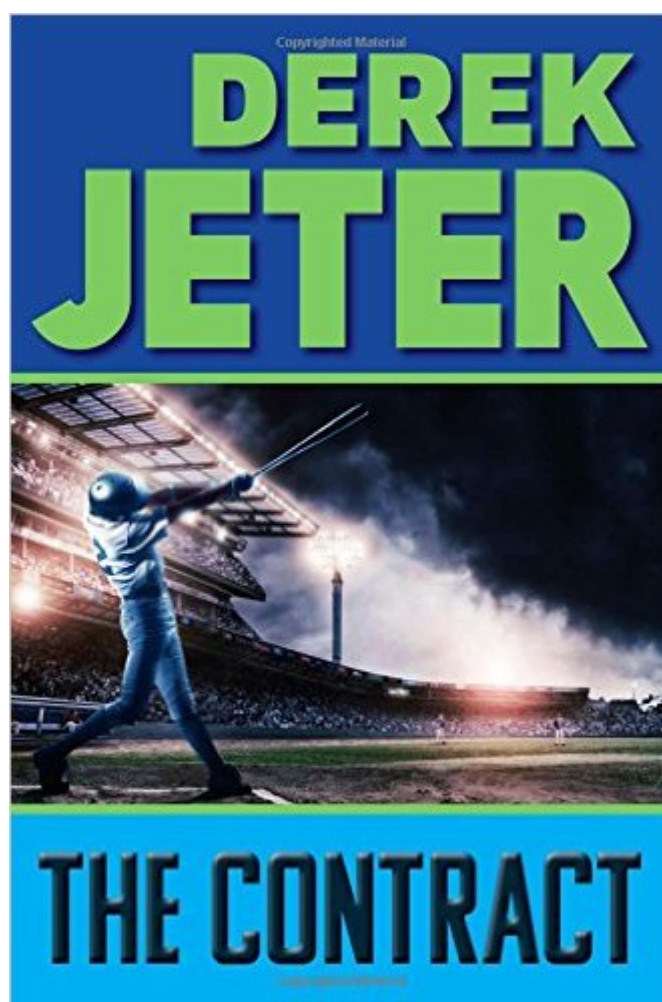


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# The Contract (Jeter Publishing)



## 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](http://JeterPublishing.com).

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770 (What's this?)

Series: Jeter Publishing

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books; Complete Numbers Starting with 1, 1st Edition (September 23, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481423126

ISBN-13: 978-1481423120

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (218 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #31,828 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #52 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors > Baseball #494 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > School #922 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

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.

Let me start out by saying that I am a school librarian and I have two children: one child is a voracious reader, and the other child reads begrudgingly. My nine-year-old son (the begrudging reader) has to read every night for homework. The only time we could get him to read a chapter book was if my husband or I did "buddy reading" with him (we would take turns reading the pages out loud to one another). My son is a huge Yankees fan, and an even bigger Derek Jeter fan. I have tried to steer him towards books that would appeal to his interests, but he would rather be out playing baseball than reading about baseball. This has all changed since I bought *The Contract* for him. The past few nights, I will walk into his bedroom and he is sprawled out on his bed reading this book all by himself. I know he is comprehending what he is reading - last night he told me about Gary and Vijay and Pete, the coach's son. He told me about how the Little League coach favored his own son and let him play short stop, the position Jeter really wanted to play. He told me how Jeter's father couldn't be his coach because he was working on his masters degree. Besides helping my son to develop a habit of reading, this book has had another impact on him. My children write a list of chores they will do around the house every week. Last week he added to his list that he would "respect others, respect himself, and work hard" - all the values that are emphasized in *The Contract*. I read that this book is the first book in a projected 10-book series that will each emphasize one of the 10 life lessons that are key to the philosophy of Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation. Please, please, please, publish the other books soon so I can continue to guide my son into becoming a better reader and into becoming a great young man!

'*The Contract*' is an excellent and inspiring book for kids of all ages. The story follows Derek Jeter's Little League season with the Tigers and addresses many issues that are relevant to building a child's character. This book explains how important it is for kids to dream big, and describes the hard work and right choices that will make those big dream attainable. It also sets a beautiful example of how kids ought to treat each other on and off the field, and expresses the value of building quality friendships with other strong, positive individuals. Most importantly, this story portrays a strong, supportive family and sets a wonderful example of how children should respect their parents and love their siblings because rule number one is: family comes first. When his circumstances aren't lining up the way he had originally hoped, Derek continues to work hard, respect his teachers, coaches, and umpires, and follow through on his commitments. This story also offers many important lessons for parents. Mr. and Mrs. Jeter are an amazing example to follow, and this book offers valuable insight for parents who aspire to raise respectful, hard working

children. It is Mr. and Mrs. Jeter who create the contract for Derek to sign, and while they support him completely in following his dream, they also push him to practice greatness in all avenues of his life. Thanks to this book, parents all over the world now have a glimpse into what it takes to raise a champion- on and off the field. The Jeters prove this Proverb to be undeniably true: Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it. 'The Contract' is full of life altering lessons and it tells an exciting story from our favorite baseball player's childhood- it's a Win/Win!

this is a classic well written easy to read book for both boys and girls... it easily helps the reader begin to get the basic concepts that hard work is what really matters if you want to achieve anything. Love the "contract" spelled out and can easily be applied to anything, not just baseball. Once again, Derek hit's it out of the park on this fun to read book.

Great story of accomplishment for children to read.

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