

Abana ba ipula

Children of wax



Southern African Folktales

Wiehan de Jager

AGNES CHIBAMBA

2

IciBemba / English



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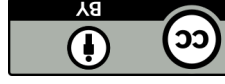
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Patile akantu, kwali ulupwa ulwaleikala  
ulwasansamuka.

...

Once upon a time, there lived a happy  
family.

Tabatalile abalwa bekebeka. Baleyafwa  
abafyashi babo pa ng'anda na mu ibala.  
...  
They never fought with each other.  
They helped their parents at home and  
in the fields.

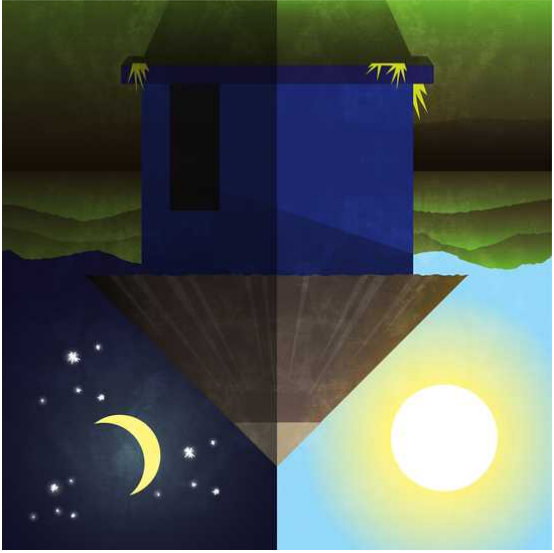




Lelo tabasuminishiwe ukupalama ku mulilo.

...

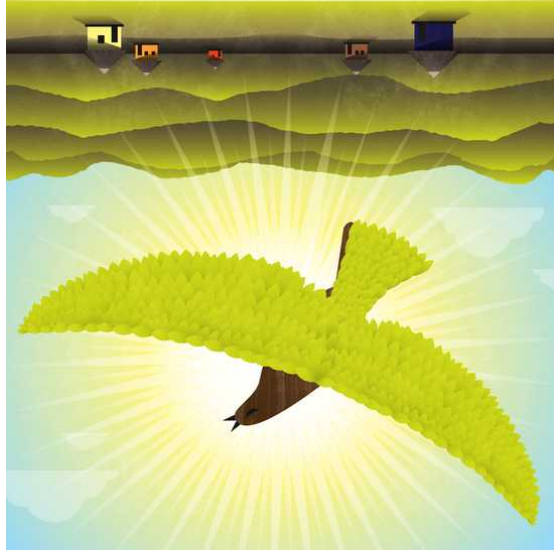
But they were not allowed to go near a fire.



Balebomba imilimo yabo yonse  
ubushiku. Pantu bapangilwe na ipula.

...

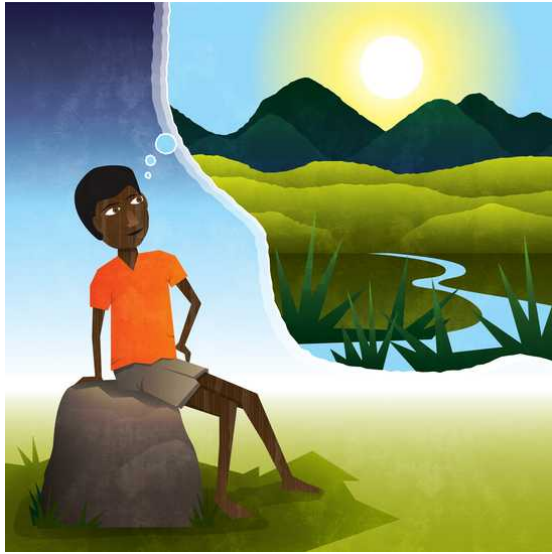
They had to do all their work during the  
night. Because they were made of wax!



Elyo lintu akasuba katulile, alipupwike  
aleimba mu cengelo ca luelo.

...

And as the sun rose, he flew away  
singing into the morning light.



Lelo umulumendo umo alifulwike ukuya  
panse mu kasuba.

...

But one of the boys longed to go out in  
the sunlight.



Balisendele ndume yabo mu cuuni pa  
mulu walupili ulutali.

...

They took their bird brother up to a  
high mountain.



Bushiku bumo ukufuluka kwalicilimo.  
Ba ndume yakwe balimcengshe.

...

One day the longing was too strong. His  
brothers warned him...



Lelo balyumfwene. Balipangile icuuni  
ukufuma ku ipula ilya sungulwike.

...

But they made a plan. They shaped the  
lump of melted wax into a bird.



Lelo inshita yalipitile kale. Alisungulwike mu kasuba akakaba.

...

But it was too late! He melted in the hot sun.



Abana ba ipula bali ababulanda pakumona uko ndume yabo alesunguluka.

...

The wax children were so sad to see their brother melting away.