

# Bana ba me

"Bana ba me!"

"Mma?"

"Tlong gae!"

"Re a tshaba!"

"Lo tshabang?"

"Ditau."

"Di kae?"

"Ke tsele."

"Di rweleng?"

"Dikgobe."

"Tse dint seng jang?"

"Tse ditshweu."

"Tlang hela selo, seo ga se ditau ke dintša!"

"Yay!"





## About the rhyme

This is a call-and-response rhyme used in a group catching game. The rhyme is a conversation between a mother and her children.

The game starts with one player (the mother) standing on one side of an open space. Most of the other players (her children) stand on the opposite side, while a few players (the lions/dogs) stand in the space between the mother and her children. In this part of the game, the mother calls out to her children to come home. They respond by saying that they are afraid of the lions that they see. The mother asks her children to describe the animals they see and then tells them that they are not lions at all, but rather dogs, so the children should not be afraid.

The children then start to walk home (towards their mother on the other side). As they do this, the players who are the lions/dogs chase the children and try to catch them before they can reach their mother. Those who are caught, join the lions/dogs in the middle for the next round of the game. The game continues until all the children have been caught.

- Mother: My children! (*Bana ba me!*)  
Children: Mother? (*Mma?*)  
Mother: Come home! (*Tlong gae!*)  
Children: We are scared! (*Re a tshaba!*)  
Mother: What are you scared of? (*Lo tshabang?*)  
Children: Lions. (*Ditau.*)  
Mother: Where are they? (*Di kae?*)  
Children (pointing): They are there. (*Ke tsele.*)  
Mother: What are they wearing? (*Di rweleng?*)  
Children: Veldskoene.\* (*Dikgobe.*)  
Mother: What do they look like? (*Tse dint seng jang?*)  
Children: They are white. (*Tse ditshweu.*)  
Mother: Just come home, they are not lions, they are dogs!  
(*Tlang hela selo, seo ga se ditau ke dintša!*)  
Children (running): Yay! (*Yay!*)

\*Veldskoene are strong suede or leather shoes.

