

# The Legacy Gift: Honoring the Donor Family

## (Year 6 - Ages 11-12):

### Lesson 7 of 9

#### Teacher Preparation

##### Introduction for Teachers

This lesson is a key emotional and ethical checkpoint in the Year 6 curriculum. It adapts the senior curriculum's "Writing for Life" theme by shifting focus from the recipient's joy (L4) to the Donor Family's complex emotions—balancing grief with the pride and comfort of honouring their loved one's Ethical Pledge (L6).

The core objective is to teach deep, analytical empathy by having students investigate the concept of Legacy and then articulate their gratitude through a respectful, anonymous letter. This activity validates the family's immense sacrifice and provides emotional resolution to the unit's preceding lessons.

#### Safety and Sensitivity Considerations

- **CRITICAL: Focus on Comfort and Pride:** The lesson's tone must be overwhelmingly focused on the comfort, pride, and peace the family receives from knowing they honoured the wish and saved lives. Avoid dwelling on the medical circumstances or graphic details of loss.
- **Legacy is the Safe Metaphor for Loss:** Use the term "Legacy" to frame the donor's life continuing in a positive way (e.g., "Their kindness lives on").
- **The "Anonymous and Respectful" Rule:** Emphasize that the letter-writing task is a practice in ethical communication. Students must write an anonymous letter of gratitude to the idea of the courageous family, not a specific person. The letter must be respectful, non-intrusive, and avoid asking personal questions.
- **Acknowledge Dual Emotion:** It is mature for Year 6 to understand that the family feels grief and pride at the same time. Validate this complex, dual emotion.

#### Teacher Resources

- Whiteboard or smartboard.
- Resource: "The Legacy Story" (A simple, teacher-read narrative focusing on a Donor Family's feelings—the sadness of loss balanced by the pride and comfort of honouring their loved one's wish/pledge).
- Resource: "Gratitude Letter Template" (A blank template for the anonymous letter, emphasizing the respectful, non-contact nature of the communication).
- Student Worksheet: "The Legacy Writer's Guide."
- Optional Hook: A simple symbol of lasting legacy (e.g., a lit candle, a growing sapling).



## Key Concepts & Language for Teachers

- Metaphor: Legacy: "A person's Legacy is the lasting, positive impact of their life that keeps moving forward even after they are gone. The donor family is the guardian of that Legacy."
- The Gift of Comfort: "The Gift of Comfort is the peace a family feels when they know they honoured their loved one's Ethical Pledge (L6) and that something positive came from their loss. The knowledge that 7 lives were saved is a source of immense pride."
- The Ethical Choice: The family's decision to say YES is the ultimate act of altruism directed not only to the recipient but also to their loved one's memory.
- Writing Purpose: The purpose of the letter is consolation and gratitude, not communication. It is a way to celebrate the heroism of the donor.

## Heart Magical Body Facts for Year 6 (Ages 11-12)

- The Heart's Echo: The human heart, the ultimate "Jewel of Life," contains its own tiny electrical pacemaker. When a person receives a donated heart, the recipient's entire life —their ability to run, laugh, and dream—becomes an ongoing echo of the donor's strength.
- Tissue, the Ultimate Legacy Builder: Donated bone and tissue (the "Repair Kits") can be stored and used to heal people for years after the donation. This means one heroic decision can become a Legacy that supports and restores many lives over an entire decade.
- The Eye's Window to the World: The cornea (the clear front part of the eye) can restore sight. This is a powerful legacy because it allows the recipient to collect new visual memories (new Future Map destinations) that the donor made possible.
- Empathy Neurons: The parts of your brain dedicated to empathy (mirror neurons) activate when you think about another person's feelings. This biological response allows us to connect with the Donor Family's pride and feel gratitude for their courage, making the gift a shared human experience.

