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Ijoolee gagaa / Children of wax

Southern African Folktale

Wiehan de Jager

Demoze Degefa (om)

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Afan Oromo om / English en

Yeroo took matii gammachudhan jiratu tokkotu ture.

. . .

Once upon a time, there lived a happy family.

Wal-lolani hinbekan. Matii isaani manatis ta’e allati nigargaaru.

. . .

They never fought with each other. They helped their parents at home and in the fields.

Garuu gara ibbiddati siquu dhorgamani turan.

. . .

But they were not allowed to go near a fire.

Akkuma addun bateen sirbaa balali’aa deeman.

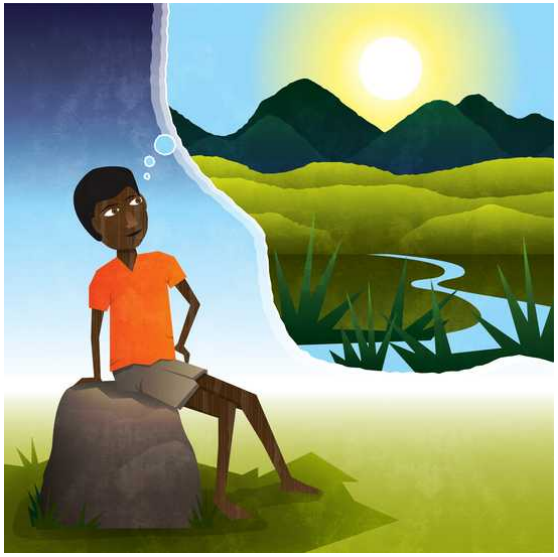
. . .

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

Hojii isaani halkan hojachuu qaban. Sababin isaas matiin kuni gagaa irra hojataman!

. . .

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



Isaan kessaa mucaan tokko garu gara adduti bahuu fedhee ture.

. . .

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

Obbolessa isaani simbirro kan gara gaara guddaa gessan.

. . .

They took their bird brother up to a high mountain.

Sagantaa qaban turan. Gagaa baqee sana gara simbrooti gedaran.

. . .

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

Kessaahu gaftokko bayee hawee garu obbolawan isaa isa dhorgan.

. . .

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

Dhorgam suni bayee ture. Muccichi addu kessati baqee jira.

. . .

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

Ijooleen gaga yeroo obbolessi isani baqu argudhan bayee aaran.

. . .

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