



Reader's Guide

Jubilee

The FIRST
Therapy Horse
and an Olympic Dream

BY KT JOHNSTON
ILLUSTRATED BY ANABELLA ORTIZ

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. Animals have personalities, just like people. What sort of personality did Jubilee need to have in order to help Lis?
2. Have you ever ridden a horse? Why do you suppose the motions of riding can help with building muscles? Which muscles can be helped by riding?



3. Why is it important to set many small goals instead of one large goal?
4. What are all the ways in which Lis was “first”?
5. After reading the Author’s Note, describe what might have happened—or not happened—if Lis had decided not to enter the ring at the 1952 Olympics.
6. If you were going to look up more information about this story at the library or on the internet, what keywords would you use in your search?

FUN FACTS ABOUT JUBILEE

- Jubilee was bred by Otto Viller Petersen in 1943 for the purpose of everyday riding, not competition. She was sired by an English Thoroughbred named Rockwood, out of a Danish half-breed Oldenburg mare of unknown pedigree. She was what they call a “warmblood” horse, which is a cross between a breed with a hot-blooded (feisty) temperament (e.g., Arabian, Thoroughbred) and a cold-blooded (calm) breed (e.g., a draft breed).
- The 1952 Olympics’ rules changes not only allowed women and civilians to compete, but also added two new required steps, raising the bar for what Lis and Jubilee had to perform. With her long back, Jubilee struggled to lift her hind feet high for the piaffe. Luckily for Lis and Jubilee, since the piaffe had not been required previously, all of the other competitors had to work extra hard on it as well.
- There is a picture of one of the horseshoes Jubilee wore during their famous Olympic win at www.ktjohnston.com/jubilee !



ASK THE AUTHOR

Do you have a horse and do you ride dressage?

- Like many of us, when I was young I wanted a horse, though I never had one. However, my best friend did! I rode English and Western for recreation, but never knew about dressage. I wish I had!

Why did you want to tell Jubilee and Lis's story?

- Hippotherapy, a word that combines the Greek words for 'horse' and 'treatment,' is an amazing rehabilitative tool. I wanted to highlight the pair who pioneered it and was responsible for bringing it to the world's attention!

MORE HISTORY

- The exhibition of equestrian skills dates back to the 5th century BCE. Beginning in the 15th century, dressage exhibitions were an opportunity for military officers and nobility to showcase their battle skills. Dressage became an Olympic sport in 1912.
- Poliomyelitis is a contagious disease spread by a virus that attacks the nervous system. In 5% of cases there are no symptoms. Most others suffer flu-like symptoms that go away within 10 days. In 1% of cases, the virus affects the spinal cord and can result in lasting paralysis like Lis's.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KT Johnston is the author of **Railway Jack: The True Story of an Amazing Baboon**, a Bank Street “Best Children’s Books of the Year”; a nominee for SCASL’s Children’s Book Award; a finalist for WLA’s Towner Award; and an Amazon “Best Nonfiction for Kids.” KT has a degree in biology and conducted wildlife studies before settling into a corporate career. KT hopes to inspire others to be compassionate and curious about our world, one true story at a time. ktjohnston.com

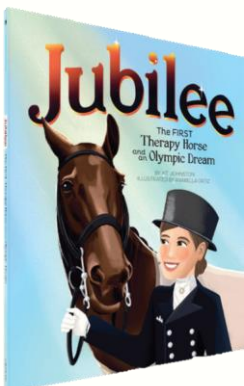


ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Anabella Ortiz is an illustrator and designer based in upstate South Carolina. She studied illustration in Savannah, Georgia, and turned that passion into a career. Anabella enjoys collaborating with authors to bring their stories to life through illustrations that captivate and inspire. Having a positive impact in the world through illustration is her goal. When she’s not creating, you can find Anabella at a concert, enjoying the outdoors, or petting her two cats. anabellaortiz.com

ACCOLADES

 A Junior Library Guild Selection



“**Jubilee** is beautifully written and tells the true story about my grandmother’s partnership with her beloved horse, and her journey from being a polio-stricken young mother confined to a wheelchair, to fighting her way up to a podium spot in the Olympics ... all with the help of the horse, Jubilee.” —*Lis Hartel's granddaughter*

“With themes of disability, special needs, illness, this book has considerable classroom potential.” —*Kim Childress*

“Regardless of whether or not young readers themselves have a disability, the book is inspiring. The life of Lis Hartel is also a story about perseverance, hard work, overcoming obstacles, and believing in yourself. These are universal traits that all children can embrace and emulate.” —*Multicultural Children's Books*

“Kids living with disabilities will see how someone else with disabilities shaped her life. Kids currently living without disabilities will see that disability doesn’t define someone.” —*Nerdy Book Club*

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