

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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News

Exciting Developments at Muna Kalati: Introducing Readopia!

Muna Kalati is thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of Readopia, an innovative mobile and web application designed to revolutionize access to educational content for young people across Africa. Scheduled for launch by the end of the year, Readopia is set to become a cornerstone in our mission to enhance the creation, publishing, and distribution of culturally rich educational materials.

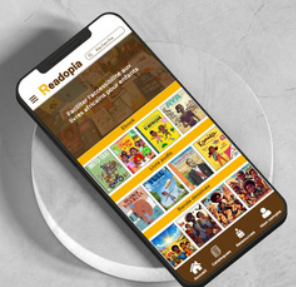
What is Readopia?

Readopia is a centralized platform that provides a vast catalog of educational content tailored specifically for African youth. Our mission is to facilitate the connection between African children and their rich cultural heritage through a variety of multimedia content. The platform includes:

- **Ebooks:** A diverse selection of digital books celebrating African stories, authors, and illustrators.
- **Audio Stories:** Engaging audio content that brings stories to life, perfect for on-the-go listening and accessibility for all readers.
- **Video Content:** Educational and entertaining videos that highlight African culture, history, and identity.

Bridging the Gap

In many parts of Africa, access to quality children's content is limited. Readopia aims to bridge this gap by offering materials in multiple languages and formats, ensuring that every child, regardless of their background or location, can enjoy and benefit from these resources. By promoting literacy and celebrating African identity, Readopia will play a crucial role in fostering a love for reading and learning among young Africans.



News

Impact of Audiobook Innovation in the Caribbean: An Interview with Manick Siar-Titeca

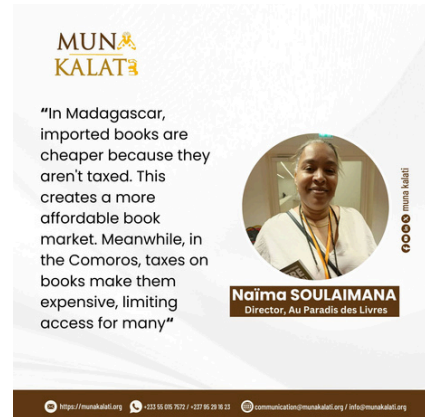
Manick SIAR-TITECA, president of "One Voice, One Story," is changing the way people experience literature in the Caribbean!

Their innovative audiobook platform offers African and Afro-Caribbean stories, fostering a love of reading and making learning fun.

In this interview we learnt;

- ✓ How "One Voice, One Story" is making audiobooks a hit across the Caribbean islands.
- ✓ Their creative program motivates even reluctant readers through audiobook creation!
- ✓ The challenges Manick faced in launching this groundbreaking initiative and her advice for aspiring entrepreneurs.

➔ [Read the full story here](#)



Challenges and Innovations in the Comoros Book Industry: An Interview with Naïma SOULAIMANA

Naïma SOULAIMANA, director of "Au Paradis des Livres" bookstore in the Comoros, is a passionate advocate for bringing books to young readers! At the Abidjan International Book Fair, she shared her journey and the challenges the Comorian book industry faces.

Here's a glimpse into what you'll learn:

- ✓ How SOULAIMANA's bookstore transformed from a necessity to a haven for young readers
- ✓ The surprising reason why books are a luxury in the Comoros Islands
- ✓ Inspiring examples from other African countries that could revolutionize the Comorian book market
- ✓ SOULAIMANA's vision for a future filled with accessible literature for all Comorian children

[Read full story here.](#)

News

Meet Sarah Afua Kittoe, an Inspirational 11-year-old British-Ghanaian Author and Philanthropist

British-Ghanaian author, Sarah Afua Kittoe has written four books, donating all proceeds to charity.

Sarah began writing during the pandemic and is now making a difference through her philanthropy.

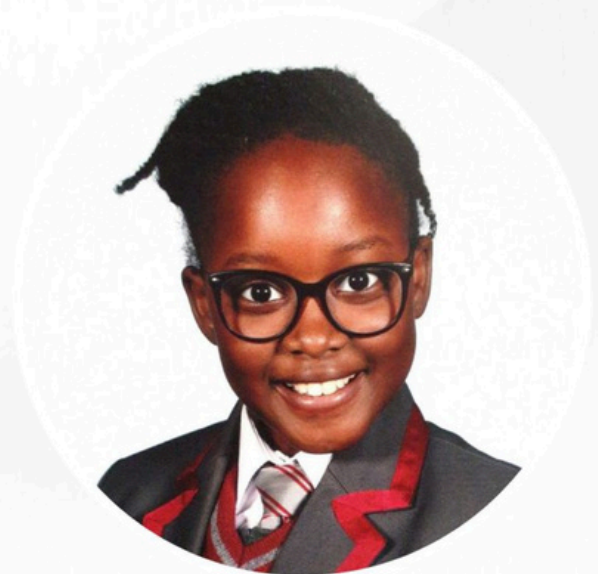
Recently, Sarah's generosity reached Ghana, equipping her father's old school with new computers and a collection of her books.

Interested in knowing more?

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



“People should start reading books written by Africans because Western books about Africa may not interpret African culture accurately.”



Sarah Afua Kittoe
Children's Book Author

Industry Insights



Photo Credit: Daily Maverick

How Book Dash is reimagining publishing to get South African children to read

Every young child should have access to books. It is this belief that drives the actions of social impact publisher Book Dash, which has embarked on its largest print run yet of 609,000 storybooks this month.

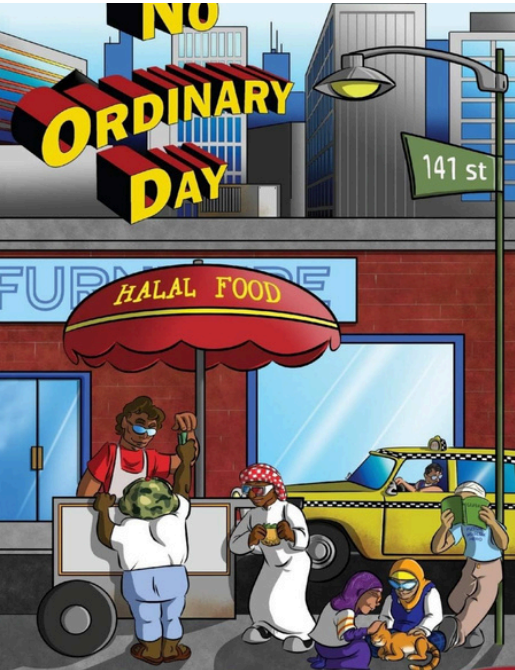
The massive undertaking marks two major milestones for the nonprofit organisation: its 10th anniversary and the printing of its four-millionth book.

The Book Dash team is dedicated to addressing the severe book shortage facing young South Africans. An estimated two-thirds of homes with young children do not have a single children's book, which means most children entering primary school have already lost out on important early learning experiences.

Source: Daily Maverick

[Click here to read more.](#)

Author Spotlight



Meet George Green

George Green is an African American published children's book author and Co-Founder of **Little Global People**, a business established to provide educational books, games, and workshops for kids and youth, centered around developing values and highlighting people of color.

He has published 8 books and created two educational card games and a puzzle. All his products are for black children.

[Learn More about George Green here](#)

Employee Spotlight

Meet Our Colleague

Meet Scortia Quansah, a Researcher in Children's Literature & Digital Storytelling, passionately dedicated to celebrating African culture through literature.

As the pioneer of the LET'S READ & WRITE initiative, she inspires countless children to discover the joy of reading and writing.

At Muna Kalati, the Premier Voice of African Children's Books, under Kabod Group, Scortia leads the Research Unit, forging innovative connections with African Children's Book Professionals.

With a rich background as an English Language Instructor and Literacy Advocate, Scortia has developed immersive, educational content that empowers learners to excel in speaking and writing.



The graphic features the Muna Kalati logo at the top left. On the left side, there is a dark brown vertical bar containing the name 'Scortia Quansah' in white text within a yellow-bordered box, a circular portrait of Scortia, and her title 'Research & Partnership Officer' in white text. On the right side, the title 'Employee Spotlight' is displayed in large black and yellow font. Below this, three yellow star icons precede three paragraphs of text describing her interests and work philosophy. At the bottom right, there are social media icons for Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, and X, followed by the text 'muna kalati'.

MUNA KALATI

Employee Spotlight

Scortia Quansah

Research & Partnership Officer

In her spare time, Scortia enjoys spending time reading books and listening to music.

She believes learning is a lifelong process. She strives for growth on daily basis and enjoy learning. Discovering and learning something new makes the day fun and exciting for me.

The most rewarding part of her job is discharging her task with diligence and be a blessing to all she engages with on a personal or professional level.

muna kalati

Tips

Engaging Young Readers – Creative ways to capture the reading interest of children

1. Interactive Storytelling Sessions: Organize regular storytelling sessions where books are read aloud with enthusiasm and dramatization. Use different voices for characters, sound effects, and props to make the story come alive. Encouraging children to participate by predicting what happens next or acting out parts of the story can keep them engaged and excited about reading.

2. Incorporate Multimedia Elements: Combine traditional reading with technology by using interactive e-books or storybook apps. These often include animations, sound effects, and interactive elements that can enhance the reading experience and capture children's attention. Watching book-related videos or listening to audiobooks can also diversify their engagement with stories.

3. Create Themed Reading Challenges: Design themed reading challenges, such as a "Reading Bingo" card or a scavenger hunt where children must find and read books with specific characteristics (e.g., a book with an animal character, a book set in Africa). Offering rewards or certificates for completing challenges can motivate young readers to participate.

4. Involve Children in Story Creation: Encourage children to become storytellers themselves by involving them in creating their own stories. This can be done through group writing activities, where each child contributes a part of the story, or through individual projects where they write and illustrate their own books. This creative process can spark their imagination and deepen their love for stories.

5. Integrate Reading with Arts and Crafts: Pair reading sessions with related arts and crafts activities. For example, after reading a book about animals, children can create their own animal masks or drawings. Craft projects that relate to the story they've read help solidify their understanding and enjoyment of the book, making the experience more memorable and engaging.

Resources & Opportunities

2024 Queen Mary Wasafiri New Writing Prize

[Learn more here](#)

Five Continents Prize 2025

[Learn more here](#)

The Miles Morland Foundation Writing Scholarship

[Learn more and apply here](#)

Gently Rippling Waves - The Prize

[Learn more here](#)

African Writers Conference 2024 - Kigali, Rwanda

[Learn more here.](#)

Fun Facts



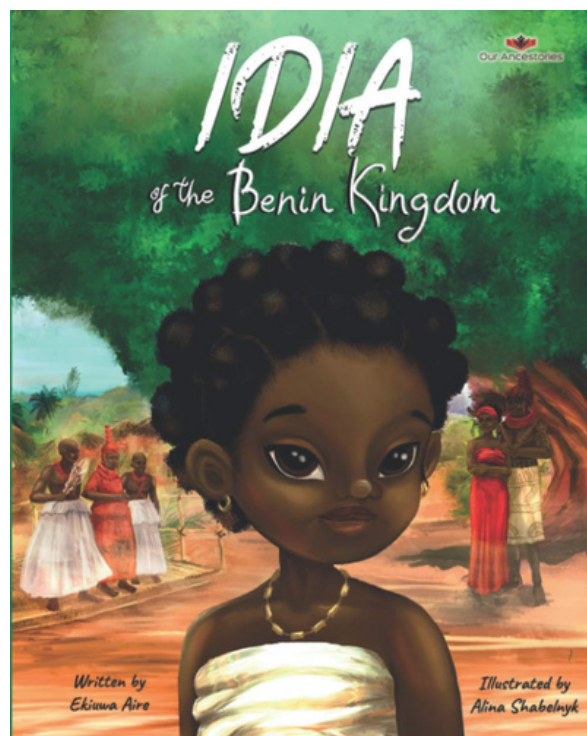
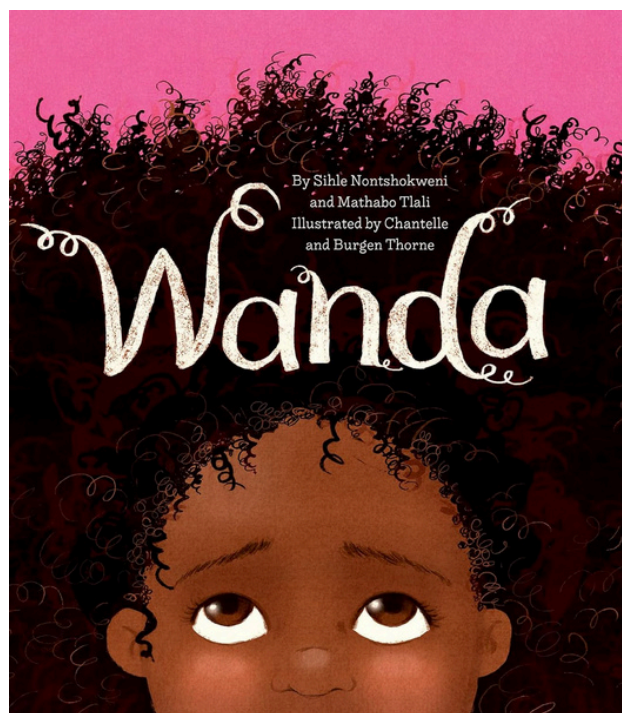
Long before the invention of paper, Africans were preserving knowledge! In Ethiopia, around the 4th century AD, the Kingdom of Aksum / Axum used parchment scrolls to document their history and religious texts. These scrolls were kept in churches and monasteries, acting as some of the earliest libraries on the continent. **[Read more here.](#)**

While audiobooks are a modern invention, Africans have a long history of oral storytelling traditions. Griots, or professional storytellers, would memorize and pass down histories, epics, and poems for generations. These stories were not just entertainment, but a way to educate younger generations about culture and traditions. **[Read more here.](#)**

In recent times, many African children's books are being published in multiple languages, including English and local African languages like Twi, Swahili, Hausa, or Zulu. This approach promotes literacy by allowing children to learn to read in a familiar language while being exposed to a new one. **[Find some here.](#)**



Book List



Our Services

At Muna Kalati, we are dedicated to supporting African book professionals in their journey to success. Here's how our comprehensive services can help you thrive in the competitive literary market.

Targeted Marketing Strategies: Custom marketing plans to reach and engage your readers through digital campaigns, social media, and influencer collaborations.

Brand Development and Positioning: Craft a unique and compelling brand identity with our help, including brand identity creation, logo design, and storytelling.

Social Media Management: Stay active and engaging on social media with our content creation, community engagement, and analytics tracking services.

Book Launch and Promotion: Ensure a successful book launch with our strategic planning, media outreach, and event coordination.

Join Us and Grow with Muna Kalati

We are passionate about empowering African children book professionals and fostering a vibrant literary ecosystem. Whether you are just starting out or are an established professional, Muna Kalati is here to support you every step of the way.

Ready to elevate your literary career? Contact us today to learn more about our services and membership plans!

Email: communication@munakalati.org

Website: www.munakalati.org

ABOUT US


Muna Kalati is a thriving international book publishing community established in 2017 as a way to help children book publishing professionals (writers, illustrators, publishers, booksellers etc.) to feel connected, learn new things, grow professionally, and improve their prospects.

We increase access to children's books and enhance the visibility of children's book professionals in Africa through research, advocacy, and collaborative initiatives.

In 2024 we launched Muna Kalati Agency, a marketing arm offering event management and programming, digital and social media marketing, book launches, project management, book translation, copywriting, and copy-editing services.

Muna Kalati strives to foster a literary ecosystem that celebrates African storytelling and promotes literacy and education for children across the continent.

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