

# ***MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE***

## Teacher Guide

### Before You Read Questions:

This book is about a boy who wants something more than anything else. Jot down what you want more than anything else on a Post-it note.

Show the cover, and have the students take note of the time period.

### During Reading:

After page 1, predict what you think the main character wants more than anything else.

What does the main character want?

Infer why the young child does not have what he wants.

What does the main character mean when he says, "I think there is a secret in those books"?

Why does the man reading a newspaper represent hope to the young boy?

How do both the boy's mother and the newspaper man help the young boy?

### After Reading:

Tell the students that this story is a fictionalized story about Booker T. Washington as a child. Tell the students about Washington's life (he worked hard and learned to read and write, finished school and graduated college, and started the Tuskegee Institute, a school for African Americans.) Find more information here:

[http://www.ducksters.com/biography/booker\\_t\\_washington.php](http://www.ducksters.com/biography/booker_t_washington.php).

Discuss how what the boy wanted compares to their own wants.

Discuss how his motivation and attitude as shown in the book affected his later success in life.

# THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT

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Make a list of all of the qualities you have:

Make a list of your hobbies:

Make a list of any special talents you have (no matter how common they seem):

# THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT

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The most important thing about me is that I

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I

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I also

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But the most important thing about me is that I

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**THE NEXT TWO PAGES INCLUDE TWO DIFFERENT PUBLISHING PAGES FOR *THE IMPORTANT BOOK*. THE LINED BOX IS FOR THE POEM THE STUDENTS DRAFTED, AND THE OTHER BOX IS FOR AN ILLUSTRATION.**

# THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT

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Lined writing area with 18 horizontal lines.

Blank writing area.

# THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT

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A large rectangular box containing ten horizontal lines for writing.

A large empty rectangular box for drawing or additional notes.

# BACK TO SCHOOL

Directions: Write about your first day of school experience. Include enough facts and details that someone from another country would have a clear picture of your first day of school and the traditions and customs of your community and family.

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# EACH KINDNESS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain the meaning of the phrase from the book. Use examples from your life to help illustrate your explanation.


“Each kindness makes the world a little bit better.”

A large rectangular writing area with a decorative border. The border consists of a solid black line with wavy, scalloped edges and a dashed black line just inside it. Inside the dashed line, there are ten horizontal solid black lines for writing.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# EACH KINDNESS



How can you show kindness at home?



How can you show kindness at school?



How can you show kindness in public?



Why is showing even small acts of kindness important?

# VOICE LEVEL CHART

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Level	Where do you use this voice level?	For what purpose do you use this voice level?
Whisper		
6-Inch		
Table-Talk		
Strong Speaker		
Outside		

Use with *Decibella*



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Thanks!  
Jennifer Findley

