

The Domino Effect: Community Kindness

(Year 5 - Ages 10-11):

Lesson 8 of 9

Teacher Preparation

Introduction for Teachers

This lesson is a critical consolidation point. It shifts the students' focus from the single recipient (Lesson 7) to the collective impact on the community, framing altruism as a powerful force for good. By using the visual and kinetic metaphor of the "Domino Effect," we make the abstract concept of widespread community benefit tangible and exciting for Year 5 students.

The goal is to reinforce that the donor's choice (the Hero's Pledge and Hero's Echo) is the essential first domino that knocks down a chain of positive outcomes—renewed health, hope, and joy—for countless people they never met (the audience).

Safety and Sensitivity Considerations

- Focus 100% on the Positive Ripple: This lesson is about celebrating the widespread hope, joy, and relief the donation creates. Do not dwell on the medical specifics of the procedure or the circumstances of the donor's passing.
- Use Visuals for Synthesis: Use the prepared "Domino Chain Reaction" visual on the board to review all the unit's metaphors (Pledge, Echo, Treasure, Story) at once, showing how they connect to this community outcome.
- Acknowledge the Donor's Family: When discussing the first domino, always refer to the kindness of the donor and the donor's family for honoring the wish (Hero's Echo). This maintains respect and focuses on the choice.

Teacher Resources

- Resource: "The Domino Chain Reaction" (A large, simple visual diagram for the board showing Donor → Recipient → Family → Community).
- A set of actual dominos (optional, for the physical hook).
- Student Worksheet: "My Kindness Domino Effect" (A template with connected boxes for mapping the chain reaction).
- Markers and coloured pencils.



Key Concepts & Language for Teachers

- The "Domino Effect" Metaphor: This is the central, dynamic theme.
 - Say: "Today, we're going to use the idea of a domino effect to understand how one single act of kindness can change an entire community. The first domino is the bravest and most important one of all: the Hero's Pledge to be a donor."
- The Chain Reaction (Mapping the Audience): Guide students to understand the ripple effect, moving outwards from the recipient.
 - Domino 1 (The Start): The Donor/Hero's Family (The choice to honor the wish).
 - Domino 2 (Immediate Impact): The Recipient (New health, Treasure of Time restored).
 - Domino 3 (The Inner Circle): The Recipient's Immediate Family (Parents, siblings, partner who stop worrying and can enjoy life again).
 - Domino 4 (The Outer Circle): Friends, Teachers, Co-workers (People who benefit from the recipient's energy, work, and participation).
 - Domino 5 (The Wider Community): The Medical Team, the Waiting List (The hope created by one successful story that encourages others).
- Connecting to the Bigger Idea (Community Kindness): Frame this consolidation as the ultimate proof of altruism.
 - Say: "Look at your domino chain. Did the hero know all those people? No. That is the definition of altruism and community kindness. It's helping people you don't even know, simply because you have the power to create a positive chain reaction."

Magical Body Facts for Year 5 (Ages 10-11)

- The Nerve Highway: Your nerves send electrical messages from your brain to your body and back again in a fraction of a second—a chain reaction faster than any domino! This is how your body's team communicates to stay healthy.
- The Healing Domino: When you get a cut, your body starts a rapid domino effect: blood vessels constrict, platelets rush in, a clotting factor is released, and new cells begin rebuilding the tissue—all automatically!
- Bone Teamwork: Your bones are constantly in a quiet domino effect of breaking down old tissue and building new tissue. Every cell relies on another to do its job, keeping your skeleton strong and flexible.
- The Global Community of Life: The science developed in Australia to successfully perform transplants often helps people all over the world. The kindness of one donor's family in Australia can trigger a scientific domino effect of hope globally.

