

The Legacy Gift: Honoring the Donor Family

(Year 6 - Ages 11-12):

Lesson 7 of 9

Lesson Summary

This 60-minute lesson shifts the focus from the recipient (L4) and the choice (L6) to the Donor Family—the ultimate expression of altruism. The lesson adapts the "Writing for Life" theme by having students investigate the concept of Legacy. Students will read an age-appropriate story or account that focuses on the family's feelings—the sadness of loss balanced by the pride and comfort of honouring their loved one's Ethical Pledge (L6). Students will then act as "Legacy Writers," crafting a respectful, anonymous letter of gratitude to the Donor Family, practicing empathy and celebrating the profound comfort found in their decision to give the Gift of Time.

Learning Intentions

Students will

- Investigate the concept of Legacy and how a person's life and kindness can continue to positively impact the community after they are gone.
- Use empathy to understand the complex emotions of the Donor Family (grief combined with pride and comfort).
- Analyse how the choice to honor the Ethical Pledge (L6) provides the family with emotional comfort (consolation).
- Practice high-level reflective writing skills by crafting a respectful, anonymous letter of gratitude that celebrates the donor's heroic decision.

Success Criteria

Students can

- Define "Legacy" in terms of kindness and lasting positive impact.
- Identify the two core emotions a Donor Family often experiences (loss/grief and comfort/pride).
- Explain how the act of donation provides comfort to the family (by honouring a wish and knowing lives were saved).
- Draft an anonymous letter of gratitude that is respectful, non-intrusive, and focuses solely on the heroism of their loved one's decision.

Lesson Details

Time:	60 minutes
Year Level:	Year 6 (Ages 11-12)
Unit:	This is Lesson 7 of 9 in the series.
Educational Partner:	This lesson is adapted from resources provided by DonateLife

General Capabilities

Empathy for Loss, Legacy, Comfort/Consolation, and Altruism in the Face of Grief.



Curriculum Mapping and Links

Australian Curriculum (v9.0)

Subject	Strand	Content Descriptor
English	Creating texts	<u>AC9E6LY06</u> : Plan, create, edit and publish imaginative, informative, and persuasive texts, selecting text structures, language features, and visual features to suit the purpose and audience.
Health and Physical Education (HPE)	Personal, Social and Community Health	<u>AC9HP6P04</u> : Describe and demonstrate how respect and empathy can be expressed to positively influence relationships (linked to expressing deep empathy for the family).
HASS (Civics & Citizenship)	Knowledge and Understanding	<u>AC9HS6K07</u> : Explain the key roles and responsibilities of key institutions and processes in Australia's democracy and legal system (linked to the legal process of legacy/gifting).

Queensland Curriculum (QCAA)

Subject	Syllabus	Content Description
English	Year 6	Create sustained written and multimodal texts, selecting and using text structures, language, and visual features to suit the purpose and audience (writing the gratitude letter).
Health and Physical Education (HPE)	Year 6	Analyse how emotional responses influence interactions, and describe strategies for seeking, giving or denying consent effectively and respectfully (linked to understanding/expressing grief and comfort).
HASS (Civics & Citizenship)	Year 6	How individuals and groups contribute to the communities to which they belong (linked to the ultimate act of community contribution by the Donor Family).



Resources Required

- Whiteboard or smartboard.
- Resource: "The Legacy Story" (A simple, teacher-read narrative focusing on a Donor Family's decision and the comfort they found in honouring their loved one's wish).
- 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 sapling/tree image, an eternal flame).

Skills

- Empathy (Understanding complex, dual emotions: loss and pride).
- Literacy (Writing for a specific, sensitive audience/purpose).
- Ethical Understanding (Understanding the comfort found in altruism).
- Active Listening and Summarizing.

Teacher Preparation

- Prepare The Legacy Story: This story must be handled with extreme care. It should focus on the family's process of making the choice (honouring the wish/pledge) and the immense pride and comfort they gain from the Legacy their loved one created. Explicitly avoid graphic details of loss.
- Core Metaphor: Legacy. The kindness of the donor lives on as their lasting Legacy. The family is the guardian of that legacy.
- Safety Protocol: Establish the "Anonymous and Respectful" rule for the letter-writing activity. Students must understand they are writing to the idea of the family's courage, not a specific person, and that the communication must be anonymous.
- Key Language: Focus on "Legacy," "Comfort," "Pride," "Heroic Decision," and "Honouring the Wish."

Additional Information

This is a deep, empathetic lesson that moves Year 6 beyond the scientific and mechanical aspects of the unit. It fosters profound gratitude by recognizing the immense emotional difficulty of the Donor Family's choice. By focusing on Legacy and Comfort, the lesson reinforces the ethical strength of altruism, ensuring students appreciate that the gift of life is also a gift of peace to the people who give it.

