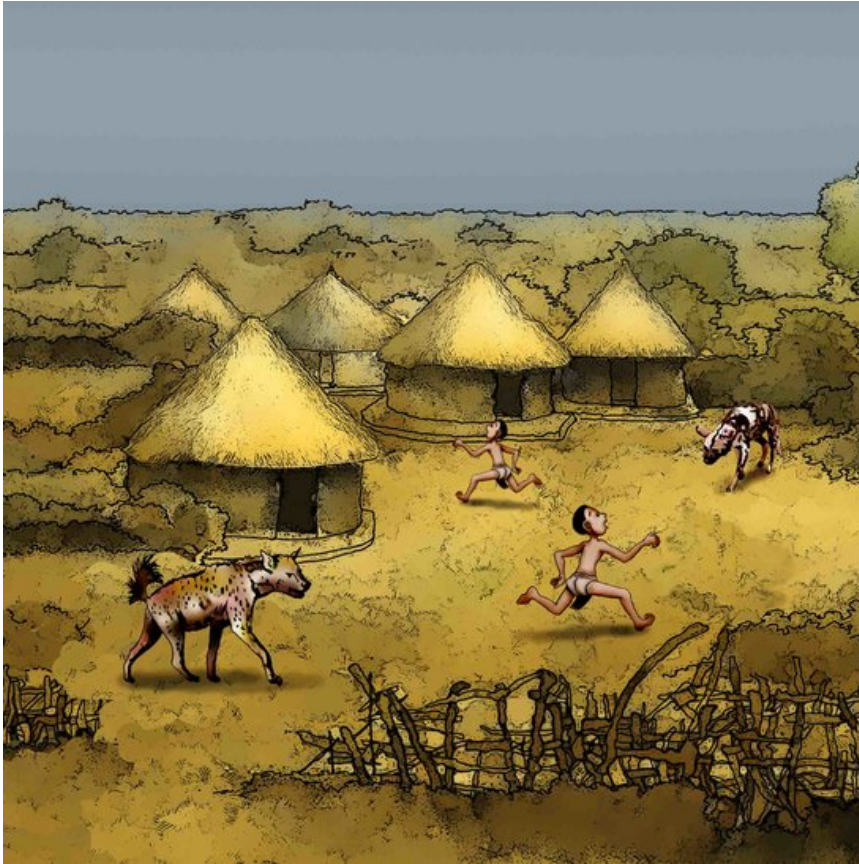


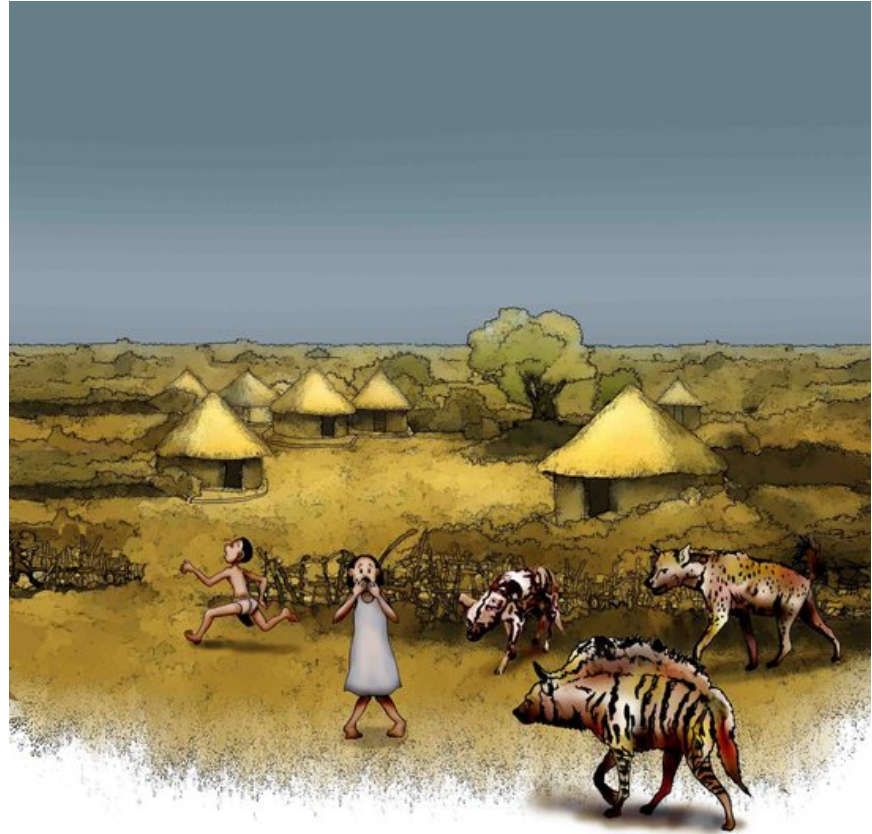
Izimfene ezaziya le na le

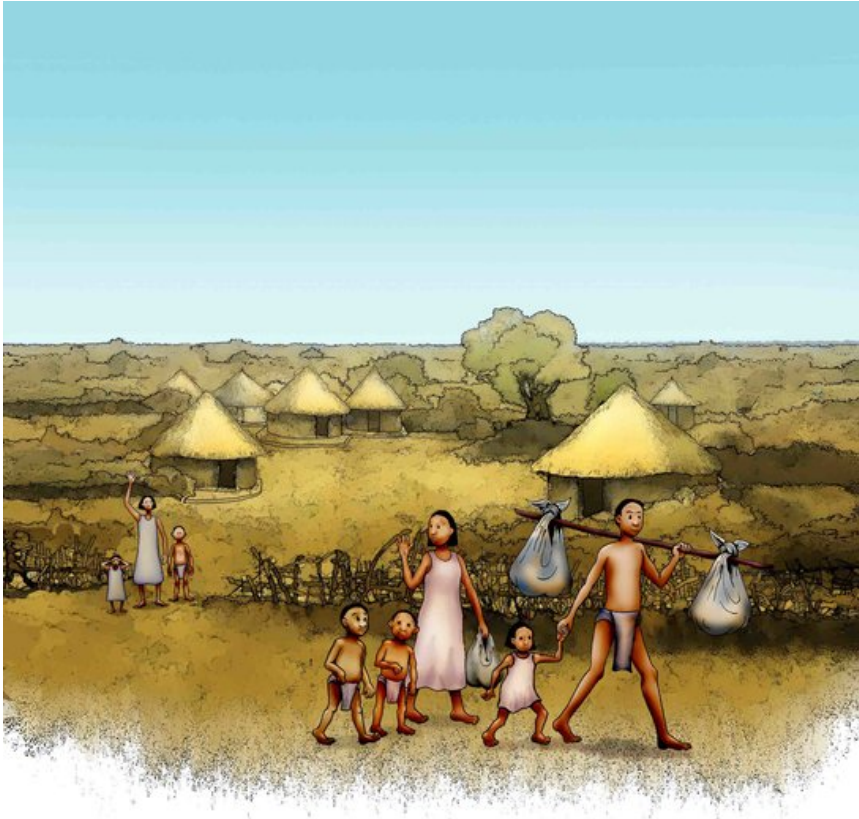
Southern African Folktale
isiZulu



Kwakukhona ilizwe elikude. Abantu bakhona babehlala ezindlini ezincane behlale bejabule. Emva kweminyaka, bazithola bengathokozile ngenxa yezilwane zasendle ezazifika zibesabise.

Lezizilwane zazifika zidle izitshalo zize zithathe nabantwana abancane zibaleke nabo. Kwakungasesiyo indawo ephephile neze; kodwa ke babengayaphi?





Umndeni owodwa wathola isu lokuyohlala entabeni. Kwakulula ukuthola ukudla khona.

Kwakumila izitshalo phakathi
namatshe.
Ihlanze lamila eceleni kwegquma.
Kwakunonogwaja kanye nezinyoni
ababengazidla.





Eminyane imindeni yabona ukuthi bahlezi kahle laba abahlala entabeni. "Imnandi impilo laphaya intabeni," kusho indoda ehlala entabeni. "Nani kumele nizohlala khona."

Ngokushesha neminye imindeni yashiya amakhaya ayo yanyukela entabeni . Umndeni ngamunye wathola umgede, abafika bahlala kuwo bathokomala futhi baphepha.





Ngokushesha izingane zabe
sezikwazi ukugibela amatshe,
nokukha izithelo ezihlahleni.
Basebekwazi ukushibeka ezihlahleni
njengezinkawu.

Kancane kancane izinto zashintsha.
Izingane zangabe zisakhuluma
kodwa zase ziqale ukubhonga .
Abazali babonana amakhala abo
ekhula, bemila noboya. Behamba
ngezandla kanye nezinyawo.





Njalo uma bebukana babebonana ukuthi amazinyo abo ayakhula.

Bashintsha baba izidalwa ezintsha ezazingakaze zibonwe, baphenduka izimfene.





Baphila kahle isikhathi eside
beyizimfene ezikhululekile. Bayeka
ukugijimisa onogwaja nezinyoni.

Bagcina bekhohliwe nokuthi kuhanjwa kanjani. Bayeka ukukhuluma nokugqoka izingubo ngoba imilenze yabo yayimide futhi inoboya obumnyama.

Kodwa babesakhumbula ukuthi
babengabantu. Babebukana
amakhala amade bahlekane.





Loyo owayehlekwa waye gxuma
gxuma ukudinwa.
Kwahamba isikhashana bangakwazi
ukuhlala ndawonye ngenxa
yokuchwensana.
Umndeni ngamunye wahlukana.

Yingakho nje nanamuhla izimfene zingaphili njengesizwe sezimfene kodwa ngamaqoqana amancane.



Izimfene ezaziya le na le

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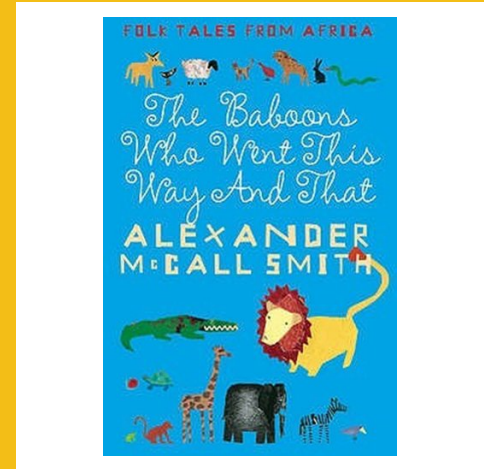
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An excellent version to read aloud to children is the story "The Baboons Who Went This Way and That" in Alexander McCall Smith's book of folktales: *The Baboons Who Went This Way and That* (Canongate, 2006)

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