

More Than Anything Else



A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Hard Work, Goal Setting, African American History

Grade Level: 3rd to 5th grade

Book Brief: The story of a young boy and his dream to read.

Author: Marie Bradby

Illustrator: Chris K. Soentpiet

Content Connections: Social Studies



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the time period in which the story is set and what they think the little boy on the front cover is thinking about. What could the title mean?

The Pictures: Show the picture on the dedication page. Discuss what students see here: "Where is the little boy?" "What do you notice about him?"

Prior Knowledge: Explain that this story takes place around 1865 in West Virginia (show on a map). In 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation was issued and former slaves were granted freedom. Use a KWL chart (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KWL_table) to find out how much students know about this time period. List any questions they have.

Vocabulary: tales, barrels, coopers, lantern, saltworks

Purpose for Reading: "As we read today, think about how Booker's feelings change as he learns to read."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why is the salt so important?
- ◆ What do you notice about the workers at the saltworks?
- ◆ Why is the frog important? Why do you think the author included it?

- ◆ What types of stories do you think the people in town are telling?
- ◆ Why are the people gathered around the man with the newspaper?
- ◆ Where do you think Booker's mom got the book?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Revisit the purpose: "How do Booker's feelings change as he learns to read? What evidence can you find in the text to support your answer?"

Extending Our Thinking: Encourage students to explore the text more deeply by asking critical thinking questions.

- ◆ What do the pictures tell us about Booker's family?
- ◆ Why do you think Booker wanted to learn how to read?
- ◆ In the story, Booker says, "I have jumped into another world and am saved." What does he mean by that?
- ◆ How would being able to read change Booker's life?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.

