, but I faced it.*

*I appreciate Henneh Kyereh Kwaku for his devotion to my work and his help to improve. He was considerate despite my unstable schedule. I appreciate his patience, open-mindedness, and understanding.*

Joses Adewara is a Creative Thinker, Poet, and Spoken Word Artiste. He uses poetry as a tool to amplify his tiny voice to the world. He works as a Freelance Copywriter and a Digital Affiliate Marketer.

His poems and other writings have appeared in literary spaces, including Punocracy, Tush magazine, Writers Space Africa, and Ebo Quills. In addition, 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. Sometimes, he pens 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.



## Afolasade Ola

Mentor: Kolawole Samuel Adebayo



*The manual and coordination of the fellowship were impressive.*

*My mentor and I only got few chances to talk to each other, but they were the most insightful times. As I would find out, what I lacked wasn't exactly confidence, just laziness to put in the extra work and make myself better in the blogging space.*

*The first few weeks into the fellowship with my mentor were fun and eye-opening. However, meeting up to weekly assignment deadlines and having time for my mentor to review my works before submission was challenging. My mentor and I grew apart due to our personal commitments and all. Time, I believe, drew us apart.*

*The good news is that he is willing to make it up to me by extending our mentorship beyond the fellowship. Additionally, I plan to feast on the*

*materials he gave me and act on them for my blog in subsequent weeks.*

*Overall, the fellowship was great.*

Afolasade Ola is a media enthusiast and blogger interested in writing about women, identity, and culture. She uses her blogging space, Reality Alley, to articulate contemporary feminism and craft her identity as a feminist.

Having graduated from the Department of English at the University of Ibadan in 2020, she is currently running the voluntary National Youth Service Scheme in Jos, the capital city of Plateau state.

**Aiyejinna Abraham Oshokunofa**

Mentor: Mbanefo Chibuike



*The weekly contests were my favorite part of the fellowship. I read mind-blowing poems, flash fiction, stories; and also wrote some, too. It also challenged my writing by making me study more.*

*I joined this fellowship to learn two things in poetry: imagery and emotions. I have written many poems, but I did not feel satisfied with them due to a lack of good imagery or concrete emotions. However, with the help of this fellowship and through my mentor, I climbed up the ladder of these elements.*

*I'll remember my mentor for his humility: he spoke to me like a peer and never made me feel the pressure of a monarch — like some people do in mentorship. I'll also remember him for his understanding and sympathy. He allowed me to schedule our meeting time and many other things. I can't be less grateful to him for all I am achieving.*

*I will never forget his edit/review on my flash fiction piece that made it to the finals of the weekly contest. I improved in poetry writing, imagery, tonality, emotions, having a reading culture, and time management with his support.*

Aiyejinna Abraham O. is a Poet and a lover of photography. He writes on themes like grief, suffering, religion, and other things his mind falls upon. His works are published or forthcoming on Brittle paper, The Rush magazine, PRAXIS magazine, EBOquills, and other anthologies. He is a finalist for: Nigerian News Direct Poetry prize 2020, Bridgette Poirson poetry contest April/May 2021, EOPP 2020. He is also an alumnus of The 2021 SprinNG Writing Fellowship.

Twitter: @AiyejinnaAB

Instagram: @aiyejinnaab

Facebook: @Aiyejinna Abraham Oshokunofa

## Augusta Chinazom Declan

Mentor: Ivana Akotowaa Ofori



*I started with a different mentor named Michael Inioluwa Oladele and continued with Akotowaa. Transitioning from Michael was not very smooth, but eventually, we made it work.*

*My mentor, Akotowaa, was kind, and the most interesting part of working with her was the attention to detail in reviewing my work. I looked forward to her reviews because she was just as generous with criticism as she was with praise. She gave detailed logical explanations for why a phrase didn't work and suggested replacements. I learned how to title a piece of work properly. I learned what traps to avoid and what tricks to employ - many best practices, that I'm more confident about my writing.*

*I hoped to learn more and do more work during the fellowship. However, our mentorship relationship was as courteous as it was considerate. The part of the fellowship I found most thoughtful was the consideration for mental health and support through challenges.*

Augusta Declan is an Igbo-Nigerian storyteller. Inspired by life stories and solitary spaces, she writes fiction, and creative nonfiction, exploring themes around pain and healing.

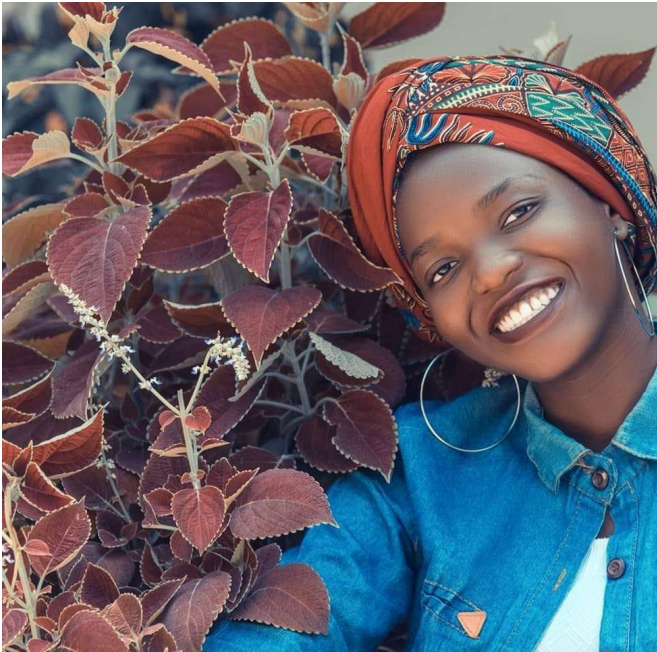
Augusta's work has been featured in The Peace Exhibit and Kalahari Review, and she writes at <https://logandlife.wordpress.com/> and on Medium @augustadecan.

She also volunteers with One Voice Initiative for Women and Children Emancipation - a non-governmental organization committed to battling gender-based issues. An avid lover of Afro-soul and riotous sunsets, she lives in Lagos, Nigeria.



## Balpolam Idi

Mentor: Fui Can-Tamakloe



*I improved in my confidence and sense of direction about my creative writing pursuits because of the fellowship. I am more focused on writing truths without using a single lens. For me, writing can be a weapon, not just for fighting ignorance but for shaping history and narratives. I want to use my writing to shape our history and future.*

*My mentor, Fui, is honest and passionate about writing. His love for Ghana and Africa as a whole is almost palpable. He has an infectious way of making you see things you never cared to peek into before. His work ethic is admirable, and he is a fantastic teacher.*

*During the fellowship, I learned “The Japanese concept of Ma,” explored the use of space, gained clarity of my ideas, developed in writing dialogue and description, and improved my pacing.*

Balpolam Idi is a creative writer who uses writing to convey her thoughts, opinions, and occasionally, grievances. She dresses her ideas in stories; other times, they are disguised as poems, and quite often, she parades them naked as the day they were conceived in her mind.

Being a female born into a middle-class family in northeastern Nigeria had shaped her in more ways than she would like to admit. She is currently working on her first book, a memoir about her childhood. Balpolam is enthusiastic about education and health and will always be found volunteering towards a cause in these aspects. She strongly believes that words shape our world, and through them, minds can be reshaped, hope can be shared, and life renewed.

Her writing had been published in JETS Magazine, Project Naija Magazine, Sarauta Network, Data-Driven Investor, and one of her stories was shortlisted for the Africa@2050 climate flash fiction contest. Her other works can be found on her Medium blog - [balpolamidi.medium.com](https://balpolamidi.medium.com) and Instagram page - [@balliehashem](https://www.instagram.com/balliehashem).

## **Chiamaka Omireh**

Mentor: Kanyinsola Olorunnisola



*My mentor has increased my creativity and knowledge bank. The areas I can testify to greatly improving in are editing and analyzing (seeing a written piece through the eyes of a writer rather than that of a reader). That has somehow boosted my confidence and given me certain clarity I lacked before now when it comes to the art of writing.*

*My mentor knew how to pass judgment without being discouraging. His ability to relate even when you fall short is top-notch, a pillowy reprimanding. I also want to point out that he has lots of knowledge to offer, and if I had the opportunity, I would choose him as a mentor with an unlimited time frame. He gave me wisdom as to why some writers write how they do and enabled me to engage in other forms of literary fiction.*

Omireh Chiamaka is a creative and realistic storyteller based in Nigeria. She has been sprouting words creatively in many forms, including fiction and nonfiction.

In 2018, she was shortlisted for the African book club short story competition, and in 2019, she was longlisted for the Writivism short story prize and K and L writing contest. Her short story Zikora is published on Okadabooks.

When she is not writing, especially when her muse seems to be hiding, she designs; an art that sends the muse rushing back.

## Chideraa Ike-Akaenyi

Mentor: Michael Oladele (Fiction), Jay Kophy (Poetry)



*My first mentor was unavailable, and the situation was remedied thanks to the coordinators.*

*During the fellowship, I learned not to restrict my writing to only fiction. My mentor, Michael, is lively, engages well, and is considerate. He sends me snippets about stories he believes I'll find useful. Kophy, on the other hand, mentored me in Poetry writing. He has an eye for detail, urged me to diversify, and try my hand at different poetry forms.*

*I would remember them for creating the space for me to grow my art. I learned to work better and not give up on rejected pieces. I became better at compressing my pieces. I stopped procrastination and learned to discipline myself in writing. I*

*have been able to break out of the fear of rejection and sent my stories out for publication.*

Chideraa Ike-Akaenyi is a fiction writer and essayist. She wants to tell untold stories on enuresis, race, and even erotic literature and its place on the Nigerian literary scene. Her writings have been published on Okadabooks, ngigareview.com, Kreative Diadem, Itanile, The Crater Library, and Afreada (forthcoming by September 2021).

She has won, been longlisted, and shortlisted for the following prizes.

Fictionist of the Year (NASELS NAU 2019 and 2021) - Won

Essayist of the Year (NASELS NAU 2019 and 2021) – Won

Okadabooks Campus Challenge – Longlist (2018)

Princewill Okigbo's Prize for Fiction – Shortlist (2019)

Collins Elesiro's Prize for Fiction – Longlist (2020)

To diversify her expertise, she worked as a Columnist for the Campus Chronicler Newspaper (Sept. 2020 – March 2021) and recently concluded an internship with Crater Digital Library (January – July 2021). To contribute to her self-development, she reads self-help books and takes online courses on diverse subjects.

Chideraa is currently in her last year of study for a degree in the Department of English Language and Literary Studies at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, where she is researching intersectional feminism for her degree project.

## Christiana Egbata

Mentor: Michael Emmanuel



*I found reading the fellowship's training manual most engaging. I have greatly improved in my writing endeavor owing to the fellowship. I now understand how to place tenses right, focus on the main juice of a short story without incessant deviation, and edit my work better than I used to do.*

*The two major challenges I encountered during the programme were filling the weekly reflection forms and getting feedback on time from my mentor.*

*My mentor is prolific and values time. I would remember my mentor for his method of editing, which he successfully handed down to me.*

*During the fellowship, I learned how to keep my tenses consistent while writing. I got new tips on how to edit my work. I learned how to leave out unnecessary details while writing a short story. I imbibed resilience, especially in filling the weekly reflection form. Also, I learned and wrote my first flash fiction ever.*

Christiana Egbata is a creative writer with prose as her forte. She finds stories and tells them because she believes in the power stories have to inform, transform, and preserve powerful history.

Passionate about themes bordering on love, injustice, and religious hypocrisy, she writes to reveal the realities of Nigerians in their daily strive for survival to promote humanity. She insists in her writings that humanity is a strong moral force that is greater than any religion; as with humanity, we can curb the excesses of religion.

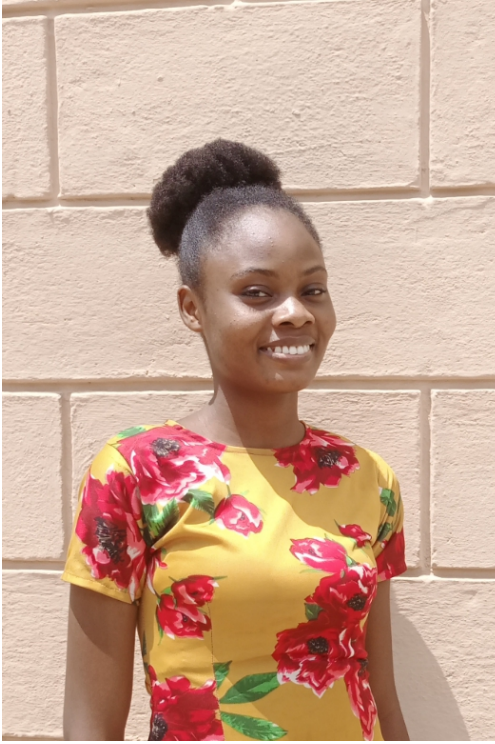
She holds a degree in English language and Literature from Imo State University. She currently teaches and freelance as a content creator and editor, helping brands tell their amazing stories.

She hails from Cross River State and reads indiscriminately with a special flair for the works of John Grisham and Ben Okiri. Aside from reading and writing, Christiana enjoys baking and singing as well.



## Damilola Omotoyinbo

Mentor: Ola W. Halim



*The most significant parts of the fellowship were the classes with my mentor and the readiness of the coordinators to respond to our challenges. I now know my weak points and how to keep working on them.*

*My mentor is such an amazing person. When I found out that he got shortlisted for Commonwealth Short Story Prize, I thought he would be brutal with his comments on my work. However, working with him was fun and beautiful. Halim is friendly, and he made writing interesting for me. I am grateful for his patience and readiness to see my work and the constructive feedback he gave.*

*In the final week of the fellowship, I told him about the rejections I have been getting because I felt bad about them. He told me things I will always remember throughout my writing journey; his words, in a way, gave me peace and a sense of direction.*

*With Halim's support, I learned how to start a story without getting drained halfway, edit my work, improve my writing by reading good fiction, be disciplined, and dedicated to my craft.*

Damilola Omotoyinbo believes in the power of the pen and the positive difference it can make in our world. She has work/interview published at Afritondo, Kalahari Review, Konya Shamsrumi, Praxis, Hack writers, The Nigerian Tribune Newspaper, nantygreens, and elsewhere.

Damilola is a fellow of the Ebedi International Writers' Residency and an alumnus of the SprinNG Writing Fellowship. She is Damilola Omotoyinbo on Facebook and Instagram. She blogs at [www.damilolaomotoyinbo.wordpress.com](http://www.damilolaomotoyinbo.wordpress.com).

## Deborah Ajilore

Mentor: Roseline Mgbodichinma Anya-Okorie



*The fellowship helped me gain clarity and confidence about my writing. My mentor was very understanding, and she empathized with me on days I was unable to meet up deadlines due to school stress and writer's block. She was ready to answer my questions and even called on days I couldn't understand how to go about the assignments. In addition, she always provided constructive criticism on my works and encouraged me to do more and be a better version of myself. She is really a great mentor.*

*I would remember her for her empathy and constructive criticism. I stepped out of my normal thematic focus with her support and gained clarity on my writing journey. Roseline helped me pay more attention to my choice of words, and the articles in the manual provided more knowledge. I was also able to read more with the help of the fellowship's assignments.*

Deborah Ajilore is a Nigerian writer and photographer. She is a French Education graduate from Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo. Her works have been published in Praxis Magazine, The Quills, Mamba Journal, Shallow Tales Review, and elsewhere. She

centers her artistry around themes like self-esteem, nostalgia, love, fear, loss, etc. She was a joint winner of the Poets in Nigeria (PIN 10-Day Poetry Challenge (May 2021 edition)).

Deborah is an introvert who expresses diverse versions of herself through words and photographs. She likes to portray light and capture nature in her work. She hopes her art mirrors the world and resonates with people from all spheres of life. She wishes to write and publish pieces across different genres and languages.

When she is not writing, she is behind the lens, making memories, reading books, or watching Korean series recaps. You can reach her on Facebook @Deborah Ajilore.

## **Ebubechukwu Udeoba**

Mentor: Nome Emeka Patrick



*I enjoyed meeting and learning from my mentor. In addition, the fellowship helped me improve my confidence and sense of direction about my creative writing pursuit because I find it easier to write poems now and intentionally. Notably, I understand poems better when I read them.*

*My mentor, Patrick, is a good teacher and coach. He knows what he does and how to go about it. He is committed, serious, and focused. I will remember Patrick for his advice to always read. With his support, I improved in the use of language when writing, became intentional about writing, and more conversant with the craft of writing., I now understand poetry more, and I appreciate its language better.*

*I have become a better writer by employing all that I have learned during the fellowship.*

Ebubechukwu Udeoba currently studies law in Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam. His works have appeared on Kalahari Review, NSPP anthologies, Eboquills, and Bridgette Poirson anthology. He was shortlisted for the Nigerian Students Poetry Prize 2020 and was a finalist for the Nigerian News Direct Poetry Prize (NNDPP) 2020.

Ebubechukwu is inspired by the possibility of making his readers cry or smile. He loves Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith, and video games. Ebubechukwu writes from Awka, and he is on Twitter as @the\_eboobae.



## **Enock Asante Osei**

Mentor: Kolawole Samuel Adebayo



2019 PENZA-KNUST pillar of truth magazine.

*The weekly reminders and the consistency with the weekly airtime from the fellowship coordinators were very useful.*

*With the fellowship, I developed confidence in venturing into other genres since we were all asked to contest in other unchosen genres.*

*My mentor, Kolawole, shared a whole folder of useful files that helped improve my perspective of writing. He is a man of substance and valuable content.*

Enock Asante Osei is a Ghanaian. He is a literature/book reviewer and content writer.

Enock has reviewed several postgraduate theses for students and has co-authored one research article entitled Impact of tank geometry on the production of African Catfish in the African Journal of Agricultural Research (AJAR), with some others under peer review. He aspires to have more than 40 research articles and other publications under age 40.

He also has other non-research manuscripts yet to be published and other short inspirational writeups in the

Enock believes that learning is a never-ending spiral, and thus, he has interests in other genres of writing aside his area of specialization. Currently, he is a postgraduate research student with the West African Centre for Water, Irrigation, and Sustainable Agriculture (WACWISA) in the University for Development Studies (UDS), Tamale-Ghana. He also works part-time consulting for EasyWay.

## Favour Chinenye Okpor

Mentor: Jide Badmus



*The fellowship's weekly feedback forms kept me on my toes and helped me assess my growth. The lessons with my mentor showed me how far I have gone and what more I needed to grow. The regular and timely check-ups by the fellowship's team via emails and WhatsApp were helpful. Finally, the weekly contests challenged me to write outside my comfort zone.*

*Before starting this fellowship, I couldn't exactly pinpoint what was missing in my poems. Joining various poetry groups and reading whatever poems came my way helped a little, but it felt like I was constantly moving in circles without proper guidance and direction. This fellowship was an eye-opening experience.*

*Learning from my mentor, Jide Badmus, was more than I could ever ask for. Through his guidance, I saw the faults in my previous poems and improved on them. His criticism, thorough approach to poetry and encouragement helped shape me into a better poet. Now, I know what makes a poem brilliant and another, "ok." I'm confident in creating a masterpiece and dedicated to my journey of becoming a poet with a difference. My mentor has a very thorough approach to poetry. He leaves no stone unturned when reviewing poems. His criticisms are always honest and polite, and you can tell just how much he is interested in my growth.*

*His patience and experience are admirable. He takes his time to teach me things worth learning and doesn't get discouraged when I do not get it immediately. Instead, he pushed me to be better. In his words, "We'd fight to make you better." And he did. Every improvement I made, no matter how little, was noted. His unwavering support and encouragement through some personal challenges won't be forgotten. No matter how hidden the fault is, my mentor will find it, bring it to light, and guide me to make appropriate corrections.*

*I didn't have to wait for long before my mentor gives me feedback on my work. His timeliness propelled me to never take him for granted. With his criticism and precise attention to detail, I improved on using line breaks, understood the various types, and used them to achieve suspense, surprise, musicality, etc. In addition, I improved on the phrase, "less is more," by working on eradicating elaborate images thereby, allowing the readers to discover things themselves rather than tell them.*

*I focused on the art of poetry using image flow and consistency, the duality of image, metaphors, imagery, and avoided sounding like a preacher or motivational speaker, which makes one lose grip on the art and focus on the message.*

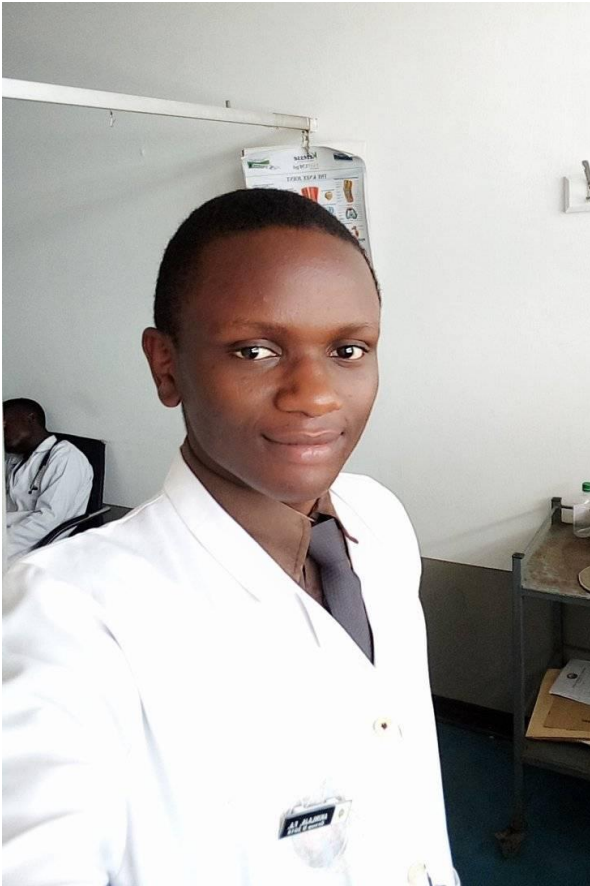
Favour Chinenye Okpor is a poet, short story writer, essayist, and content creator. She explores the themes of love, loss, healing, femininity, and whatever catches her fancy.

Her works have been published on online literary platforms such as UITESWRITE, TVO Tribe, Shuzia.com, Planet Wizard Africa, Open Door Anthology, Dansabe Media Institute, and elsewhere. In addition, her short story "Broken" was longlisted for the Shuzia Short Story (The Scarlett Thread) contest.

She enjoys devouring the works of other poets and hopes her poems impact lives and change stereotypical narratives. When she is not writing, she volunteers for Sexual Health Awareness and Gender Equality advocacy with various organizations such as LEAP Africa, WARIF Nigeria, etc. She writes from SouthWest, Nigeria.

## Felix Akinlaja

Mentor: Tola Ijalusi



*I found the N500 weekly airtime and the contests thoughtful and helpful. However, my mentor and I had scheduling issues. We didn't have any interaction for quite a while because of our various engagements and other challenges. The unavailability of basic amenities like power supply prevented us from having the mentor-mentee relationship we envisioned.*

*Tola Ijalusi is a good writer. He is nice, ever willing to help out if within his capabilities. I'll remember his candour.*

*While I didn't improve much on my writing, I learned several things from the manual. I must say I am grateful for the community of like-minded people in which I found myself and inspired to hone my poetry and fiction writing skills.*

Felix Akinlaja is a young creative writer currently undergoing professional training at the University of Ibadan.

He is a lover of books that are informative and fascinating. He enjoys writing nonfiction pieces, essays, and flash fiction. He is privileged to have won some prizes with his writing skills. He hopes to heal and restore souls with his pieces and educate people with facts about issues dear to him.

## Grillo, Adedolapo Oluwalogbon

Mentor: Emmanuel Faith



*I found the very foundation of the programme very thoughtful, the fact that people sat down to help others achieve their writing dreams and become better. The fellowship was very thoughtful, surprising, and engaging for someone who did not have much going in terms of support. The fellowship's activities for the five weeks inspired me. I now believe that there is something for me in my literary pursuits, which I have begun chasing.*

*One of the things I admire about my mentor is that he is always learning and teaching. Even with his busy schedule, he made sure to take responsibility for our works, apologize where necessary, and correct me as a brother. The platform of friendship he built endeared me to him. I began to gain confidence, believing that I can do what I set my mind to accomplish. I learned how to be motivated, inspired, and creative.*

Grillo Adedolapo, alias grandpa, is from Lagos Island, Lagos state. He is the oldest child in a family of five. Though he has no published works yet, he has written several poems and plays, some of which have been acted on stage. He also has a book that should be published soon.

Grillo Adedolapo is currently a student at Obafemi Awolowo University, studying Physics and Engineering.





## **Halimat Ojone Usman**

Mentor: Ebukun Gbemisola Ogunyemi

*The part of the fellowship I found most engaging was the contests. It felt good knowing that we could have a glimpse of other aspects of writing through writing contests provided by the fellowship.*

*Before I started the fellowship, I was wary of criticisms. However, this experience propelled me to be more confident about the pieces I write. In addition, the provided structure of constructive criticism with a highlight of my strengths and weaknesses for growth gave me a sense of direction towards my creative path. This experience has shown me that I can explore a career path in creative writing, and it's an aspect I am open to.*

*My mentor, above all things, is a very understanding person. How she navigated through my weaknesses and strategically placed tasks that helped me get better surprises me till today. She was always meticulous in the feedback she sent to me and accepted my pieces when they were really good. She exudes a level of confidence and understanding of the job she needs to do, and at the end of this fellowship, I must say she succeeded in taking my writing prowess to the next level.*

*I improved my editing skills and began to have rhythm in my poems which I hugely lacked before. I improved in my diversification in the themes I explored. I was always*

*passionate about the theme of love, but now, I explore many more themes.*

Usman Halimat Ojone is a writer, flash fiction, and poetry enthusiast studying for a Doctor of Optometry Degree in the Department of Optometry and Vision Science at the University of Ilorin. She is also a renowned debater with many local and international awards to her name. Notably, she received the Best Female Speaker at the All-Nigerian Universities Debating Championship 2018, Best Public Speaker at the Covenant University Invitational Tournament 2020, and 1st runner up at the OIC Grand final for the Bangabandhu Dhaka International Debate Fest hosted by the Bangladesh Debate Federation.

Halimat is a SprinNG Writing Fellowship Alumnus whose works explore the themes of love, grief and being.

## **Ibrahim Adeniyi Williams**

Mentor: Seun Lari-Williams



*Honestly, this fellowship has been a craft-changing experience for me. I can't easily articulate the wealth of knowledge and direction I gained from this six-week engagement with SprinNG. The manual was a beautiful compendium as well.*

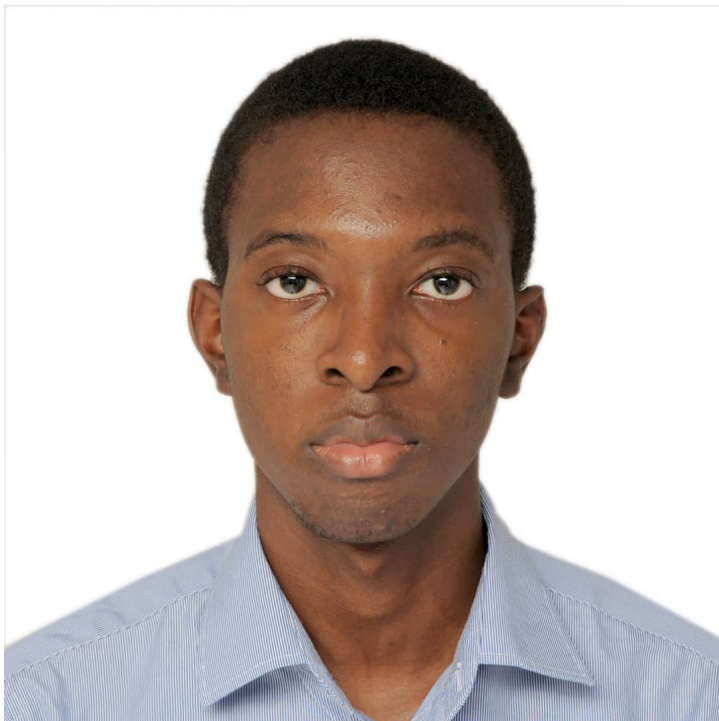
*Many thanks to Seun Lari-Williams, my mentor who has helped me develop in ways I never thought possible. When we spoke on the phone from the first contact, I knew I had gained a new friend. Seun is a mentor every mentee would love to have. During the fellowship, Seun took his time to talk to me, discuss with me, and direct the course of my poems. I particularly enjoyed the fact that Seun made me feel at home with him. Most times, when we spoke, I never want us to stop. Our conversation from the beginning till the end was always insightful, rich, and interesting. Now, I am confident with my words. I know more about my craft, and I am conscious about my next line of action, which is publishing more of my works and pursuing an MFA in creative writing.*

*I feel privileged that I was paired with Seun. I will remember his genuineness and positive impact on me and my writing. I improved in my ability to see beyond the ordinary and write in unique ways. I now know how to sew humor into my poems. I improved in my rendition, use of other figurative languages, and my confidence.*

Ibrahim Adeniyi Williams is a Nigerian writer and poet. He is an avid reader with indiscriminate taste and a flair for poetry and autobiographies.

Niyi's works have been published in various literary magazines, including The African Writers, Serotonin Poetry, Punocracy, Fahamidan Journal, Nantygreens, The Quills, and elsewhere. He is a graduate of the English language and lives in Lagos, where he rounds off his master's degree in English at the University of Lagos.

Niyi is currently working on his first collection of poetry.



**Ife O. Olatona**

Mentor: Tomi adesina

*The part fellowship I found most thoughtful, surprising, or engaging were the discussions with my mentor. She was very encouraging, and through her mentorship, I have gotten better at editing.*

Ife Olatona, born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria, is a reader, editor, and fiction writer.

His writing has appeared or is forthcoming in the Harvard-based Transition Magazine, The African Writers, and Nottingham Poetry Exchange's Voices anthology.

He is a recipient of The Poetry Society U.K's Foyle Young Poets Award.



## **Ifeoluwa Euphenia Ekpeta**

Mentor: Uduak Akpan



*Through the fellowship, I learned how to write so much with few words and structure my ideas. I am more confident in my writing now.*

*The only challenge I had was the time, but I was able to work it out with my mentor, who is diligent and very considerate. She taught me a lot and also pushed me. I am really glad she was my mentor. I have had great sessions with her and gained plenty of knowledge on editing, reviewing, and structuring in such a short time.*

Ifeoluwa Ekpeta is an English Language and Media professional with proficiency in research and a keen eye for detail. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Ibadan and over five years of experience in creative writing and screenwriting. She has also built her career in several roles, including as literary intern, editor, media strategist, reporter, and reporter social analyst.

In 2020, she earned a certification in English and Media Literacy from the University of Pennsylvania and garnered cognate experience working with national and global NGOs dedicated to eradicating gender inequality and stereotypes. She is also involved in initiatives with interests in the education of the girl child. Attesting to this interest is the 2020 award for “Understanding the Right of Women and Girls” by the Young African Leaders Initiative.

Ekpeta has a strong desire to use the media to effect social and political change. She hopes to create control groups in her work with private and public sectors of developing countries using cutting-edge techniques in journalism to combat misinformation and other associated barriers in the industry.

**Ilerioluwa Olatunde**  
Mentor: Jerry Chiemeké



*The part of the fellowship I find most thoughtful or engaging is the compulsory assignments at the end of the week. I enjoyed working on the assignments because beyond reading the materials and learning from my mentor; it gave me the opportunity to utilize the lessons. It also gave me a sense of belonging; I felt involved in the program. By receiving feedback from my mentor, I knew my strengths and the areas for improvement. The feedback sessions were like lenses through which I could see my mentor's perspective and gain new insights.*

*Before the programme, I was plagued with self-doubt regarding my abilities as a writer, but participating in the programme has equipped me with the knowledge and guidance in my writing abilities. The assignments, reflective discussions with my mentor, and content of the materials were the catalyst for motivation, direction, and transformation.*

*When I compared the first review I submitted with my last, it was different. I saw the improvements. Beyond the writing fellowship, I felt the impact on other areas of my life. At first, I had doubts about my capacity, but going through the programme and attempting the weekly tasks instigated confidence and a positive mindset to achieve anything I set my mind to. The fellowship is a reminder of this truth.*

*My mentor's warmth in his responses conveyed how intentional he was about my growth. He had a way of constructively criticizing my work and bringing out the best. He truly epitomizes what a true mentor is. He is always ready to listen, provide recommendations, and support whenever needed. For example, there was a time during the programme I struggled with a particular contest topic for the week. I told him about my struggle, and he went ahead to recommend and send me materials I could read to help me. I could do this mainly because he is approachable and always ready to listen. It was a great privilege to be mentored by him.*

Olatunde Ilerioluwa is a creative writer and public speaker interested in fiction, creative nonfiction, and performance poetry. Her love for books has also influenced her book reviewing. She writes to take her readers on a journey of insight, knowledge, and excitement. Her work focuses on book reviews, lifestyle, and the human condition. She draws inspiration from the books she reads, societal issues, personal life, interaction with others, and her relationship with God.

When she is not writing and journaling, she reads, listens to music, has fun in her head, or does research. A Karen Kingsbury book is all she needs after a stressful day. She hopes to write more, publish books, and have a blog soon.

## Jessica Ajuonuma

Mentor: Oluwatobi Adesanya



*The first week of the fellowship was the most thoughtful and engaging for me. We had to think deeply and develop an article or story describing or defining why we write. That changed many things for me.*

*I faced challenges in the course of the fellowship. At some point, I found it hard to be motivated when I saw that the fellowship was not narrowed down to the goal I wanted to achieve.*

*However, as a result of what the fellowship exposed me to, I have learned what to do, how to do it, and how to make people know that I do it going forward as a writer. Also, I have gained clarity on my writing skills and process.*

*My mentor is an established writer with a wealth of experience. He understood what writing should represent, and this showed in the way he guided me through the fellowship. He went outside the box and touched on topics that were not contained in the fellowship manual. He did this because he took his time to understand the areas that I lacked in. This helped me grow in certain dimensions of writing. I will remember my mentor for his generous praises of my work; they boosted my confidence. With his support, I have gained a lot from being a part of this fellowship.*

*I learned, unlearned, and E-learned. I understood the essence of thoroughly editing one's work. I learned more about publishing and how to be an established author. Notably, the fellowship helped me paint a vivid picture of what my life would look like as a writer.*

Jessica Ajuonuma, also known by the pseudonym Jessica Clair, is a Nigerian writer. She grew up in the popular jungle city of Ajegunle, where creativity breeds. Her writing fire was birthed from the bedtime stories told to her dad and the books he gave her.

In addition to creative writing, Jessica does academic writing, content writing, and blogging. Her works are on themes like self-awareness, hypocrisy, love, and motivation.

Jessica has other passions, like inspiring young African women to wear their afro with pride. Thus, she founded Happily Nappy, a WhatsApp community for women who want to grow their hair long and healthy. She volunteers with various organisations in Nigeria too. When she is not doing any of these, she's piling up pictures of libraries and offices that she hopes to build someday.

Jessica has plans of publishing her own books-short stories and poems in the nearest future. She also hopes to teach younger writers like herself some ropes that she has learned over time.



## Joseph Hope

Mentor: Oyindamola Shoola



*The part of the fellowship I enjoyed the most was the shadow writing part task. I enjoyed tracing people's words with mine. Notably, winning the why I write contest was a morale booster for me.*

*The first week was tumultuous for me with the change of mentors but things moved better with my final mentor, Oyindamola.*

*I looked forward to learning only poetry, but she did more than just that. Now I can understand essay-writing and fiction too. She is gentle, honest, and professional in her approach. As a result, I improved in my use of metaphors, understanding themes, knowing my audience, and exploring different aspects of creative writing.*

Joseph Hope is a student of Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto, Nigeria studying applied chemistry.

His works are forthcoming or already published in Reckoning Press, Evening Street Press, Zoetic Press, New Verse News, Praxis Magazine, AfroPoetry, Gemini Spice Magazine, Spillwords, SprinNG, Writers Space Africa, Nthanda Magazine, 5th Chinua Achebe Anthology, Ariel Chart, Best "New" African Poets 2019 Anthology, and more. In addition, he's a reader for the reckoning press.

He is an alumnus of the 2021 SprinNG Writing Fellowship.  
He tweets @ItzJoe9.

## Lynda Nnagboro

Mentor: Ama Asantewa Diaka



*The weekly airtime was the most thoughtful part of the fellowship for me. The fellowship was free, and the organisers put everything in place to ensure the mentees have a good learning experience. They didn't have to add airtime to it or follow up to make sure everyone got it, but it was done. It was surprising and thoughtful, and I was grateful for it.*

*Before I got this fellowship, I always knew my writing could be better, but I didn't know how to go about it. I lacked a sense of direction in what, how, and who I wanted to write for. With my mentor's guidance, I have experienced growth in my writing process, which has enhanced my confidence and provided me with a clearer vision of the direction I want my writing to take. I did not face any challenge that was related to the program. However, I had a hard time balancing the fellowship and my job.*

*Ama Asantewa Diaka reintroduced me to the reasons why I love poetry. Every meeting I had with her was filled with gems of poetry knowledge. She always took the time to explain in detail everything I needed to know about the writing and reading assignments for the week. Under her mentorship, I explored writing poetry in a way that I never thought I could write; I learned how to read poetry, even the ones I didn't like. Her criticisms motivated me to work harder on my writing and gave me a sense of direction on the type of writer I want to be. I will remember Ama Asantewa Diaka for her supportive and detailed manner of giving feedback.*

*During the fellowship, I reduced my usage of cliché words and phrases; I learned to replace them with personal and unique ones. I learned to be free in experimenting with writing and reading different shapes of poems. Previously, my poems have been inspired by experiences and imagination. Researching a poem was new for me, and it gave me a different way to get writing inspiration. I learned to make my writing more personal so that my readers can feel the poem's emotions instead of just reading it.*

Lynda Nneka Nnagboro is a civil engineer concerned with using her writing to close the gap between Engineering and the Literary World. She believes that words have the power to soften the rigidity of the Engineering world and change the perception that Engineers cannot be creatives. Her interest in the sustainable development goals (SDGs) has led to a career in the renewable energy sector under SDG7, and she hopes to impact each SDG.

Her writing explores themes on family, self-examination, femininity, pain, and imagination. In her writing, she expresses emotions in clear, unique forms that appear personal and relatable to the reader. She weaves words that tell stories of how ancestry can reveal connections we never knew existed.

She has works published in Tush Magazine and her blog. When she is not busy working or writing, she likes to spend her free time watching comedy movies, listening to music, or inventing food recipes. She believes cooking is an underestimated form of art.



## Mazeed Mukhtar Oyeleye

Mentor: Ayoola Goodness Olanrewaju



*The feedback from our mentors and the weekly feedbacks forms in the fellowship were very engaging.*

*I improved my writing and got over my use of baroque words in expressing myself poetically. Furthermore, I have a renewed sense of viewing rejections or losses, and it fills me with optimism. I am more determined to leave my mark through poetry.*

*I only faced external issues like rigorous academic schedules, epileptic power supply, and network coverage.*

*My mentor is a teacher by profession and was nothing short of an exemplary tutor over the period. I can testify that he is dedicated to making others better, as he painstakingly did for me. He is an enigma! He always told me to remain original regardless of what styles or voices I explored. With his support, I improved in the following aspects of my writing: precision, diction, brevity, dynamism, and poetic judgement.*

Mazeed Mukhtar Oyeleye is a Nigerian Economics undergraduate, award-winning poet, and writer who transits territories through the power of the pen. He recently won the GreenWrite Poetry Contest, 2021, and the Whispering Crescent Essay Prize, 2021. He is fond of Wole Soyinka and Jericho Brown's works. When he is not writing, he plays games.

Social media: @mazedulkhayr

## Modester Chinonyelum Alo

Mentor: Turkur Ridwan



*I loved that this programme was not gathering people in a group chat and teaching them together. This was not the case. This programme is personal and makes you as a mentee feel important. You get to interact with your mentor on a one-on-one basis. You are free to ask questions without fear. Moreover, it was very flexible, and you can choose a suitable time for your mentor and you. This is what I found thoughtful, surprising, and engaging in the fellowship. I commend the organisers for this and thank them for the great opportunity.*

*Honestly, this programme has improved my life. It has helped me get clarification on what I wanted but have been scared to acknowledge. I am glad to have participated in the fellowship.*

*With the help of my mentor, I have, in a way, overcome my fear of competitions and submissions. I found it easy working with my mentor. He can be strict or lenient depending on what the occasion is called for. He was also considerate and scheduled time to fit our other activities. I would remember him for his honest feedback and reviews on my poems. With his support, I wrote more than I have in a very long time. I tried out different types of poetry and wrote on different themes. I also gained clarity on the path I want to follow.*

Modester Chinonyelum is a creative writer from the suburbs of Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Nigeria.

With her keen interest in creative writing, she contributes to a weekly column at Citizen's Advocate, a local media outlet in Abakaliki. In her secondary school days, she led a debate team and wrote articles for the school press club board. She also served as an Editor for the school magazine where her writings were published.

Since 2018, Modester has created content on lifestyle and societal issues, having learned the fundamentals of Copywriting, serving as an assistant under an expert. In addition, she has written over a hundred blog posts for websites.

She is an alumna of the 2021 SprinNG Writing Fellowship. While she aspires to get published by journals and contribute to more literary platforms, her poems can be found at Mirakee (mercurial), a writing-based social platform.

Her writing career started from childhood as she spent most time reading novels and writing stories.

## Nentapmun Gomwalk

Mentor: Michael Emmanuel



*The fellowship's weekly check-ins on the group chat were nice. Dante, the fellowship manager, was also great at keeping up with all of us.*

*My mentor, Michael, is fantastic! I enjoyed working with him because he was thoughtful and fun to gist with. The most valuable lesson I have learned is to add suspense to my writing. Getting this tip from Michael makes me add this to the evaluation list I have whenever I write a short story. Now, when I write and can't find anything suspenseful about the story, I know that I still need to work on it.*

*Michael was committed to responding to me even though there were some delays at times. I think he's cool, but I also think he could go more in-depth with the next set of mentees.*

*Other things I learned from his guidance include being more self-motivated about my writing, being open to submitting to multiple publications, and writing flash fiction.*

Nentapmun is a freelance and creative writer with an educational background in communication and multimedia. Her non-creative work includes

copywriting, content writing, proofreading, and editing.

She is an avid reader and loves to experiment with poetry, short stories, and screenwriting. Nentapmun's creative writing explores magical realism, fantasy, and the mystique of human nature. With such esoteric themes, Nentapmun's writing seeks to prod the reader into intrinsic inquiry and philosophy, aiming to learn a little more about themselves and the human condition.

Passionate about African literature, in particular, Nentapmun's book club, The African Bookworm, solely reads and discusses one African book every month! You can find her writing on Medium and join her book club on Instagram.



**Ofoegbu Chidinma Peace**

Mentor: Ola Halim



*My mentor taught me a lot. The prompts and weekly contests were thoughtful. I was able to think deeper, and it gave me clarity in some things. I faced many challenges keeping up with the tasks because I also had school exams; nevertheless, all the tasks helped me grow. Additionally, the fellowship's manual is comprehensive, and anyone can learn a lot even without a mentor.*

*My mentor did a great job. I learnt a lot from him - actively and passively. He was so kind to correct my mistakes. He is the best! Before the fellowship, I had never written a poem before. However, the week two contest helped me explore my poetic side.*

Chidinma Ofoegbu is a writer and storyteller whose stories are rooted in personal experience and environmental issues. She's an undergraduate of the Federal University of Technology Owerri. Some of her work is available on Wattpad and Tell.

When she's not writing, she is reading a good book, binging on movies, or laughing with friends or family.



## Olayemi Mudashir Adewale

Mentor: Abdulsalam Dante



*From the fellowship, I learned to not look down on my writing. Instead, I realized that I only need to put in more effort and that I can always get it right.*

*My mentor is a very understanding person, patient and selfless. He was more about how convenient anything was for me during the fellowship, which relieved me of how overwhelming everything became at a point in time.*

*From his mentorship, I learned new writing styles, improved my ability to think outside the box and be flexible. In addition, I developed my creative versatility and diversity, improved my use of literary devices, and develop perseverance (though not writing-related).*

Olayemi Mudashir Adewale is a Nigerian engineer and a writer who loves art, books, poetry, music, and ice cream. He believes in the soothing and therapeutic effects of writing.

His works have appeared on the African Writers website, Elsie's blog, and a few other blogs. A good number of them have also been featured in print magazines both locally and internationally.

He also shares his works on IG @yemightwords.

**Olumide Gabriel Areo**  
Mentor: Adedayo Agarau



*It was quite unfortunate that a course I have paid to transition into the Data Analyst field professionally began in the second week of the Fellowship. But then, as part of the fellowship, I learned how to manage my time. Although, much credit to my mentor, Adedayo, who always reached out and checked up on me. I am quite glad I concluded this fellowship. He gave me time, spoke with regards and ethics. When I wrote my amateur poem in week one, he applauded me and said, "I understand you are basic, but then the goal is that you move out of this stage by the end of the fellowship." And we have achieved that. My writing style has changed, and I hope to publish a professional work sooner.*

*In week two, I began to understand the impact the fellowship had on my talent development. My mentor made me analyze certain styles in poetry that gave me a new perspective towards writing poems. I was surprised at how much I could achieve with such little time and commitment—coming to the reality that poems do not have to be complicated to be qualified for one.*

*The manual for the fellowship was quite resourceful, self-instructive, and well organized. I was glad that the fellowship gave room for flexibility and safe space for less pressure, considering how we are all overwhelmed with so much with the new normal. I wrote a total of eight poems during the fellowship period.*

*My mentor didn't impose his thoughts on me; rather, he allowed me to explore and choose what would suit me and my writing styles. I am glad I had him assigned to me. I couldn't have had a better mentor at my level of experience.*

Olumide Gabriel Areo is a poet and nonfiction writer.

Drawing from his humanitarian work and social impact, his nonfiction work "Lessons from One hundred and Three" made Top Fifteen (15) globally on [the Peter Drucker Essay Challenge](#) "Leadership and Critical Thinking" in 2020.

He started writing for publication in 2017 after his work "Smart Phones Are Changing the Way We Live" was shortlisted for entry by Techno on the Student Writing Contest "Capture Your Legend." He currently writes for the Chatham House Common Features Conversation Blog, discussing development issues with other young leaders from Europe and Africa.

His writing style in poetry is intertwined with mixed feelings of nature and humanity. He is a Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Awardee, and the Ford Motor Fund Community Impact Fellow 2020.

Fb: <https://www.facebook.com/areo2>

Tw: [https://www.twitter.com/are\\_oluwamide](https://www.twitter.com/are_oluwamide)

In: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/areoluwamide>

## Osamudiamen Joseph

Mentor: Tryphena Yeboah



*What I found most engaging in the fellowship was the discussions with my mentor. The fellowship taught me many things about life and the business of writing, lessons that I'm excited to implement. I haven't had anyone mentor me in this writing area before; however, Tryphena Yeboah did an excellent job. She was always on time with the responses, weekly emails, and calls. She gave clear and honest critiques of my work too.*

*I will remember Tryphena for her diligence and enthusiasm. Through her guidance, I learnt how to write better characters, structure short stories, write better sentences, how to end stories and not just stop them suddenly, and how to critique stories.*

Osamudiamen Joseph loves reading and writing poems, short stories, and screenplays centered around African societies and mythology. He believes that there is a lot of wonder and imagination present in Africa, and he loves to explore them.

He is currently working on his first chapbook.

## Overcomer Ibiteye

Mentor: Ehi-kohichio Ogwiji



*I enjoyed the reviews and feedback I got from my mentor. I have learnt how to write better and be more creative in delivering my poems to my audience. This has improved my confidence in submitting my creative works on literary websites and for poetry competitions.*

*The only challenge was combining the programme with my schoolwork. At first, it was overwhelming, but I got through it successfully.*

*My mentor was really cool. She was detailed in her feedback, and she gave honest, constructive criticism about my work. Also, we had insightful discussions on creativity and writing. I'll remember Ehi-kohichio for her humorous reviews.*

Overcomer Ibiteye is a Nigerian poet and fiction writer currently taking her undergraduate studies in Physics at the University of Ibadan.

Her works have appeared in the Litfest Anthology, Shuzia Magazine, and on the TVO literary website. She has also been shortlisted for the 2020 Michael Afenia Prize for the END SARS poetry contest, 2021 Blessing Kolajo Prize, and the 2021 Poetry Prize organized by the Mentally Aware Nigeria Initiative.

Overcomer uses spoken-word poetry and science fiction to challenge stereotypes on mental health disorders, domestic abuse, religion, etc. She believes that words, when written or recited articulately, can cause a radical change in the perspectives of the readers and hearers. With poetry and storytelling, she makes her listeners view sensitive issues and topics differently and clearer.

She volunteers her free time with literary communities like Litfest to organize spoken word events, monologues, music performances, and stage plays.

Ig: <https://www.instagram.com/bimolaovercomer>



## Ozioma Okafor

Mentor: Sheriff Ogundele



*My mentor, Sheriff, is a great person. The reading materials he provided me with made the experience valuable. I liked the writing assignments of the fellowship, and they made me write at least weekly. Also, I love the manual, and I am sure I will keep using it even after this mentorship program.*

*However, I don't think my sense of direction or confidence was improved from the fellowship; I also didn't really have a personal relationship with my mentor, which might have been a better experience if it had been so.*

Ozioma Okafor is a poet and storyteller based in Lagos, Nigeria. She loves to refer to her poems, which usually carry a message of hope, encouragement, and reassurance, as 'her heart in words' because of how vulnerable and real they are. As one who deals with anxiety, overthinking, and insecurities, she hopes to connect with others who can relate to these struggles and be a voice of encouragement to them, reminding them they are not alone.

She fell in love with the literary world when she read Chimamanda's *Purple Hibiscus* as a 12-year-old. Before this, she had never read a book she could relate to so well.

She showcases her poems and stories on Instagram and Medium, where she is most active. Her poems "Colour" and "Lo, I am with you always" have been published on [www.penastory.wordpress.com](http://www.penastory.wordpress.com). She is currently working on an anthology and hopes to someday be the author of a bestselling poetry collection and novel.

When she is not at her 9 to 5 job where she works as an auditor or in her room writing, you can find her reading a book, watching Netflix, or having great conversations with friends.

## Praise Tar

Mentor: Imotola-Bolaji Akintola



*I considered the weekly stipends from the fellowship organisers very thoughtful; it is a very good initiative that bailed me out when I suddenly ran out of data and had no extra cash. Also, all the prompts in the manual and the numerous resources provided were helpful. To think that all this was free of charge, the effort and intentionality put into the fellowship is laudable.*

*Before this program, I never introduced myself as a writer or claimed to be one. The thought of it made me cringe. I would tell myself that I just happened to write good stuff once in a while. Now, I realize that this writing journey of mine is leading to a colorful destination. I still cringe at the thought of calling myself a writer, but two important things have changed. I am discovering new ways to push through writers' block, inspire my creativity, and discover new sides of my writing. Second, I am becoming more intentional about my writing and putting my work out there with all cold feet and hands.*

*I appreciate my mentor. I love the fact that he is easygoing and down to earth. We had a good laugh through our conversations and exchanged ideas as we worked on the tasks. He is extremely courteous and a very good listener despite his busy schedule. He gave a*

*lot of constructive feedback on my work. Most especially, he always had words of encouragement for me when I expressed fears regarding my work. It made all the difference for me. I was very comfortable working with him and being open about any issue I had. With his support, I built my confidence and discovered new sides of my writing. I discovered new ways to inspire my creativity and learned about different ways to publish my work.*

Praise Tar is a writer who has an interesting relationship with life. She writes poems and short stories on her experiences in everyday life. When she's not reading a good book, scrolling through blogs, or watching a good movie and spending time with loved ones. She also enjoys book discussions. When she reads, the characters are so real to her that she could cry if a character she loves dies.

She hopes to pursue a master's in creative Writing to explore screenwriting and children's literature. Her goal is to inspire and entertain through her work.



## Samuel Akanimoh

Mentor: Chinua Ezenwa-Ohaeto



*The most thoughtful part of the fellowship was the persistence to distribute airtime to participants even if entry into the fellowship was free. It was thoughtful of the organisers to support participants' efforts and encourage them. The regular communication between organisers and mentees was commendable, refreshing and showed the commitment to ensure the fellowship's success. I believe my sense of direction and confidence in creative writing has improved because I now understand my writing process and optimize it. I have improved my ability to analyze my pieces and express the message of my writing in a more relatable way.*

*My mentor, Chinua, is very brilliant. He was able to decipher my writing style and the themes I usually explore. He was very understanding throughout the fellowship. He understood that schedules could be a challenge. Even when I didn't produce my best work, he always encouraged me. He guided me to challenge myself; hence, the diverse styles of writing I explored. He had a funny side; although we didn't share many jokes altogether, it was an awesome experience learning from him. I will remember him for the challenges he pushed me to undertake and overcome.*

*Through the fellowship, I read more books, articles, and poetry in the weeks than I usually do. I attempted different writing styles and themes, which helped me build confidence and insight into new approaches to writing. I was able to focus on the message of my writing and develop pieces that had clear intentions. I now understand how, why, and when to use imageries in writing to better express a scenario.*

Samuel Akanimoh is a creative writer, lover of poetry and music, and a creative designer by practice. He first discovered his passion and interest for writing in his senior year of secondary school and has ever since indulged in reading books centered around poetry and fiction, writing, and performing poetry.

His writing is mostly brief, poignant, relatable, and direct, embedded in themes about life, self-awareness, growth, relationships, love and pain, societal pressures, faith, etc. His writing aims to communicate a clear and relatable message, even to people that ideally do not enjoy poetry. He aims to provoke readers to break from negative social conditioning and stereotypes, to live their best life, not the life they were told was best for them. He writes to encourage readers to love themselves, then love others.

Currently, you can find Samuel encouraging future young adults to make the most of the moment at Teen Talk programmes hosted by the Abuja Literary Society.

## Shitta Faruq Ademola

Mentor: Ayomide 'Wes Oriolowo



*The most surprising part of the fellowship was in the third week when the poem my mentor and I worked on gave me a big win. I used to think I knew much about writing until I started getting feedback from my mentor concerning my works.*

*My mentor really is a beautiful poet I admire, and he shaped my writing into a light. I appreciate my mentor for finding a great amount of time out of the little he has to be of great help. His compliments on my work do make my day fulfilled. I will remember him for his metaphors. I am very confident in writing beautiful metaphors and imagery in my works today. The other aspects of my writing that improved include detailing, precision, and my poetry moving towards being experimental.*

Shitta Faruq Adémólá is a young Muslim poet, phone photographer, budding French linguist, and fiction writer from Nigeria.

He is the author of a forthcoming micro chapbook, "All I Know Is I Am Going to Be Beautiful One Day" (Ghost City Press, 2021), and a chapbook, "Night Club with Dogs" (INKspired, 2021).

His works have appeared or are forthcoming in Jalada Africa, Dream Glow, Serotonin, FERAL, Third Estate Art, Rigorous Magazine, Icefloe Press, and elsewhere. In addition, he is the winner of the 2021 Fitrah review poetry prize, a joint winner in the 2020 Shuzia PenProtest Contest, a joint winner in the 2021 Shuzia redemption poetry contest, and a joint winner IN 10-DAY Poetry challenge (November 2020).

He is a poetry editor at Litround and tweets @shittafaruqade1.



## Theresa Oyim

Mentor: Ishola Abdulwasiu Ayodele



*The fellowship coordinators were very engaging. The airtime and checkups by Dante on WhatsApp were such thoughtful gestures, and one time, Oyinda helped me overcome a block I had when turning in my assignments.*

*With Ishola's support, I was able to diagnose my writing in a way I had never been able to. I now know where my strengths lie and the things I need to work on. My mentor was cool. He was very encouraging and motivating, and I am not even speaking of an aspire to perspire kind of motivation. He was honest with my work which I appreciated a lot.*

*At some point, though, I wished for something different, like if his published stories were one of the materials for our discussions. I was curious about his thought process, the same way he asked me questions*

*like "what were you trying to achieve with this sentence or paragraph?"*

*I'll remember that he said my writing is not basic, and I can do so much with it; this is one validation I can wear as a pendant. I improved with finding stories, ideas, and inspiration. I have a better understanding of plot techniques. When I applied for the fellowship, I said I wanted to stop writing 'watery' plots, and I got some techniques under my belt to 'thicken' my plot.*

Theresa Oyim is a fiction writer based in Lagos, Nigeria. She's an alumna of the 2021 SprinNG Writing Fellowship. She believes storytelling can be fun and still be a means to spark conversations about her faith. She is currently working on a chapbook. When she is not writing, she's probably searching for the Meat Pie with the perfect crust.

## **Tolulope Kayode**

Mentor: Emmanuel Faith



*During the fellowship, I found the meeting with the mentors most thoughtful and engaging. I learned more about how important it is to know what I want to do with my writing. I have learned to examine the way that I write to make it a reproducible process.*

*My mentor is an amazing writer and teacher. He created a very good environment for us to be able to interact and share with him. Through his guidance and the fellowship, I practiced working with deadlines, learned consistency, and interacted with other writers' works to improve mine. I learned to take constructive criticisms and make corrections in my work. I also learned to improve my mindset towards my work and who I am as a writer.*

Tolulope Kayode is a Nigerian Storyteller. She is a poet, writer, and performance artist. She has taken the stage before audiences of various sizes in her community. Her works circle around God, love, life, and loss. She is passionate about health information and awareness, gender equality, and art. Her writing aims to mirror and display people's experiences in ways they can relate to. She was part of the reputable 2021 SprinNG Writing Fellowship, and her work has been featured in the CMDA Lighthouse magazine.

## Torsu Sewornu Cyril

Mentor: Wale Ayinla



*I liked the fellowships' weekly supply of airtime. I was taken aback by this aspect of the fellowship, which contrasts with other fellowships I have engaged in. Also, the communication between leaders of the fellowship and mentees was superb.*

*The programme exposed me to poetry and other aspects of creative writing. My mentor and I reviewed several poems. While doing this, he showed me the best way to read and approach poems. This improved my confidence in reading poetry. In addition, the regular feedback from my works improved my confidence in writing.*

*One of the things I admire about my mentor is his honesty, plain, and direct way of providing reviews. I also admire his patience and relentless effort in assisting me. I learned how to sell myself as a writer, and that consistency is key.*

Torsu Sewornu Cyril is a young Ghanaian poet from Denu in the Volta Region of Ghana. He has a bachelor's degree in Public Health Nutrition from the University of Health and Allied Sciences, Ho. His aim as a writer is to inform, educate, and inspire. He desires to be one of the best writers in his country and for his works to impact the lives of others.

In addition to writing, Torsu loves nature, volleyball, and music. He also has a keen interest in writing plays which he is working to improve.

# Thank you!

We are thankful to the mentees for their honesty and transparency in their feedback about the fellowship and their experiences. We also appreciate you taking the time to read the experiences of the 2021 SprinNG Writing Fellowship mentees. All their thoughts, both positive and identified areas of improvement, will be considered in the upcoming years of our work.

Best,  
The SprinNG Team