



# Bana ba kerese


## Children of wax

 Southern African Folktale

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 Setswana tn-na / English en



Bogologolo tala go kile ga nna lelapa lengwe le le itumetseng.

...

Once upon a time, there lived a happy family.

Ba ne ba sa rate ntwá mme ba ne ba thusa  
batsadi ba bona kwa gae le kwa masimong.

...

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





Mme ba ne ba sa letlelelwa go atamela fa thoko ga molelo.

...

But they were not allowed to go near a fire.



Ba ne ba letlelelwa fela go dira ditiro tsa bona bosigo. Ka gone ba ne ba bopilwe ka kerese.

...

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



Mme mongwe wa basimane o ne a eletsa go bona letsatsi.

...

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



Ka letsatsi lengwe keletso ya gagwe e ne ya oketsega. Basimane ba bangwe ba ne ba mo kgalema...

...

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

Mme go ne so setse go le thari! O ne a tlhapologa  
mo letsatsing.

...

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







Bana ba kerese ba ne ba utlwa botlhoko go bona  
o mongwe a tlhapologa.

...

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



Mme ba ne ba dira leano. Ba ne ba tsaya kerese  
eo ba e aga go nna nonyane.

...

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



Ba ile ba tsaya nonyane e ba e isa kwa godimo ga thaba.

...

They took their bird brother up to a high mountain.



Fa letsatsi le tlhaba, o ile a fofela godima a opela  
a itumetse.

...

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



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