

My name is Annie Klepper. I'm twelve years old and from a small town in Ohio. I ride a German Riding pony mare named Gigi. It has always been a dream of mine to ride with Lisa Wilcox, my idol. Thanks to an extremely generous scholarship from D4K, I was able to make my dream a reality. My family and I packed up and hit the road to Virginia. Thirteen hours and an unfortunate broken down truck/trailer, Gigi got settled in, and I was ready to ride the next day. Lisa was incredible. She taught me a new way to ride. From her I gathered a clearer understanding of elasticity and a light connection. I learned more about the horse's muscles - such as when the muscle releases, an easy contact is developed. She reminded me to loosen my thighs to help get Gigi more forward. She also appreciated color coordinating as much as Lendon(; Lisa drastically improved any horse she rode, and I was star struck when she rode Gigi. During my lesson, Gigi and I had never clicked so profoundly. Everything became so much lighter and easier. Through correct stretching in the warm up, Gigi and I significantly improved upon all three gaits. I learned so much from sitting through the other lessons as well. I met kind and interesting people, beautiful horses, and gained so much information. I cannot thank Lendon Gray and D4K enough for this incredible opportunity. It wouldn't have been possible without her help.

-Annie Klepper and Gigi