



Children of wax

Southern African Folktale
English

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.

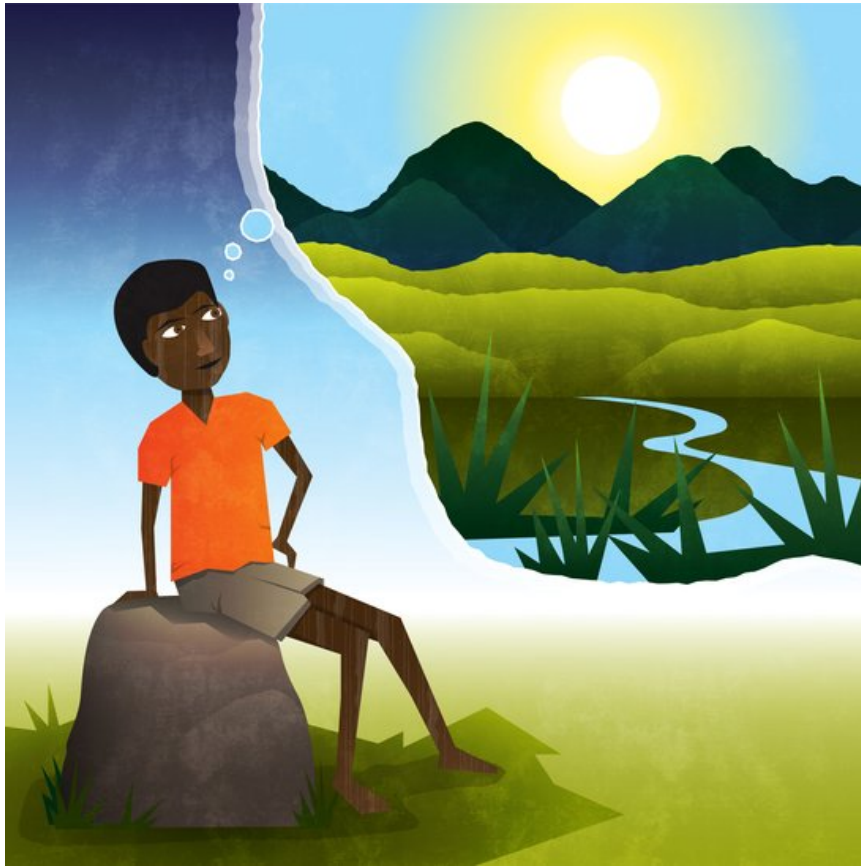
But they were not allowed to go near a fire.





They had to do all their work during the night.

Because they were made of wax!



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

One day the longing was too strong. His brother and sister warned him...





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

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





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

They took their bird brother
up to a high mountain.





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

Children of wax

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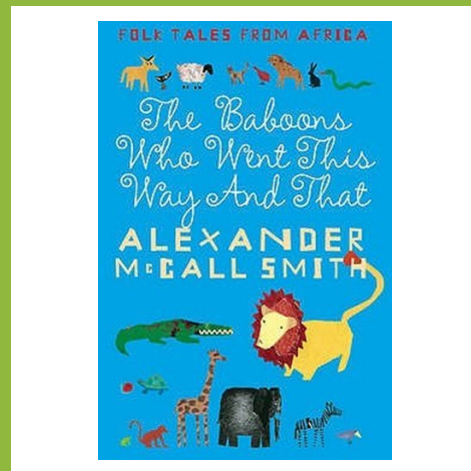
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An excellent version to read aloud to children is the story Children of Wax in Alexander McCall Smith's book of folktales: The Baboons Who Went This Way and That (Canongate, 2006).

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