



Abana ba ipula

Children of wax

 Southern African Folktale

 Wiehan de Jager

 AGNES CHIBAMBA

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 IciBemba [bem](#) / English [en](#)



Patile akantu, kwali ulupwa ulwaleikala
ulwasansamuka.

...

Once upon a time, there lived a happy family.

Tabatalile abalwa bekabeka. 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!



Lelo umulumendo umo alifulwike ukuya
panse mu kasuba.

...

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



Bushiku bumo ukufuluka kwalicililemo. Ba ndume yakwe balimucengeshe.

...

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

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.



Lelo balyumfwene. Balipangile icuuni ukufuma ku ipula ilya sungulwike.

...

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



Balisendele ndume yabo mu cuuni pa mulu walupili ulutali.

...

They took their bird brother up to a high mountain.



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

...

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



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