




Abana b'enimba

Children of wax



Southern African Folktales 

Wiehan de Jager 

Amos Mubunga Kambere 

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Olukonjo  / English 




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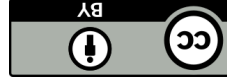
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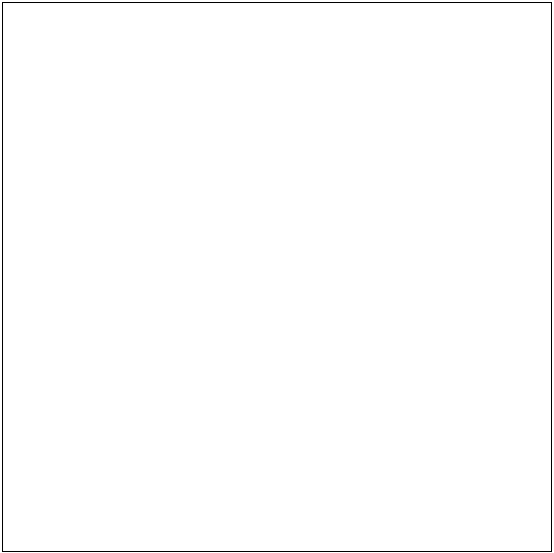




Kera kera habya omuyi mughuma
owabya ikere n'obutseme.

...

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 isibalikiribawa erighenda hakuhi
nomuliro.

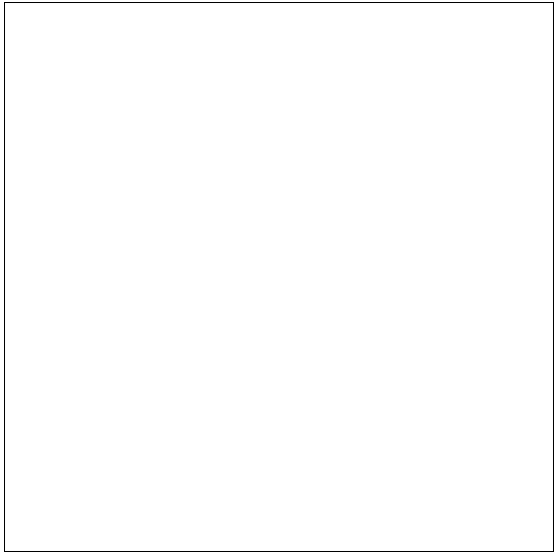
...

But they were not allowed to go near a
fire.

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

...

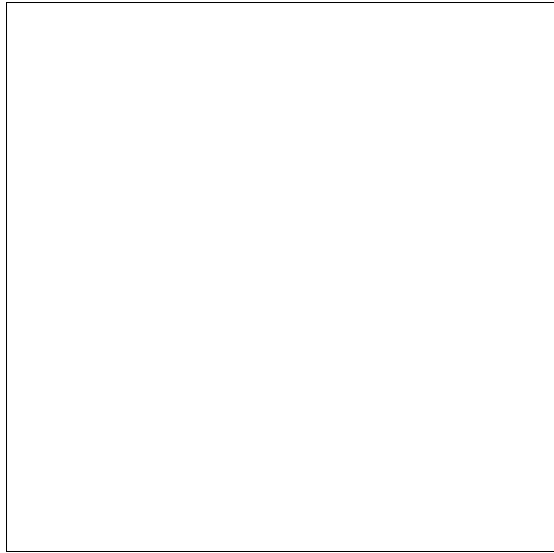
Ibakakolha emibiri yabo yomwakiro.
kusangwa babya bakolire omw'animba
eyikanyegha.



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

...

Neryo eryuba mulyalenga, ekinyonyi
nakyo mukyaghuhuka neryimba
kuhikya omwangyakya.





Neryo omughuma okwabalhwana abya
inyanzire erighenda okwamwisi.

...

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



Mubathwalha ekinyonyi
kighalhakyabubo okw'akithwa.

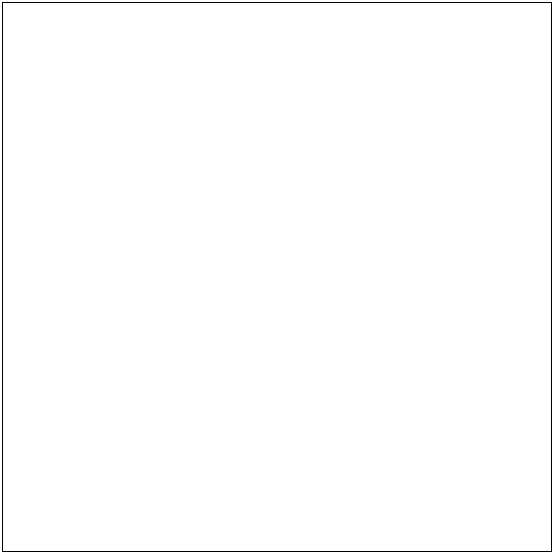
...

They took their bird brother up to a
high mountain.

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

...

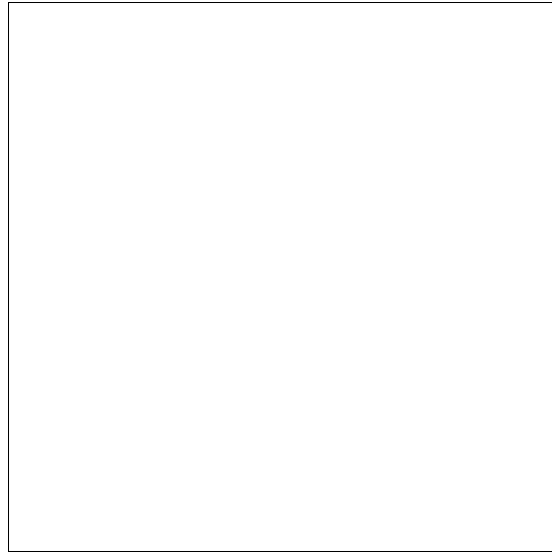
Nimwanabya anzire erighenda
okwammwisi, baghalha babu
mubamuhabulha ambu sikiwene,
kusangwa omwisi akanyeghaya enimba.



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

...

Abasighalha mubathwa obwenge.
Enimba eyabbumbutukira ahisi
mubathwamu erikolha ekinonyi.

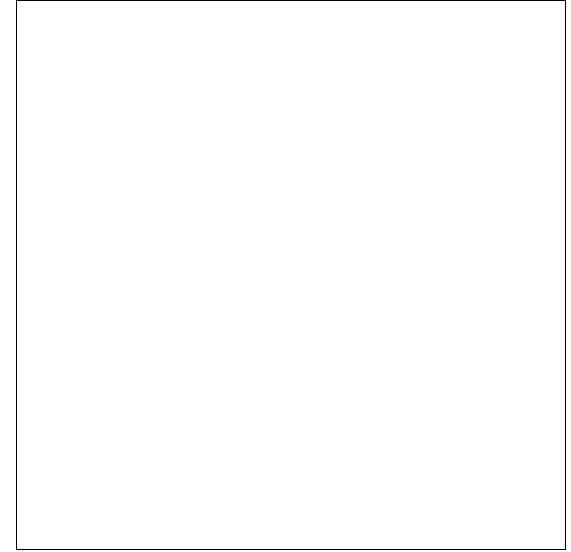




Obuthuku buthebwabya buli, neryo
mw'anyegha okwamwisi.

...

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.