

The Alchemist's Legacy: Finding Light in Loss

(Year 7 - Ages 12-13)

Lesson 7 of 9

Lesson Summary

In Lesson 6, students made a choice (The Pledge). In Lesson 7, we witness the result of that choice through the eyes of those left behind: The Donor Family.

This 60-minute lesson explores the concept of Legacy—the footprint we leave behind when we are gone. Using the metaphor of "The Phoenix" (rising from the ashes), students will investigate how the act of donation provides a unique form of comfort to grieving families. They will analyze a narrative of a family who honoured their child's wish, identifying the complex mix of Grief (Loss) and Pride (Heroism). Finally, students will practice high-level empathy and literacy skills by drafting a "Letter of Gratitude" to an unknown donor family, acknowledging the strength it takes to find light in the darkness.

Learning Intentions

Students will

- Define "Legacy" as the lasting impact of a person's actions on their community.
- Empathize with the dual emotions experienced by a Donor Family (Deep Grief vs. Fierce Pride).
- Analyze how "Honouring the Wish" (The Pledge) acts as a source of comfort for the family.
- Compose a respectful, empathetic text (Letter) suited to a sensitive audience.

Success Criteria

Students can

- Explain the "Phoenix Metaphor": How new life rises from the loss of another.
- Identify the specific "Comfort" a family feels when they know they are fulfilling a loved one's wish.
- Differentiate between "Sympathy" (feeling bad for someone) and "Empathy" (understanding their feelings).
- Write a draft letter that strikes a respectful tone, celebrating the hero without intruding on the grief.

Lesson Details

Time:	60 minutes
Year Level:	Year 7 (Ages 12-13)
Unit:	This is Lesson 7 of 9 in the series.
Educational Partner:	This lesson is adapted from resources provided by DonateLife

General Capabilities

Ethical Understanding; Personal and Social Capability (Empathy/Resilience); Literacy (Creating Texts); Critical Thinking.



Curriculum Mapping and Links

Australian Curriculum (v9.0)

Subject	Strand	Content Descriptor
Health and Physical Education	Personal, Social and Community Health	<u>AC9HP7P02</u> : ...Demonstrate respect and empathy... and evaluate the impact of emotional responses. (Focus on grief and comfort)
English	Literacy / Creating Texts	<u>AC9E7LY06</u> : Create... texts, experimenting with text structures and language features... to express a personal view or response. (Focus on sensitive writing)
Civics and Citizenship (HASS)	Knowledge and Understanding	<u>AC9HS7K04</u> : Investigate how citizens... contribute to the community. (The ultimate contribution: Legacy)

Queensland Curriculum (QCAA)

Subject	Syllabus	Content Description
Health and Physical Education	Year 7	Analyze how emotional responses influence interactions; strategies for empathy.
English	Year 7	Understand how to use language features for particular purposes and audiences (Sensitive communication).
Civics and Citizenship (HASS)	Year 7	How individuals contribute to the community (Legacy).



Resources Required

- Whiteboard/Smartboard.
- Video Hook: A clip of a "Walk of Honour" (where hospital staff stand in silence as a donor is wheeled to surgery) or a "Phoenix" animation.
 - Here are some links:
 - ["Honor Walk to Honor 25 Year Old Organ Donor" \(Las Vegas\) – YouTube](#)
 - ["Medical staff line walls in 'Walk of Respect' for organ donor" – YouTube](#)
 - ["CVPH Honor Walk" – YouTube](#)
- Resource: "The Keeper of the Flame" (A narrative case study of a donor family).
- Student Worksheet: "The Alchemist's Legacy: The Phoenix Logbook."
- Prop: A battery-operated candle (to represent the "Eternal Flame").

Skills

- Emotional Intelligence (Navigating grief and pride).
- Reflective Writing (Tone and voice).
- Symbolic Thinking (Understanding legacy).
- Respect (Handling sensitive topics).

Teacher Preparation

- The Metaphor: "The Phoenix." Explain that in alchemy and myth, the Phoenix burns to ash, but from the ash, a new bird rises. Donation is the closest thing we have to a real Phoenix event.
- Prepare the Story: "The Keeper of the Flame" should be about a family finding peace because they knew their child wanted to be a donor (linking back to Lesson 5 & 6).
- Safety Check: Ensure you know if any students have recently experienced significant loss. This lesson focuses on the comfort found in donation, but it touches on grief. Allow students to "pass" on sharing if needed.

Additional Information

This lesson is the "Heart" of the unit. While previous lessons dealt with logic and logistics, this one deals with the human spirit. It reinforces the critical message that talking to your family (Lesson 5) isn't just a rule—it is a gift you give them, so that if the worst happens, they have the comfort of knowing they are doing what you wanted

