



Abana b'enimba

Children of wax

 Southern African Folktale

 Wiehan de Jager

 Amos Mubunga Kambere

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 Olukonjo [koo](#) / English [en](#)



Kera kera habya omuyi mughuma owabya
ikere n'obutseme.

...

Once upon a time, there lived a happy family.

Isibalihwa kutse eritsumangana. Abana
ibakawathikaya ababuthi babo eka kandi
n'omwirima.



...

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



Aliryo isibalikiriribawa erighenda hakuhi
nomuliro.

...

But they were not allowed to go near a fire.



Ibakakolha emibiri yabo yomwakiro.
Kusangwa babya bakolire omw'animba
eyikanyegha.

...

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



Neryo omughuma okwabalhwana abya
inyanzire erighenda okwamwisi.

...

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



Nimwanabya anzire erighenda okwamwisi, baghalha babu mubamuhabulha ambu sikiwene, kusangwa omwisi akanyeghaya enimba.

...

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

Obuthuku buthebwaya buli, neryo
mw'anyegha okwamwisi.

...

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





Ikwa abana abenimba mubahunerera
bakalhangira mughalha wabubo akany'enga
neribbumbutuka.

...

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



Abasighalha mubathwa obwenge. Enimba eyabbumbutukira ahisi mubathwamu erikolha ekinyonyi.

...

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



Mubathwalha ekinyonyi kighalhakyabubo
okw'akithwa.

...

They took their bird brother up to a high
mountain.



Neryo eryuba mulyalenga, ekinyonyi nakyo
mukyaghulhuka neryimba kuhikya
omwangyakya.

...

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



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