



## THE GOLDEN BAOBAB PRIZE

The Golden Baobab Prize is a competitive annual African literary award given to the most talented writers and illustrators of African literature for children. The Prize solicits unpublished stories that are evaluated by a prestigious selection of judges. The best stories and illustrations awarded the Golden Baobab Prize and all other outstanding works are connected with leading publishers and exhibitions in Africa and around the world.

Past and current judges and board advisors include Ama Ata Aidoo, Jay Heale, Paul Zelinsky, Helon Habila, Nana Ayeibia Clark and Maya Ajmera.

## HISTORY

Established in 2008, the Golden Baobab Prize addresses the insufficient supply of African literary content for children age 11 years and below. The Prize has been involved in many initiatives including: global exhibitions of top children's illustrations from the Prize, partnerships to connect promising writers and illustrators with leading African and international publishers, writer's and illustrator's workshops.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Golden Baobab Prize has made magnificent strides in its almost ten years of existence:



~It has inspired the creation of nearly 1,500 African children's stories and illustrations from over 25 African countries.

~ Over fifteen of the Prize's top writers have become published authors, some for the first time, and their children's books are available all over the world, in bookstores across several countries, on Amazon and Worldreader.

~ Golden Baobab's visionary and innovative work has been recognized by many leading international social impact investors. It has also been featured on major international media platforms such as BBC Africa and France 24.

~ The organization's co-founder and executive director Deborah Ahenkorah has been selected as an Echoing Green Fellow, an Aspen New Voices Fellow and a Reach for Change Fellow. She was honored by the Grinnell College Innovator for Social Justice Prize as one of the world's leading young innovators who are contributing to positive social change.

~ The organization has been supported by notable organizations: Global Fund for Children, The African Library Project and the International Board on Books for Young People.

## THE STORY OF GOLDEN BAOBAB



by **Co-founder & Executive Director, Deborah Ahenkorah**

Although Deborah Ahenkorah fell in love with reading the first time she walked into her community library in Osu, Ghana she didn't realize what was missing from its pages until years later: a face like her own.

As a student at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, she cofounded a student-led organization, Project Educate in Africa (PEIA), to provide books to African children. And PEIA shipped thousands of books to over 30 African countries.

As she was organizing a book shipment, she came across one with pictures of a little African girl. And it hit her, that out of the thousands of books they had shipped, this was the first she saw that represented the people the books were going to.

It dawned on her that apart [from how] many children in Africa lacked access to books, there was another problem, possibly the root problem, which is: that there are not enough diverse children's books being produced in Africa, and they are not easily accessible to all children.

She then launched the Golden Baobab Prize (GBP) with the support of her mentor and cofounder, Rama Shagaya. The annual cash prize is

designed to inspire the creation of more African stories by Africans for children to boost literacy, develop creativity, and promote African heritage. She then established the nonprofit Golden Baobab, and African Bureau Stories, a publishing and multimedia company that produces funny, contemporary children's stories that reflect African experiences.

Deborah Ahenkorah has won many recognitions and honors for her work through Golden Baobab.



To read more about us and get in touch:

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