**Title:** More Than Anything Else  
**Author's name:** Marie Bradby  
**Publisher:** Scholastic  
**Copyright year:** 1995  
**Reading level:** 2nd grade  
**Genre:** Multi-Cultural

**Synopsis of Story:** A fictionalized story about the life of young Booker T. Washington. Living in a West Virginia settlement after emancipation, nine-year old Booker travels by lantern light to the salt works, where he labors from dawn till dusk. Although his stomach rumbles, his real hunger is his intense desire to learn and read...Bradby's text is eloquent, presenting phrases and spinning images that capture the intense feelings in the story...All of the images, underscored by a dramatic use of shadow and light, work with the words to create a moving and inspirational story. (Starred Review, School Library Journal)

**Theme:** Reading

**Activity One:**  
**Source:** http://www.soentpiet.com/more.htm  
**Standard:** Social Studies 2.3.5 Identify map symbols for land and water forms and give examples of these physical features in the local community.  
**Objective:** Students will work on math as well as location.  
1. **Description of activity:** Have the students plan a trip to Malden, West Virginia. Ask them to estimate the miles, how long will it take, what they need to bring -- food, clothes, entertainment items, books etc. What do the think they will see along the way -- will the see rivers, mountains, lakes, deserts, plains, farms, factories, cities etc.

**Activity Two:**  
**Source:** http://www.soentpiet.com/more.htm  
**Standard:** English 2.7.8 Retell stories, including characters, setting, and plot.  
**Objective:** Students will work on their communication skills.  
2. **Description of activity:** Booker, Papa and John work all day as laborers at a salt mine. Coal miners, river men, loggers and coppers all gather in town to hear the newspaper man. Talk with a laborer whose work is physically demanding. Write their story of how they became day laborer.