

Seabiscuit

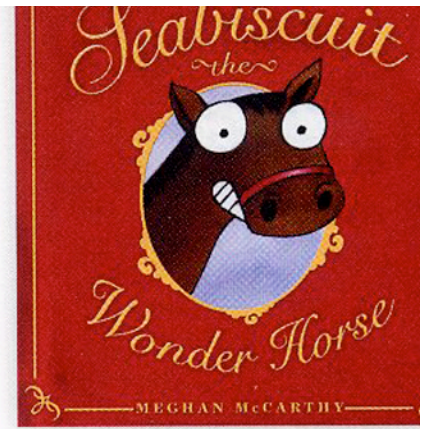
The Wonder Horse

Written and illustrated by Meghan McCarthy

Published by Schuster • ISBN: 9781416933601 • Dewey: 798.40092'9 • 40 pp • 9" x 10"

Recommended Reading Month: January

During the Great Depression, millions of Americans were down on their luck and less. "Going to the racetrack was the perfect escape. People came from far and to watch their favorite horses race. The horses were sleek, elegant, muscular, bred, and fast. REAL FAST. Except one. His name was Seabiscuit. He loved to and sleep but hated to run." And yet this lazy, funny-looking horse went on to re an entire nation. Author's note. Sources. Full-color acrylic paint illustrations.



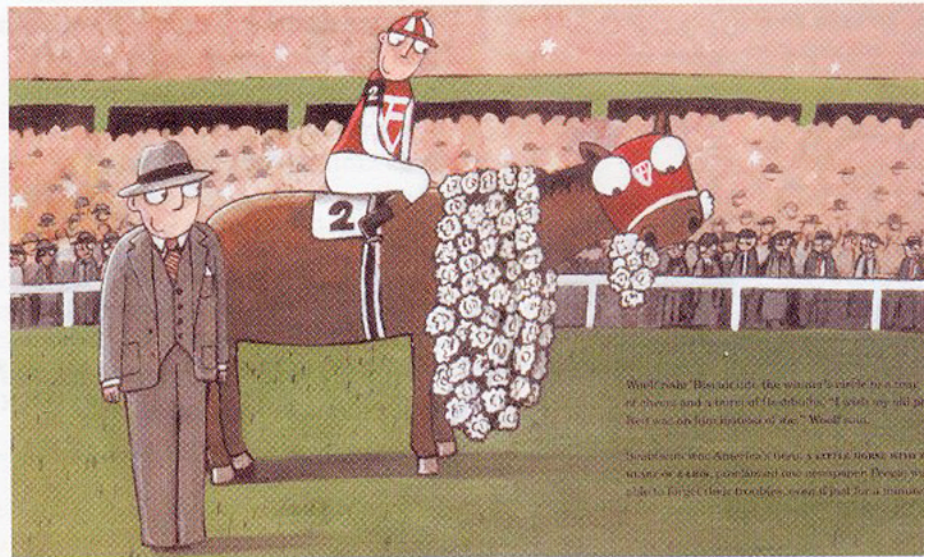
JLG REVIEW

Seabiscuit: The Wonder Horse, the eyes have it. As in her previous work, Meghan McCarthy's charming illustrations depict everyone—horses included—as having d, oversized eyes. This exaggerated feature creates a sense of vulnerability is particularly effective at conveying the widespread angst experienced ng the Great Depression. McCarthy also includes black-and-white illustrated otographs" arranged as if in a scrapbook from the era. These visual techniques anize a time period that might otherwise seem distant to young readers. abiscuit's story is a classic, inspirational American tale, and McCarthy tells it fully. Few people thought the temperamental horse would amount to much, but sinessman named Charles Howard saw potential in Seabiscuit. Then Seabiscuit's ier and jockey brought in animal "friends" to calm the lonely Seabiscuit and ivated him with competition against other horses. Soon Seabiscuit grew from a irascible animal to a swift, gentle hero. cCarthy concisely describes why iscuit's rise to fame endeared him to the n-and-out American public: "Wow, a e that looked just like them! Beat-up. erfect. An underdog. A horse with courage!" iscuit's victory didn't lift the country out of Depression, but McCarthy points out how eful people were to be able to "forget their bles, even if just for a minute." Ultimately, *Seabiscuit* is both a great story and a ment to the power of a great story.

Meghan McCarthy says the challenge in creating *Seabiscuit: The Wonder Horse* was making the art silly and full of kid appeal while still taking the Seabiscuit story seriously. "It is a hard task to make the subject fun and silly, without making it too serious. That's why I maintain the utmost respect for my chosen subjects. I did an immense amount of research for the book, read every horse book and article I could get my hands on, and did extensive photo research. As with all of my nonfiction books, I hope the reader will learn something new but do so without knowing it. The best kind of learning is the kind that is effortless."



Ms. McCarthy lives in Brooklyn, New York. For more about this author visit www.meghan-mccarthy.com



CURRICULUM INDICATIONS

Book type: Picture book.

Genre: Narrative nonfiction.

Characters: Seabiscuit, a horse with many flaws; Charles Howard

Curriculum areas: Language arts.

Classroom units: Competition. Animals. Winners. Sports.

Topics: The Depression. Horse racing. Seabiscuit. Taking chances. Pro