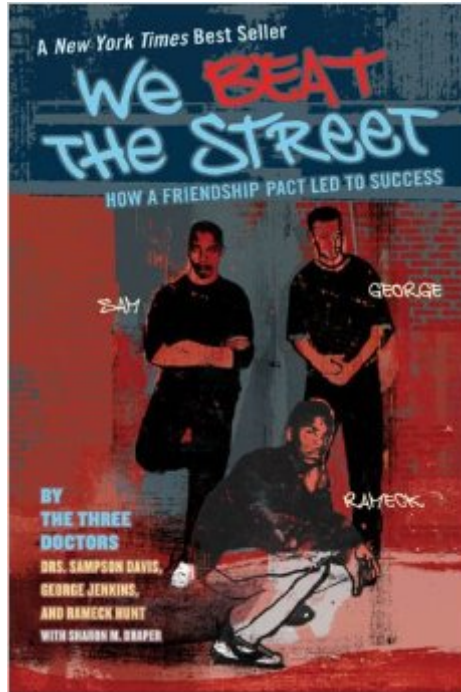


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# We Beat The Street: How A Friendship Pact Led To Success



## 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

I was pleased to see such a great "non-fiction" book on the New York Times's Bestselling list. I was looking for a fiction book at the time, but bought this one instead. This is an inspiring story of how three boys beat the odds in life, what inspired the changes in them, and how they overcame their obstacles. It's so well-written and edited that children will have no trouble understanding the message of hope it conveys. If they could do it, anyone can do it. I recommend it for everyone; even adults can learn from these courageous young men.

An inspiring account of three inner city boys who succeed in overcoming the odds, entering college, and fulfilling their dreams, "We Beat the Street" is a marvelous work. Written for kids, this book selects incidents from the lives of each of the three doctors in order to illustrate the great obstacles

they had to surmount and the truth that street life won't pay off in the end. The reader follows Sampson, George, and Rameck as they journey from first grade through medical school, and watches them as they achieve their goals in triumph. "We Beat the Street" shows the tragedy of street life and the necessity of aid for these communities. The content of "We Beat the Street" was skillfully edited and condensed for younger readers, making it graspable for that age level. The style was simple, but attractive, and the message was excellent. It forcefully imparted a warning, and encouraged higher education, especially for those who doubt their ability to achieve such educational goals. "Street" was quite simply one of the best books I have ever read on the subject, and deserves a wide audience. Reviewed by Anna Kleiner for Flamingnet Book Reviews[...]

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.

In this work three African American doctors tell the story of how they used their brains, loyalty, and few good chances to escape their tough urban neighborhood, go to college and medical school, and become doctors. The book is targeted for an adolescent audience, although there is an adult version, called "The Pact" available. At the end of each chapter, the doctors give some advice to young people who want to achieve more than those around them expect. Quote: "Young people need positive role models and guidance in their lives. There is no underestimating a positive figure in a child's life." I picked this book up because it is the only one recommended by more than one of my ninth graders. I enjoyed the anecdotes about the childhood and teenage years of the young men, but mostly I appreciated their frank discussion of the challenges their lives presented, the choices they needed to make, and the belief of many in their neighborhood that they would never get out. I think young people would enjoy the work even more than I did, since the authors were careful to target students.

Warning: This review contains spoilers. Pros: This is a great book for high school kids and young adults. Cons: This book is not (in my opinion) appropriate for kids as young as it listed for (10+). It contains drugs (selling & smoking crack on school grounds), violence (beating/stabbing), and rape (hearing a boy being raped in an institution). My daughter was required to read this in her 6th grade Advanced English class. Before she began reading it, she said the kids who had already read it didn't like it, so she wasn't looking forward to it. But when she started reading it she was intrigued and really enjoyed it... until she got to the middle of the book. Then she was completely turned off, shocked, and insulted. She was angry that the teacher had given her such an inappropriate book. My child should not have been exposed to such things at her delicate age. She is 11 1/2. I screen PG-13 and TV-14 before she views them, but do I need to screen required reading at her school?

A truly inspiring story, whose characters quickly gain your empathy and respect. Following the three men through their lowest and happiest moments is what makes the book so real. This is a great tool for teenagers/young adults who may need the extra push, or example to follow to drive them toward their dreams. A perfect reason for keeping Affirmative action alive. I am a college freshman who's struggled with myself just as the three men did, looking back on the mistakes I've made in my not so long ago past I often found it hard to look ahead. After reading *We Beat the Street* I felt the sense of pride and motivation I'd been missing. This book can be used as a powerful tool if used correctly at the right times of need. It's not often we hear stories where three little poor black boys from one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the country, become doctors. But these men manipulate you into thinking it's normal by the tone of their characters and determination.

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