

HACKMATAACK

2006

No Small Thing

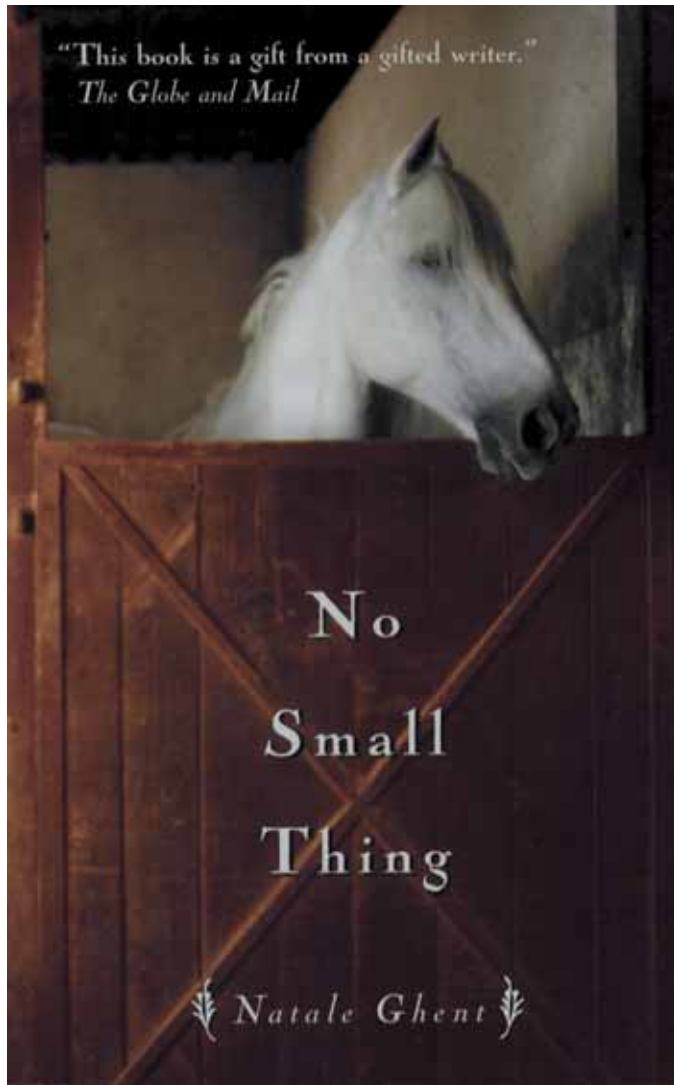
by **Natale Ghent**

When 12-year-old Nathaniel and his two sisters, Cid and Queenie, discover an ad for a free pony in the paper, they can hardly believe their luck. The children and their mother have very little money because their father left them four years earlier and now they are struggling to get by. The kids don't tell their mom that they are going to get the pony because she will say no and that it costs too much to care for. Even when their mother lets them keep it, life is a struggle. The pony gives them hope and a reason to stop bickering...until a fire destroys the barn...

The book is based on a true story. "When I was young, my two sisters and I answered an ad for a free pony. We walked out to the country to get it and rode it home without telling our mother. That was the beginning of a very exciting adventure for us."

Thematic links:

Horses, care of
Siblings, sibling rivalry
Poverty
Love
Endurance
Coming of age



Activity Ideas:

- Discuss how you would respond to an ad for a free pony.
- What would you do if you really wanted something but knew your parents would say no?
- Research types of horses and ponies.
- Create a small one-act play based on one part of the book that you really like.
- The boy mentions ghosts several times in the story. Have you ever seen a ghost? Have you ever been afraid of ghosts?