

# A Thank You for the Gift

(Prep - Ages 5-6):

## Lesson 7 of 9

### Lesson Overview

Lesson Title:	A Thank You for the Gift
Year Level:	Prep (Ages 5-6)
Lesson Duration:	30 minutes
Key Focus Areas:	Understanding kindness, sharing, and helping others
Curriculum Links:	<p>Australian Curriculum – Health and Physical Education (Foundation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>AC9HPFP05</u>: Identify and describe emotional responses people may experience in different situations (focus on gratitude).</li><li>• <u>AC9EFLY06</u>: Create and participate in shared editing of short written, oral, visual and multimodal texts to report on a topic, express an opinion or tell a story.</li><li>• <u>ACAVAM107</u>: Use and experiment with different materials, techniques, technologies and processes to make artworks.</li></ul>

### Learning Intentions

- Understand that saying "thank you" is a kind way to show we are grateful.
- Remember all the amazing parts of the "magical gift" story.
- Create a special "Thank You" card to show our appreciation for this kindness.

### Success Criteria

- Say why it is good to say "thank you."
- Draw a picture that shows a part of the "magical gift" story.
- Help create a class "Wall of Kindness" with my "Thank You" card.

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## Teaching Sequence

Work through this lesson in the following sequence:

Duration	Part	Focus
5 minutes	Part A. The Feeling of "Thank You"	Introduction and Story Time
10 minutes	Part B. Remembering the Kindness Story	Class Brainstorm & Introducing the Activity
10 minutes	Part C. Creating Our Thank You Cards	Creative Activity & Connecting to the Big Idea
5 minutes	Part D. Our Wall of Kindness	Reflection and Celebration

### Part A. The Feeling of "Thank You" (5 minutes)

#### Step 1. Review and Introduction

- Gather students on the floor.
- Say: "Hello Kindness Superheroes! Today we are going to talk about a very special and happy feeling. It's the feeling you get in your heart when someone does something kind for you. What is the magic word we say when we feel this way?" (Guide them to say "Thank You").
- Ask: "How does it feel inside when you say 'thank you'? How does it feel when someone says 'thank you' to you?" (Listen for words like "happy," "good," "warm").
- Say: "Saying 'thank you' is a wonderful way to share kindness back with someone."

#### Step 2. Story Time

- Introduce a picture book about gratitude, like The Thank You Book by Mo Willems.
- Say: "In our story today, the characters are thinking about all the people they want to thank. Let's see who they are grateful for and why."



- Read the story aloud, emphasizing the feelings of happiness and appreciation.

## Part B. Remembering the Kindness Story (10 minutes)

### Step 1. Class Brainstorm

- Say: "Over the past few weeks, we have learned the whole story about the 'magical gift.' It's a story full of helpers and kind choices. Let's think about all the people in that story we can be thankful for."
- Lead a class brainstorm, recapping the main points from the previous lessons. Draw simple icons on the board.
  - "Who can we thank for making the kind choice to help?" (Kind families).
  - "Who can we thank for being on the special 'Helping Teams'?" (Our friends and family).
  - "Who can we thank for using their 'magical tools' to help people get better?" (The Doctor and Nurse Team).
  - "And what is the wonderful gift we are thankful for?" (The gift of more time to play).

### Step 2. Introducing the "Thank You" Card Activity

- Distribute the pre-folded cards (the "A Thank You for the Gift" worksheet).
- Say: "Today, we are going to make a very special 'Thank You' card. This card isn't for just one person. It's a big, beautiful thank you to ALL the kind people in the 'magical gift' story."
- Instruct: "Your job is to draw a picture that shows something from our story that you are thankful for. You could draw a happy person playing, a doctor helping, or a family making a kind choice. Let's make these the most beautiful thank you cards ever!"

## Part C. Creating Our Thank You Cards (10 minutes)

### Step 1. Creative Activity

- Students move to tables where the special craft supplies are ready.
- Play some gentle, reflective music in the background.
- As they work, circulate and talk to them about their drawings.
  - "What part of the story are you saying thank you for in your picture?"
  - "That's a beautiful way to show you are grateful."



## Step 2. Connecting to the Bigger Idea

- Reinforce the symbolic nature of the activity.
- Say: "We don't know the names of all the kind people who make the choice to help, but we can still send our thanks out into the world. Your beautiful cards are like sending a big, sparkly thank you hug to all the Kindness Superheroes. It shows we appreciate their brave and loving choice."

## Part D. Our Wall of Kindness (5 minutes)

### Step 1. Sharing and Displaying the Cards

- Gather students back to the floor with their finished cards.
- Say: "These cards are so full of happy, thankful feelings. We are going to put them all together to create our very own 'Wall of Kindness' right here in our classroom."
- One by one, invite each student to come up, briefly show their card, and help you stick it onto the "Wall of Kindness" banner.

### Step 2. Reflection

- Stand back and admire the finished wall with the class.
- Ask: "Look at our amazing Wall of Kindness! How does it make you feel to see all of our thank you messages together?"
- Say: "This wall will remind us every day of the power of kindness and how wonderful it is to be thankful for all the helpers in our world."

## Differentiated Learning

- Extension:
  - Encourage students to try and write the word "Thank You" on their card.
  - Ask them to explain their drawing and who they are thanking to a partner.
- Learning Support:
  - Provide pre-cut shapes (hearts, stars, smiley faces) that students can glue onto their cards to represent happy feelings.
  - Use verbal prompts to help them choose what to draw: "Would you like to draw the happy person who got more time to play, or the kind doctor who helped?"



## Teacher Reflection

- Did the students grasp the concept of gratitude?
- Was the recap of the "whole story" an effective way to consolidate their learning?
- Did the students understand the symbolic nature of the "Thank You" card and the "Wall of Kindness"?
- How did this reflective and creative lesson make the students (and you) feel?

## Assessment

- Observation of participation in discussions about gratitude and saying "thank you."
- Ability to recall and name a positive element from the "magical gift" story during the brainstorm.
- Creative expression in the "Thank You" card activity, reflecting the theme of gratitude.
- Willingness to share their card and contribute to the class "Wall of Kindness."

## Additional Notes:

Ensure the lesson remains a gentle and positive culmination of the unit's themes. The focus should be on the happy emotion of gratitude and the celebration of kindness, rather than any of the sadder elements of the donation story.

This lesson provides a powerful and emotionally resonant conclusion to the core learning journey. It allows students to process what they've learned and express their feelings in a safe, creative, and symbolic way, leaving them with a strong final impression of the goodness of helping.

