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**Letter from the Editor**

Dear Educators:

Can a person make a difference playing Baseball? On Thursday, September 25, after 20 years, Yankees short-stop Derek Jeter played his last game in pinstripes at Yankee Stadium.

Bottom of the first – an emotional Jeter stepped onto the field – fighting to maintain his composure, he reached out to his cheering fans, tossing a word or two to those who were close, pointing his glove at in higher seats. Then Jeter is announced, the crowd stands chanting his name, he steps up to the plate. Head down, one deep breath -- this is going to be tough. You can see it in his eyes, his jaw, his stance as he raises his bat. Yankees are behind by 2 runs. Deep into the count, Jeter connects, a double to score a run, then he steals third and scores the second run to tie the game. That was just the beginning. It was clear by the seventh inning when he hit a grounder to score a run that that he would not go out gently but in dramatic Jeter style. In the bottom of the ninth, with the game tied and 2 outs, Jeter steps up to deliver a fairy tale ending -- a walk-off game winning single.

They say that Jeter was born to be a great player. He never played for any other major league team but the Yankees. A friend of mine once said, "You gotta hate the Yankees", to which I replied, "But you gotta love Derek Jeter". Charismatic, talented, hard-working, committed, he earned the respect of players from every team and had legions of fans from 8 to 80. He said he loved it when the crowds booed him at away games because it meant he was seen as a threat.

So much baseball, so many dramatic moments, staggering statistics -- 5 World Series rings, a .310 lifetime batting average, 2074 games, 3065 hits - the most by any short-stop in baseball history, and so much more. One fan held a sign that said -- "Don't cry because its over; Smile because it happened - 1995-2014"

The Yankees didn't make it to the post-season this year but there's always next year. Sadly it will be without their captain - the last Yankee to wear the number 2. One day, Jeter's legacy as one of the greatest ball-players, a worthy role model, and a wonderful ambassador for the game will be enshrined at Cooperstown.

This week's issue features an essay competition encouraging students to write about people who have made an impact on society in 2014. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting teachers by providing access to free classroom resources and programs. We invite you to visit our website at [www.4edu.ca](http://www.4edu.ca).

Mary Kovack

**A&E Classroom 2014 Essay Contest**

**A&E Canadian Classroom's 'LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST'** challenges students in grades 5-12 to write an original 300 word essay on the life of a person they believe made the biggest difference on Canadian society in the past year. Students can win cash prizes for themselves and teachers can win cash prizes for their classrooms.



The submissions will be judged by a national panel of education experts and A&E representatives. The essays will be judged based on the following criteria: persuasiveness (1/3), creativity (1/3) and relevancy (1/3). Two winners from each grade level -- 5th-8th grade and 9th-12th grade -- will be selected.

**GRAND PRIZE:**

- Student: **\$3,000** Cash Prize
- Department/Classroom of Teacher: **\$1,000** Cash for use in the classroom.

**FIRST PLACE PRIZE:**

- Student: **\$2,000** Cash Prize
- Department/Classroom of Teacher: **\$1,000** Cash for use in the classroom.

**[Note: Due to Provincial restrictions the contest is void in Quebec.]**

Each entry must include the student's name, complete address, postal code, telephone number, age, grade, name of teacher, school, school address, and local cable system (if known).

**Please note that there are two ways to enter:**

- Online at the A&E Canadian Classroom's website at: <http://www.livesthatmakeadifference.com/>
- Entries can also be mailed to: LIVES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE ESSAY CONTEST, c/o Temple Scott Associates, 95 King Street East, 4th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5C 1G4.

Check out the *Lives That Make a Difference* Facebook page for more details and join the conversation!

Educators are encouraged to have students in their civics, social studies, current events, literacy and history classes participate in this year's contest.

**This year's deadline is December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014!**

For official contest rules and a consent form, please visit <http://www.livesthatmakeadifference.com/>.



## The 2014 Lives that make a Difference Essay Contest

Tell us about the heroes that make a difference in and out of your classroom and win **\$3,000!**

Be inspired by the winners of **A&E® Canadian Classroom's 2013 Lives That Make A Difference Essay Contest**. Winning essays were selected from thousands of submissions received last year for the nationwide contest. It will come as no surprise that a large number of the essays received were about famed Canadian astronaut, Chris Hadfield.

**Tavania Chichak, a Grade 6 student at Glanford Middle School in Victoria, British Columbia** was awarded the **Grand Prize in the Grade 5 to 8 category**. Tavania's essay wrote that Hadfield "encourages kids to believe in themselves and to pursue their dreams." She compares him to early Canadian settlers who "travelled long distances to brave new worlds" eloquently writing that "he has blazed new paths to start colonizing space."

A second Victoria student, **Emma Roberts from Esquimalt High School** won the **First Prize in the Grade 9-12 category**. Emma's essay describes Hadfield's global impact, writing that the photos he provided from space "emphasize our planet's awe-inspiring beauty and undeniable fragility." She adds, "This perspective of our planet encourages all humans to see ourselves as shared inhabitants of Earth, and remind us that the planet which we call home is not only invaluable to our own existence but is something worth fighting for."

**Ahmad Ali Jaffer, a Grade 8 student at Hugh McRoberts Secondary in Richmond, British Columbia** won the **First Prize in the Grade 5 to 8 category** for his essay on Chris Hadfield, entitled, *An "Out-of-this-World" Canadian*. Ahmad's essay focuses on Chris Hadfield's recent space mission, exploring his "down-to-earth" style and his profound impact on Canadian youth. Discussing a duet that Hadfield preformed in space, Ahmad wrote eloquently that "The song reflects that despite our world being so diverse, with different people and borders, from space these borders disappear."

Rounding out the winning entries is **Anujan Raveenthiran, a Grade 11 student from Turner Fenton Secondary School in Brampton, Ontario** who won the Grand Prize in the Grade 9 to 12 category for his essay on Toronto Mayor Rob Ford. Anujan's essay describes Toronto Mayor Rob Ford as "possibly one of this year's most polarizing figures," as he drew a spotlight on Canada's biggest city adding that "no matter how powerful or accomplished an individual is, moral judgment and character are still values which are appreciated and must be upheld in society."

Please visit <http://www.livesthatmakeadifference.com/winners.html> to read the winning essay submissions and to see a special message from Chris Hadfield!

**Deadline is December 11, 2014.**

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