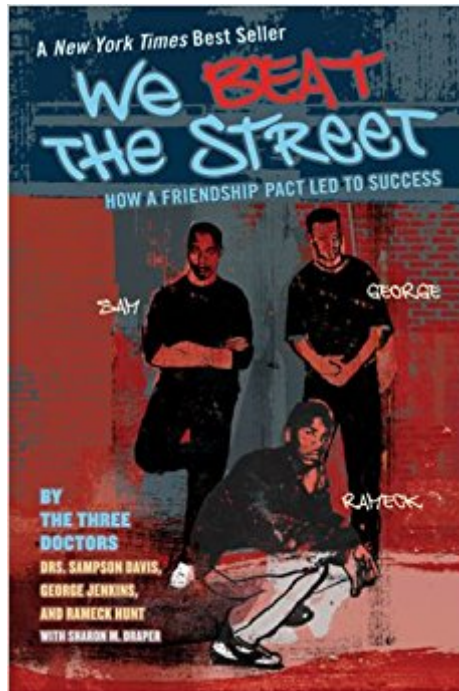




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# We Beat The Street: How A Friendship Pact Led To Success



## Synopsis

Growing up on the rough streets of Newark, New Jersey, Rameck, George, and Sampson could easily have followed their childhood friends into drug dealing, gangs, and prison. But when a presentation at their school made the three boys aware of the opportunities available to them in the medical and dental professions, they made a pact among themselves that they would become doctors. It took a lot of determination and a lot of support from one another but despite all the hardships along the way, the three succeeded. Retold with the help of an award-winning author, this younger adaptation of the adult hit novel *The Pact* is a hard-hitting, powerful, and inspirational book that will speak to young readers everywhere.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up The Three Doctors, as the subjects of this inspirational book call both themselves and their nonprofit foundation, grew up in a tough neighborhood in Newark, NJ. Draper tells an epiphanic story featuring each of the young men by turn, followed by his comments on how a single event affected him across time. Davis, for instance, remembers the hospital where he later became an emergency-medicine physician as the same one where his foot was treated after an incident when he was six. Hunt recalls first meeting Sampson and Jenkins in ninth grade. Jenkins tells of the friends' success at moving from high school to college. Draper adds dialogue and evokes the pivotal moment in each vignette as though it were a scene in one of her realistic novels. The book takes the young men through college and medical school and into their careers. While Jenkins seems relatively calm and serious from the beginning, Hunt found himself in trouble right into

medical school. Davis had trouble getting an emergency-medicine internship and then found himself back in his Newark neighborhood, right where he knew he'd be serving his hometown. The writing here, whether Draper's or the doctors', is simple and accessible and there is plenty of action for reluctant readers. More advanced readers may want to read *The Pact* (Riverside, 2002), the Three Doctors' joint autobiography for adults. Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 7-10. "What started out as three boys skipping class turned out to be the most significant experience of our lives," says George Jenkins, who, together with Sampson Davis and Rameck Hunt, made a teenage pact to leave their impoverished New Jersey neighborhood, attend medical school, and become doctors. Author Sharon Draper helped shape chapters, written in the third person, describing each doctor's challenging childhood experiences, including a parent's drug addiction, forays into crime, and succeeding in an environment that made "failing equal to being cool." Following each story, passages written in the doctors' own words offer advice and strategies, and acknowledge the help received along the way. This information is directed straight to young people growing up in similar circumstances, but all readers will be riveted by the profoundly inspirational stories and personal, intimate voices that frankly discuss big mistakes and complicated emotions, including "survivor guilt" for choosing a different path from friends and family. Strong readers may want to follow this with the doctors' first book, for adults, entitled *The Pact* (2002). Gillian Engberg Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If I could give this more stars, I would. I teach 7th and 8th grade Reading in a very high poverty area. Ninety percent of our students are on free lunch. With that being said, my students don't really care to read. When I do get them to read the class novel, it is like pulling teeth. We decided to add this book to our nonfiction class novel set. We are only on the fifth chapter, but I have never had a class so quiet and interested in a book. I have to stop my students from reading ahead. THIS IS GREAT. What is even more wonderful, is that it is a true story. I bought *The Pact* DVD to watch when we are done reading. I think they will like to see the doctors in real life. Anyways- I thank those men for taking the time to remember where they came from, and to inspire young people everywhere not to let their surroundings break them. A lot of my students connect with their stories and I think it is wonderful that they can see their own potential through this story.

This book grabbed the attention of a 14 year old boy that hates to read and kept it! Wow...I struggle with getting him to read and this book was perfect. It was so interesting that we both read it and would discuss it at dinner. My husband then ended up reading it as well because he felt left out (smile). Great purchase for leisure reading!

This is a good book for telling the story of these men and helping to give hope to others but I find it a tad bit slow at times. It is an easy read though

Uplifting and positive. I think these are wonderful men and role models.

My son truly needed motivation and reading this book kicked started his determination to pass the 8th grade. Since, reading this book his overall academic scores went up. I saw him complete his homework assignments and study for exams in classes he was failing. I was always proud of my son and worked with him to take seriously his work, but seeing much better grades and his need to succeed i am very happy

Prompt and as advertised. Thank you.

This book is for every person who thinks they cannot overcome. Reading the story of these young men reminded me that life is bigger than my own bubble. My students read this book and found their own sense of humanity. Some of them identified with the sad realities of the characters. We were all humbled and inspired by the truth of possibilities. It is a must read for every teenager.

Great story, motivation for junior high students to believe that "dreams are possible". Book is based on a true story, then put into a story written by Sharon Draper.

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