

# More Than Anything Else

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

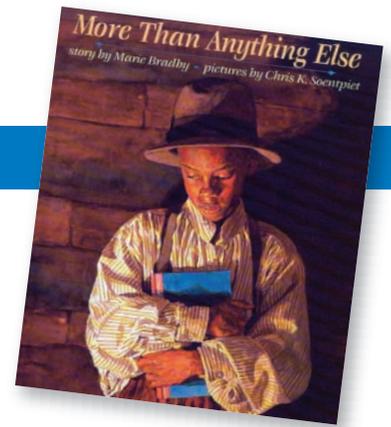
**Themes:** Hard Work, Goal Setting, African American History

**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



## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading, make connections:** Discuss what it means to want something very badly. What does your child think the boy in the

story wants “more than anything else”?

**While reading, look at the pictures:** Notice what the pictures tell you about Booker and his family. How did they live? What was important to them?

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Why do you think Booker had to work all day at the age of 9?
- ◆ Why was Booker not in school?
- ◆ Why does he want to read?
- ◆ Where do you think his mom got the book?
- ◆ What might have happened if the newspaper man hadn't come?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### EASY CORN CAKES

Ingredients: 2 c. sifted flour, 3 tsp. baking powder, 1 tsp. salt, 2 eggs (beaten), 1 can cream style corn, 2 c. milk, 1/4 c. melted butter

1. Combine dry ingredients; set aside.
2. Combine eggs, corn, milk, butter. Mix wet and dry ingredients.
3. Fry on slightly greased skillet until golden brown, turning once.

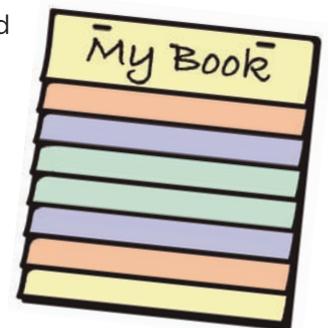
### OUT AND ABOUT

In Booker's time, some children worked as hard as adults. What type of job could your child do to help someone out? Cut the grass? Water plants? Carry groceries?

### CREATE A LAYERED BOOK

Materials: 4 sheets of paper, stapler

1. Stack 4 sheets of paper so the bottom of each sheet is 1 inch higher than the sheet below it.
2. Fold the sheets down and line up the edges so all layers are the same distance apart. You should have 7 1-inch strips and a big strip on top.
3. When your layers are lined up, crease the paper. Staple at the top near the crease. Fill the book with pictures and your own story.



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

*Some Friend* (2007), *Once Upon a Farm* (2002), *Momma, Where Are You From?* (2000).



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