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Abana b'ibishashara / Children of

wax

✎ Southern African Folktales

✉ Wiehan de Jager

✉ Patrick Munyurangabo (rw)



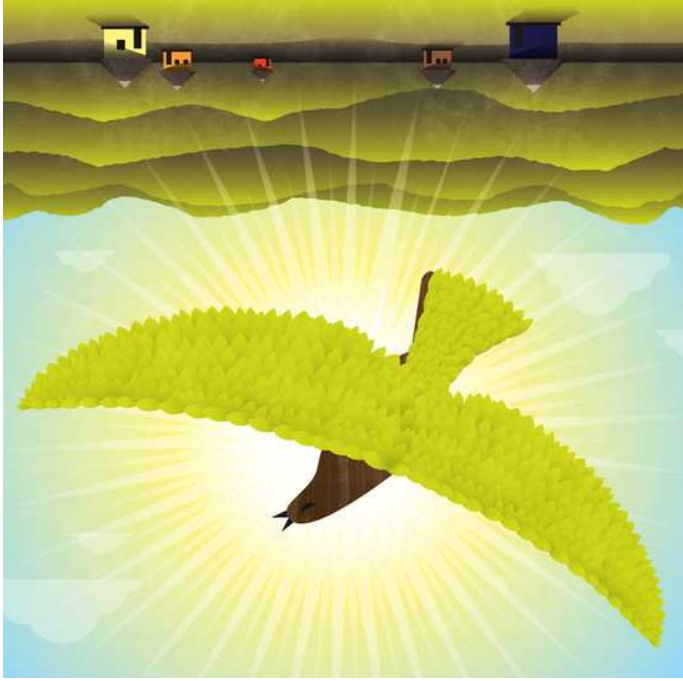
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Abana b'ibishashara

Children of wax



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🗣️ Ikinyarwanda / English rw en



kera, habayeho umuryango wishimye.

...

Once upon a time, there lived a happy family.

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

...

Ntibigeraga barwana hagati yabo.
Bafashaga ababyeyi babo murugo no
mu imirima.

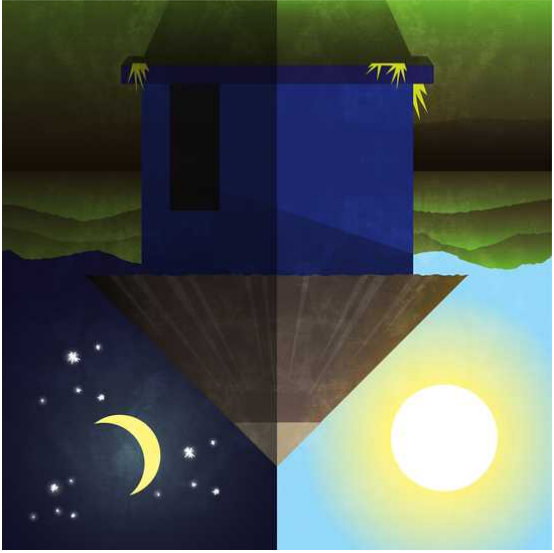




Ariko ntibari bemerewe kwegera hafi umuriro.

...

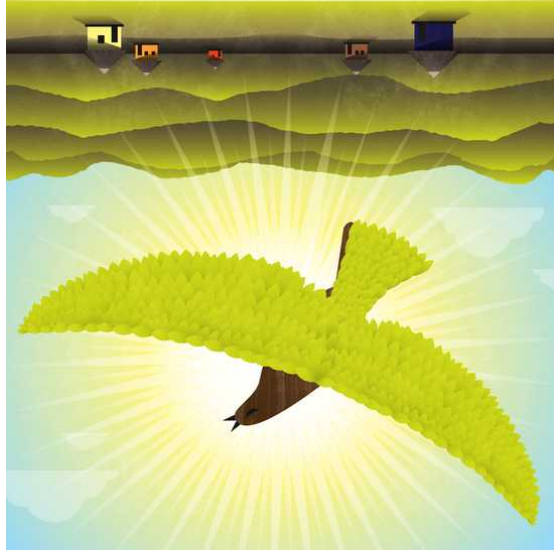
But they were not allowed to go near a fire.



Bagombaga gukora imirimo yabo yose
mu ijoro. Kuberako bari bakozwe mu
ibishashara!

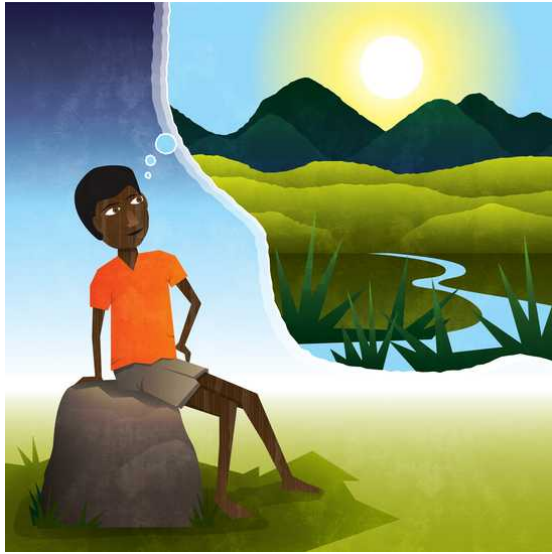
...

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



Ubwu izuba ryacyaga, yaguritse
arimba mu urumuri rw'igitondo.
...

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



Ariko umwe mu bahungu yifuzaga
cyane kujya hanze kuzuba.

...

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



Batwaye muzaza wabo w'inyoni hejuru
k'umusozi.

...

They took their bird brother up to a
high mountain.



Umunsi umwe kwifuza byari bikomeye
cyane. Basaza be baramuburiye...

...

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



Ariko bakoze umpangu. Bakozemo
ibishashara bya yonze mo inyoni.

...

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



Ariko byari bitinze! Yarayonze mu izuba rishyushye.

...

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



Abana b'ibishashara barababaye kubona umuvandimwe wabo ayonga.

...

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