

Longlist for the 2025 Nigeria Prize for Literature Announced

Salawu Olajide
July 23, 2025



The longlist for the 2025 Nigeria Prize for Literature has been announced. Rotating annually across four genres: prose fiction, poetry, drama, and children & literature, this year's edition is focused on Prose Fiction.

Out of the 252 entries received this year, here are the 11 titles that made the cut:

1. **An Unusual Grief** by Yewande Omotoso
2. **Fine Dreams** by Linda Masi
3. **Leave my Bones in Saskatoon** by Michael Afenfia
4. **New York My Village** by Uwem Akpan
5. **PETRICHOR, The Scent of a New Beginning** by Ayo Oyeku
6. **Sanya** by Oyin Olugbile
7. **The Middle Daughter** by Chika Unigwe
8. **The Road to the Country** by Chigozie Obioma
9. **This Motherless Land** by Nikki May
10. **Water Baby** by Chioma Okereke
11. **When We Were Fireflies** by Abubakar Adam Ibrahim

Professor Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo, Chairman of Advisory Board for the Prize, comments:

"In sifting through the 252 submissions, the judges have not only selected 11 books, they have unveiled narratives that embody the standards of literary excellence. These books are windows into

diverse worlds, each brimming with depth, emotion, and craftsmanship. As we move from this longlist to the finalists and ultimately the winner, the journey promises to be one of profound emotional resonance, with each page of these works drawing us closer to a deserving champion. The 2025 edition will surely be a celebration of the power of storytelling at its finest.”

Sponsored by NLNG, the author(s) of the winning book will receive a cash prize of \$100,000 at a grand ball event in October.

