**30 Days: Coal Mining**

1. What percent of the electricity produced in the United States comes from coal?
2. What is the pay of a typical West Virginia coal miner?
3. What is the biggest health risk of mining?
4. Why was Morgan given a medallion with his name on it before he entered the mine?
5. Describe the physical conditions of the mine, including temperature, smell, and visibility.
6. Explain the statement that coal miners need a “strong back and a weak mind.”
7. What two airborne pollutants are released by the mining that are flammable?
   1. How is the danger of explosion minimized?
8. How important is coal mining to the West Virginia economy?
9. What is “pillaring” and “retreat mining” and why is it so dangerous?
10. What is “rock dusting”, and why is it so important to the safety of the mine?
11. In general, do the miners want their kids to follow in their footsteps?
12. The coal miner that Morgan stays with writes his wife a note every day. Morgan adopts this practice, writing his wife a postcard every day before he leaves for the mine. What is the reason for doing this?
13. Most of the coal miners do not use a respirator. Why? What did Morgan’s respirator look like after an hour of work?
14. What are slurry ponds? Does the slurry ever reach the river system?
15. Explain how surface mining works.
16. How does Black Lung Disease affect the physical health of the miners?
17. What happened in the mine when the fans shut down?
18. After a visit to the health clinic, Dale finds out he has the beginnings of Black Lung Disease in both lungs. Why can’t Dale retire to avoid the worsening of this disease?