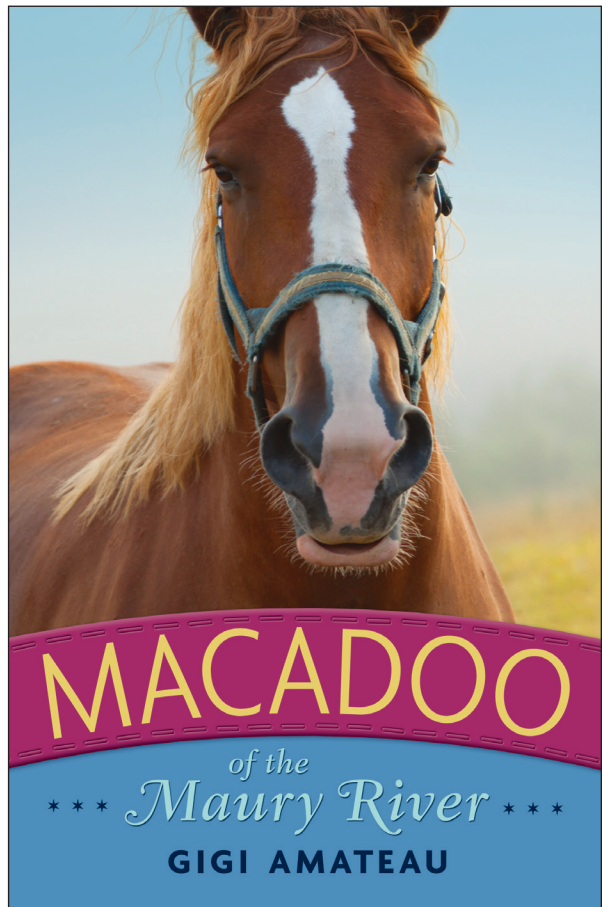


MACADOO *of the Maury River*

by **GIGI AMATEAU**

Sired by a headstrong stallion and nurtured by a loving mare, Macadoo was born on a breeding farm in Alberta, Canada. But Maury River Stables in Virginia is where this great Belgian finds his purpose in life: to help and to serve, especially children in need. Despite early struggles and losses, or maybe because of them, Macadoo learns how to “walk on” through his own troubles and to guide others along the same path.

Told from Macadoo’s point of view, this heart-tugging horse story is a companion novel to *Chancey of the Maury River*, which was selected for the William Allen White master list and praised by the *Voice of Youth Advocates* as “earnest, heartfelt, and uplifting.”



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E-book: 978-0-7636-5661-4

COMMON CORE

If used in the classroom, this guide is suitable for large or small groups and will help your students meet several of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts. These include the reading literature standards for key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integration of knowledge and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL), as well as the speaking and listening standards for comprehension and collaboration and for presentation of knowledge and ideas (CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL). You may also use the questions as writing prompts for independent work.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

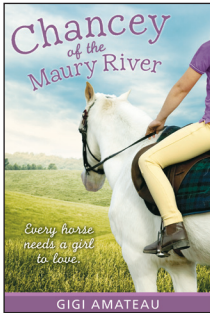
1. Macadoo is the narrator of his own story. How is a horse's perspective on the world different from a human's? If Macadoo could visit your neighborhood, what would catch his eye?
2. After his first and only meeting with his father, Macadoo ends up with a badly chewed-up ear. Why does the stallion maim his son?
3. "If you don't find your purpose, son," says Macadoo's father, "you'll end up like me" (page 9). How did Macadoo's father lose his way? Why does he believe that his life has no purpose? Is he right or wrong? Why?
4. Machines now do most of the jobs that Belgian horses once did. What sort of work is still being done by animals? What jobs that are currently performed by humans can you imagine machines doing in the future?
5. Izzy and Macadoo were separated from their mothers at an early age, and both are growing up without fathers. How does each cope with his loss? How do they help each other recover?
6. "I've lived my entire life in fear of tomorrow," Macadoo's mother tells him (page 42). Why was she always afraid of the future? After she and Macadoo separate, what do you imagine happens to her?
7. "Equines need to belong," Macadoo realizes (page 45). "We are whole when we are part of the whole." Is the same also true for humans? Do you need to be around others in order to feel fully yourself? Do some people make you feel more like yourself?
8. Macadoo understands human speech, but he can't speak it himself. How does he communicate with people?
9. "Helping others is what makes you great," Macadoo's mother tells her son when he is a yearling (page 15). "That's your purpose." How does he keep proving her right?
10. Why does Izzy show Mira Stella, the wonderful star, to Macadoo? What makes the star distinctive? How does it bring hope and comfort to Macadoo?
11. "Mrs. Maiden says you change people's lives in the therapeutic school," Macadoo says to his friend Gwen (page 144). How does Macadoo himself change Eric's life? How does he change Claire's? How do they change his?
12. What role does the Virginia countryside play in this novel? How does it affect Macadoo? How does it help others heal?
13. Macadoo has his mother's gentleness, but he is also his father's son. When does he demonstrate the fighting side of his breeding? Why? How does the incident also illustrate what makes him so different from his father?
14. Belgian horses like Macadoo need a purpose, and so do humans. When Izzy grows up, what is his purpose? What would you like your purpose to be when you're an adult?
15. The book ends with the wish that Macadoo makes every night. Do you think it will come true? Why or why not?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Gigi Amateau is a Virginian, a horse owner, and the author of *Chancey of the Maury River*, as well as the acclaimed novels *Come August, Come Freedom*; *A Certain Strain of Peculiar*; and *Claiming Georgia Tate*.

PRAISE FOR *CHANCEY OF THE MAURY RIVER*



“The . . . horse story is revived to magnificent effect in this moving novel.” — *The Horn Book*

“A highly enjoyable read.”— *School Library Journal*

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