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*Seabiscuit* the Movie Sends Powerful Message

The movie *Seabiscuit* accurately portrays the way many Americans viewed the real racing horse's story. On-screen Seabiscuit is depicted as an underdog—one against whom the odds are already stacked. For example, he is much smaller than his competitors and is determined unfit to race by many of the country's best trainers. As he begins to find success on the track, it's not the wealthy who flock in masses to see him, but rather the middle-class who is struggling as a result of the bad economy. Viewers see the track overrun with fans and people across the country huddling around their radios to listen to the action (*Seabiscuit*). The real financial hardships of the Great Depression certainly left middle-class citizens feeling vulnerable and weak. In fact, at its peak, the depression left one fourth of America's workforce without a job, and those who were still working experienced drastic wage cuts (Hardman). When the real Seabiscuit faced War Admiral in 1938, the race was seen by many as “the East Coast establishment of bankers and their beautiful horses versus a nation of disillusioned have-nots who championed a hero that had been beat up just like them” (Lovgren). Seeing this connection on screen helps the viewer understand just how difficult life was during the Great Depression and how inspiring a story like Seabiscuit's would have been to people who had lost a lot.

Works Cited

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