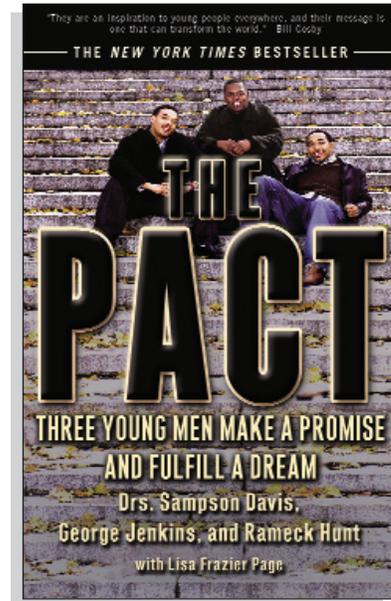




PENGUIN GROUP (USA)

## Great Ideas For Teachers Using *The Pact* in the Middle School Classroom

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1. Group students into learning “pacts” of three. Explain that for the duration of this assignment they will work together within the established timeline to read *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream* (“*The Pact*”) and complete given assignments. Each group is to keep a weekly reflective journal pertaining to their own struggles and accomplishments in attaining their personal goals. This is not meant to be a graded assignment but serves as a venue to express their individual feelings.
2. After completing *The Pact*, have your students log onto: *History and Politics Out Loud*. <http://www.hpoul.org/>. Ed. Jerry Goldman. 30 Sept. 1999. Northwestern University. Search for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s, “I Have a Dream Speech.” Listen to Dr. King’s speech. Compare and contrast the dream in both these literary pieces. Ask each group to create a Venn diagram illustrating their findings.
3. Pretend that the movie, *The Pact* is set to open in New York City next month. Your graphic design company is selected to promote the movie. Design a poster (or perhaps a website) to advertise *The Pact*. Briefly outline the rationale for your design and its relation to the original story.
4. Have students visit the Three Doctors Foundation website via the following link:  
<http://www.threedoctorsfoundation.org/foundation.php>  
The foundation’s mission is “To inspire and create opportunities for inner city communities through education, mentoring and health awareness.” Research the foundation by clicking onto the above link. Using your knowledge of the power of a persuasive essay, compose a speech asking your audience for funding to support The Three Doctors Foundation.
5. Research the “History of Hip Hop/Rap.” Create a timeline showing the evolution of the dance form. Research themes that are played out in the lyrics of Hip Hop music. What role do your students feel Hip Hop/Rap played in the culture of the characters’ lives in *The Pact*?  
  
*Possible Research Source:*  
Hip-Hop, “Microsoft® Encarta® Online Encyclopedia 2005 [http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_761563537/Rap.html](http://encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_761563537/Rap.html) ©1997-2005 Microsoft Corporation. All Rights Reserved.
6. Just for fun, log onto <http://rap.about.com/library/bljadakiss.htm> and play “Who Wants to be a Hip Hop Millionaire Game?” How did you score? With your group create your own version of the game and be prepared to share your game with the class.
7. Small Group Project: With your group discuss Chapter 5, *Caged*, and Chapter 6, *A Big Break*. Reflect on “The Rules of the Street.” Record the central ideas of your discussion. Create a poster (or perhaps a PowerPoint presentation) on “The Rules of the Street.”
8. In Chapter Three, “Ma” (page 41), Rameck speaks on the subject of family. What message does Rameck reveal about his own family? Discuss this with your group and then compose a Rap song that illustrates the same message.
9. With your group role-play the scene in Chapter Fourteen, “Old Ties” (page 188). Reflect on how each character might have felt when their eyes met. Discuss your feelings and how you would have acted in that circumstance and why. Ask each group to create a short list of the most compelling points that surfaced to share with the entire class.

10. Sam talks about his 3D's, determination, discipline, and dedication. (Page 221). Ask the class to individually reflect on the 3D's and their importance in your life through one of the following mediums (poetry, essay, visual or auditory representation).
11. Perseverance helps Sam bounce back after he fails the State Medical Boards. Ask each team to research people who have overcome great odds to succeed. What in their lives helped them succeed? Report your findings.
12. Design your own book cover for *The Pact*. Be prepared to "pitch" your design to your publisher. Why did you choose your design? What message will your cover convey?
13. Ask students to reread pages 181, 238 and 239. Then pose these questions to the class as a whole: What do Fellease (Dr. Sam's sister) and Ryan White have in common? Where did you go to find your information? What is the "common thread" between these two individuals?
14. If you were to email The Three Doctors at: <http://www.threedoctors.com>, what would your comments or questions to them be? Create such an email and bring a copy of your email to share with the class.
15. Role Play: You are member of an executive board and just received \$10,000,000 from a very wealthy philanthropist. With your group decide how the monies will be budgeted to meet the needs of your community. Be prepared to present the budget.
16. Graffiti is an art form that evolved in the culture of the street. It carries a powerful message portrayed in art. Assign one chapter of *The Pact* to each group and task them to create a mini graffiti mural that fits on a single sheet of printer paper. They can show how their early ideas evolved into final collective artwork.
17. Design a public service commercial targeting a young audience. The message should focus on one of the following topics: drug prevention, stopping gang violence, or eliminating street crime. Present your commercial to the class.
18. "If you want to know your past, look into your present conditions. If you want to know your future, look into your present actions."—*Buddhist Saying*  
Have students choose one of the three main characters in *The Pact*. Make predictions on how this character would view the preceding quote. Support your answer citing facts from the book.
19. An acronym is a word formed from the first letters or syllables of other words, such as NBA (National Basketball Association), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). Using the title of the book, make an appropriate acronym for *The Pact*.
20. It is said that, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Ask each class group to choose one of the three main characters in *The Pact* and portray his evolution from the beginning to the end of the story. They may present their findings utilizing any art technique—paint, sketching, sculpture, collage, film—they think will be persuasive.

## SUGGESTED READING:

If your students find *The Pact* inspiring, they may also enjoy reading:

1. *We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Led To Success*, Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, Rameck Hunt, and Sharon M. Draper
2. *Think Big: Unleashing Your Potential for Excellence*, Ben Carson M.D.
3. *Bad Boy: A Memoir*, Walter Dean Myers
4. *Wilma Unlimited: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Woman*, Kathleen Krull, David Diaz (Illustrator)
5. *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*, Judith Kerr
6. *The Moon Bridge*, Marcia Savin
7. *My Name is Maria Isabel*, Alma Flor Ada, K. Dybie Thompson (Illustrator)
8. *True Stories: Girls' Inspiring Stories of Courage and Heart*, Edited by Trula Magruder, Payette Shannon, Michelle Watkins, Amanda Haley (Illustrator)
9. *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*, Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Kimberly Kirberger, and Mitch Claspay
10. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou
11. *China Boy*, Gus Lee
12. *Ryan White: My Own Story*, Ryan White
13. *The Twelve Little Cakes*, Dominika Dery
14. *The Miracle of St. Anthony: A Season with Coach Bob Hurley and Basketball's Most Improbable Dynasty*, Adrian Wojnarowski
15. *Too Close to the Falls*, Catherine Gildiner
16. *Touch the Top of the World: A Blind Man's Journey to Climb Farther than the Eye Can See: My Story*, Erik Weihenmayer

## CREATORS BIO:

Educators working in an urban setting, **Patty DeGeorge**, **Kathy DiProffio**, and **Nancy Siracusa** formed a pact upon entering graduate school. They vowed that through "determination, discipline, and dedication", they would all earn their degree in Educational Leadership. As they continued to strive towards their goal, a bond of friendship developed and grew stronger. Although the demands of balancing their families, careers, and school proved to be most challenging, these teachers achieved that goal. All three now look forward to working collaboratively as leaders in education to make the world of education a better place.

### ORDERING THE PACT FOR YOUR SCHOOL:

*The Pact* is available from Riverhead Books, a member of Penguin Group (USA), in trade paperback, ISBN 1-57322-989-X. Classroom sets may be ordered via your regular educational book wholesaler or by calling Penguin directly at 1-800-526-0275.