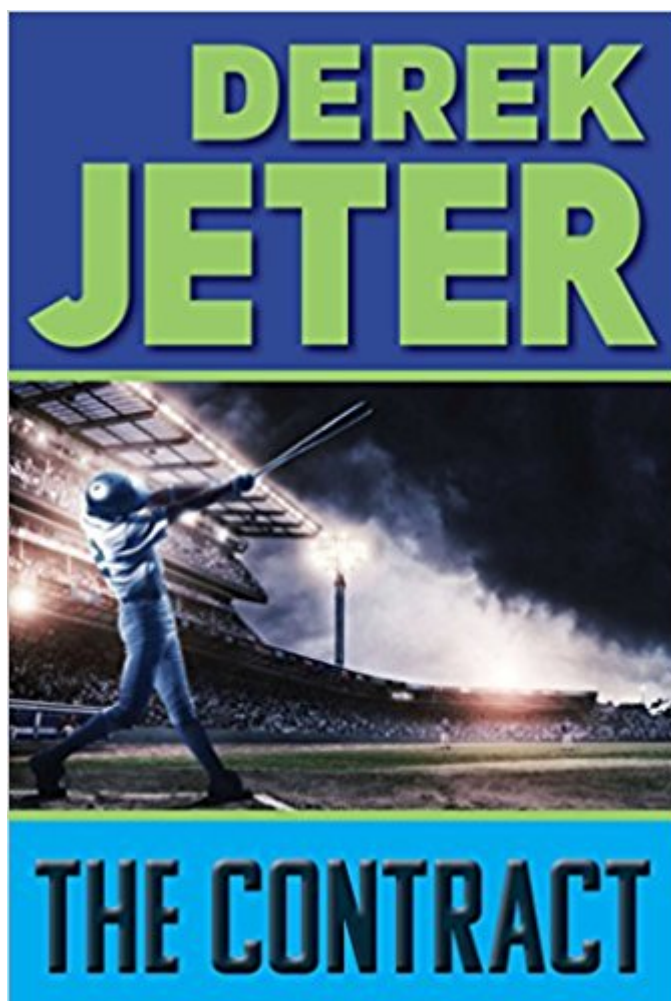




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The Contract (Jeter Publishing)



Synopsis

The debut book in the Jeter Publishing imprint, *The Contract* is a middle grade baseball novel inspired by the youth of legendary sports icon and role model Derek Jeter. As a young boy, Derek Jeter dreams of being the shortstop for the New York Yankees. He even imagines himself in the World Series. So when Derek is chosen for the Little League Tigers, he hopes to play shortstop. But on the day of the assignments, Derek starts at second base. Still, he tries his best while he wishes and dreams of that shortstop spot. And to help him stay focused on school, his parents make him a contract: keep up the grades or no baseball. Derek makes sure he always plays his best game—on and off the baseball field! Derek Jeter has played Major League Baseball for the New York Yankees for twenty seasons and is a five-time World Series Champion. He is a true legend in professional sports and a role model for young people both on the field and through his Turn 2 Foundation. Inspired by Derek Jeter's childhood, *The Contract* is the first book in Derek Jeter's middle grade baseball series, an important part of the Jeter Publishing program, which will encompass adult nonfiction titles, children's picture books, middle grade fiction, Ready-to-Read children's books, and children's nonfiction. For more about Jeter Publishing visit JeterPublishing.com.

Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Customer Reviews

Gr 4—This first book in Jeter's middle grade baseball series offers an inspirational, fictionalized account of Derek's third grade year when his dream of a baseball career meets the realities of schoolwork and Little League competition. To help Derek achieve his career dream (playing shortstop for the New York Yankees), his parents draw up a "contract" of positive expectations, values, and rewards that the boy signs. Selected to play on Kalamazoo's Little League Tigers, Derek is disappointed when the coach's son is given the shortstop position. Derek's parents and the contract help him channel his frustration into team play, hard work, and excellence as a second baseman. When his math grades dip, he recognizes the need to improve and gets extra help. Derek's determination, positive attitude toward others, and exceptional athletic talent ensure his success. His parents are a remarkable reservoir of wisdom, guidance, and support: defending his baseball dream to a doubtful teacher, suggesting a positive spin on racial slurs directed at their biracial son; and, arranging Derek's reward of seeing a Yankees game. Factual biographical information and real relationships are smoothly blended with fiction. Engaging descriptions of young Derek's aspirations and vulnerability, vivid Little League baseball action, and realistic peer and coach conflicts will resonate with middle grade fans. This purposeful, celebrity-authored book focuses on the first of Jeter's 10 Life Lessons, "set your goals high."—Gerry Larson, formerly at Durham School of the Arts, NC

For his eponymous imprint, the New York Yankees star leads off with a self-referential tale of Little League triumphs. In the first of a projected 10 episodes based on the same number of "Life Lessons" espoused by the lead author's Turn 2 Foundation, third-grader Derek turns in an essay announcing that his dream is to play shortstop for the New York Yankees (No. 1 on the Turn 2 list: "Set your goals high"). His parents take him seriously enough not only to present him with a "contract" that promises rewards for behaviors like working hard and avoiding alcohol and drugs, but also to put a flea in the ear of his teacher after she gives him a B-minus on the essay for being unrealistic. Derek then goes on to pull up his math grade. He also proceeds to pull off brilliant plays for his new Little League team despite finding himself stuck at second base while the coach's son makes multiple bad decisions at shortstop and, worse, publicly puts down other team members. Jeter serves as his own best example of the chosen theme's theoretical validity, but as he never acknowledges that making the majors (in any sport) requires uncommon physical talent as well as

ambition and determination, this values-driven pitch is well out of the strike zone. Plenty of baseball action... (Kirkus Reviews August 1, 2014) In the debut novel from Jeter's post-retirement venture, Jeter Publishing, third-grader Derek dreams of a career playing shortstop for the New York Yankees. His parents even have him sign a contract—the first of many—stipulating expectations for his schoolwork, good sportsmanship, self-respect, and so on, with rewards if he succeeds. No multimillion-dollar contracts just yet! He will have to settle for dinner at his favorite restaurant. But when his grades start to suffer and he ends up stuck at second base on a losing Little League team, Derek begins to doubt if his dream will ever become a reality. At times, Derek's rosy homelife and relentless positivity can be a little grating, especially considering the autobiographical nature of the book. Still, the ball game scenes are particularly well done. Jeter is adept at adding nuance to team dynamics; for example, the coach's son continually receives undeserved accolades. With an automatic audience for this book, libraries would be hard-pressed not to have a copy on the shelf. (Booklist September 1, 2014) This first book in Jeter's middle grade baseball series offers an inspirational, fictionalized account of Derek's third grade year when his dream of a baseball career meets the realities of schoolwork and Little League competition. To help Derek achieve his career dream (playing shortstop for the New York Yankees), his parents draw up a "contract" of positive expectations, values, and rewards that the boy signs. Selected to play on Kalamazoo's Little League Tigers, Derek is disappointed when the coach's son is given the shortstop position. Derek's parents and the contract help him channel his frustration into team play, hard work, and excellence as a second baseman. When his math grades dip, he recognizes the need to improve and gets extra help. Derek's determination, positive attitude toward others, and exceptional athletic talent ensure his success. His parents are a remarkable reservoir of wisdom, guidance, and support: defending his baseball dream to a doubtful teacher, suggesting a positive spin on racial slurs directed at their biracial son; and, arranging Derek's reward of seeing a Yankees game. Factual biographical information and real relationships are smoothly blended with fiction. Engaging descriptions of young Derek's aspirations and vulnerability, vivid Little League baseball action, and realistic peer and coach conflicts will resonate with middle grade fans. This purposeful, celebrity-authored book focuses on the first of Jeter's 10 Life Lessons, "set your goals high." —Gerry Larson, formerly at Durham School of the Arts, NC (School Library Journal September 10, 2014)

I purchased this book for my grandson's birthday. His family is a huge New York Yankee and Derek

Jeter fan. Of course, I had to read the book first! This book is definitely written for middle grade children. The book itself is focused on Derek Jeter when he is in 3rd grade (also the age of my grandson.) There are some great moral values presented by his parents to Derek and written up in a contract that Derek must sign to continue to play baseball. The story spends time in the classroom as well as on the Little League baseball field. Although there were a lot of details of the baseball games (which were a bit much for me) I know that my grandson will love that. Much of the focus of this book is on the essay that Derek had to write as an assignment from his teacher on what he wants to be when he grows up. Even in third grade Derek knew he wanted to play shortstop for the New York Yankees. Derek's parents set the stage for that possibility with The Contract. As well as instilling the moral values it helped Derek to understand that only through hard work and determination could that dream become a reality. Derek's parents supported him and his dream and we all know now the result of those dreams. I understand that this book is the first of many that will follow. I am assuming that they will take the reader through the rest of Derek's story. All in all I think this is a must read for children. I cannot think of more than a handful of professional athletes that have shown us how a solid childhood background with strong moral values, hard work and the support of family can lead to fulfilling those childhood dreams.

In a world where there are so few positive sports star role-models - Derek Jeter stands out as a shining star in our home. We have all 4 of the books in his series. (We just received Fair Ball yesterday!) My 6 year old son has read The Contract, Hit or Miss, and Change Up; and has loved every one of them, as have I. My son even insisted on buying the books for his grandmother for her birthday (she's a librarian). She read and loved the books, and the two had great discussions about them! Each book has kept his interest through to the end, and are full of important life lessons. Knowing that these books are having a positive impact on my son's character and mind-frame does this Mamma's heart good. We will buy every one of the books in this series without a doubt, and if you have school-age boys - you should too!

Great story of accomplishment for children to read.

In these times when you don't know who you can trust or look up to, it is a rare find to find someone like Derek Jeter to write a book that you know will impress and influence our kids in a positive way. This book was bought as a Christmas present for my grandson. I didn't read the book, but I did page through it and from what I did read, this book will be treasured for years to come. Thank you, Derek,

for lighting the way and showing our kids that hard work does pay off. You are more than a baseball star, you are a leader.

This book is extraordinary. Jeter has started a publishing company and his first offerings are stories written with great lessons, for life and pursuing your dreams about sports, for young boys and girls. The Contract was given to Deter by his parents, that he had to sign in exchange for their approval, to pursue sportsll. It is a great pattern for all parents to give to their kids. The book is short, double-spaced, easy read about his life, that includes the Ups and Downs, maintaining good school grades, home chores and playing ball. Excellent read for all young athletes. It is targeted for middle school age kids. I'm 80 and enjoyed it! Dee

Baseball fans across the country have been watching with interest and sadness as New York Yankees captain and baseball icon Derek Jeter is playing out his last year in baseball. Many people wonder what he will do next, and his answer is : become a publisher. Jeter has his own publishing imprint with Simon & Schuster, where he will publish books by authors he finds have an something interesting to say. The first book under the Jeter Publishing imprint is for children ages 8-12 titled The Contract. Jeter wrote it with Paul Mantell, and it is based on his own life as a Little Leaguer. Young Derek Jeter, called 'old man' by his mom because he went to school in a suit and carrying a briefcase, is a talented baseball player and a serious student. When his classroom teacher assigns the students an essay describing their realistic future dreams, Derek really wants to write that his future plans include playing shortstop for the New York Yankees. He discusses this with his parents, who encourage him to realize how difficult it will be, but with his excellent work ethic and determination and practice, he can do just that. Derek signs up for Little League and ends up playing on a team with his best friend Vijay. He wants to play shortstop, but the coach's son is the star shortstop with a bad attitude. Much of the book describes in detail many of the Little League games, and children who love baseball will so enjoy the thrilling play-by-play. But this book is also one parents should read to or with their children. Derek would not be the great player he is today were it not for his parents. They created a contract for Derek, detailing what he needs to do to set himself on a path to achieving his dream. The items include respecting himself and others, doing his chores, being a good role model for his younger sister, maintaining good grades and the number one rule is family comes first. The Contract not only teaches children how to be responsible, it can help parents with their own parenting skills. The Jeters are good role models for their two children, and hold them both to high standards, knowing that it is the key to raising good citizens. I liked how

important school is to Derek, how he works as hard at school as he does at baseball. And Derek is not a perfect child here; he gets frustrated and angry, but when he makes a mistake, he tries to be better. The final scene is a sweet one, with Derek playing catch with his grandma, with whom he and his sister spend their summers. They clearly have a loving relationship, as many young children do. I highly recommend The Contract for both children who like baseball, as well as their parents. It would make a wonderful gift for the young baseball fan in your life, and it would be a terrific addition to your child's school library.

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