

The Friendship Key

(Year 3 - Ages 8-9):

Lesson 2 of 9

Name: _____ Class: _____

Teacher Preparation

Introduction for Teachers

This lesson adapts the complex theme of "understanding an audience" into an engaging and accessible metaphor for Year 3 students: finding the right "Friendship Key." The goal is to help children understand that different people and groups have different values, interests, and ways of seeing the world. The lesson uses a physical "Mystery Box" and different "keys" to create a memorable, hands-on puzzle that illustrates this concept.

The core objective is to build an understanding that to connect with others and share important ideas, we first need to understand what matters to them. This creates a respectful and empathetic foundation for framing family conversations about organ donation, highlighting that the "key" to a good discussion is knowing and respecting your family's values.



Key Concepts & Language for Teachers

- **The "Friendship Key" Metaphor:** This is the central theme. Introduce it as a fun puzzle to solve.
 - **Say:** "Today, we have a mystery to solve! Inside this box is a special message, but it's locked. To open it, we need to find the right key. It's the same with people. To share an idea with someone, we first need to find the 'Friendship Key'—that means understanding what's important to them."
- **Defining "Group Values" (What the Key is Made Of):** Help students identify the shared interests and values of groups they belong to.
 - **Say:** "Every Friendship Key is made of something different. A key for a soccer team might be made of 'teamwork' and 'fair play.' A key for a family might be made of 'love' and 'looking after each other.' What do you think the key for our class is made of?"
- **Connecting Keys to Communication:** Link the idea of using the right key to how we talk to people.
 - **Say:** "If you try to open a lock with the wrong key, it won't work. If you try to talk to a friend who loves art about soccer, they might not be as interested. But if you use the 'art key' and talk about drawing, you've unlocked a great conversation! Using the right Friendship Key means showing you care about what they care about."
- **Connecting to the Bigger Idea:** Frame the family discussion about donation as using the most important key of all.
 - **Say with a caring and empathetic tone:** "The most important Friendship Key we have is the one for our own family. We know what our family cares about, what they love, and what makes them feel safe. When we want to share a very big and kind promise, like the promise to be an organ donor, it's so important to use our special family key. That means talking about it in a way that shows we love them and respect what they think. It helps everyone feel understood and opens up the most important conversations."

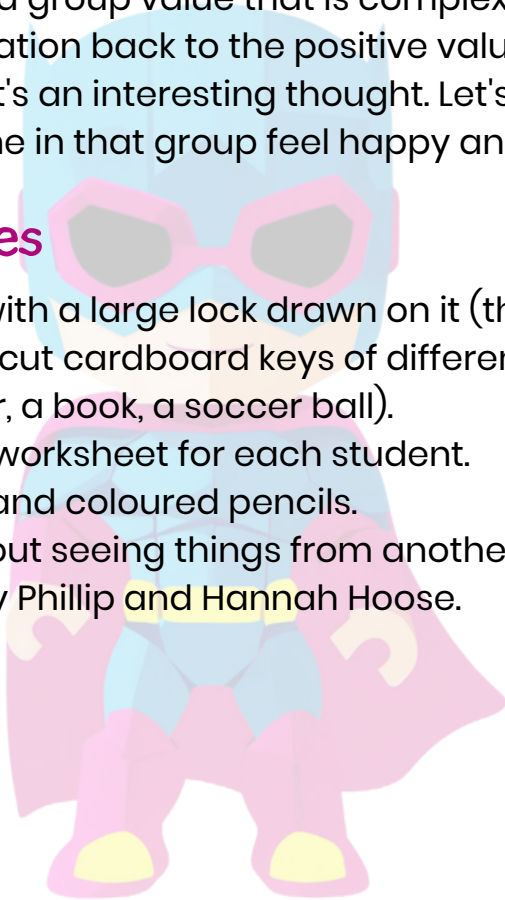


Safety and Sensitivity Considerations

- **Celebrate All Groups:** Students belong to diverse family structures, cultural groups, and friendship circles. Ensure all groups and their values are discussed with equal respect and positivity.
- **Avoid Stereotypes:** Guide students to think about the positive values that bring groups together (e.g., "teamwork," "creativity," "faith," "family") rather than making generalizations about what groups are like.
- **Keep it Gentle:** The focus is on the skill of perspective-taking. If a student mentions a group value that is complex or negative, gently guide the conversation back to the positive values that help people connect. Say: "That's an interesting thought. Let's think about a value that helps everyone in that group feel happy and included."

Teacher Resources

- A decorated box with a large lock drawn on it (the "Mystery Box").
- Several large, pre-cut cardboard keys of different symbolic shapes (e.g., a heart, a star, a book, a soccer ball).
- A "Friendship Key" worksheet for each student.
- Markers, crayons, and coloured pencils.
- A picture book about seeing things from another's point of view, such as *Hey, Little Ant* by Phillip and Hannah Hoose.



Magical Body Facts for Year 3 (Ages 8–9)

- Your heart pumps around 7,500 litres of blood through your body every day! ❤️
- If all your blood vessels were stretched end-to-end, they could go around the Earth two and a half times! 🌍
- Your brain sends messages to your body at speeds of up to 430 km/h – faster than a Formula 1 car! 🏎️
- Your stomach gets a new layer of mucus every few days so the acid inside doesn't eat through it. 🤢
- The strongest muscle in your body (for its size) is your jaw muscle – perfect for biting into an apple! 🍏
- You blink around 15–20 times every minute, which means over 10 million blinks a year! 👁️
- Earwax isn't "yuck" – it's a special waxy shield that protects your ears from dust, germs, and water. 🧠🛡️
- Your bones are constantly being broken down and rebuilt – every 10 years you have a brand-new skeleton! 💀✨
- The acids in your stomach are strong enough to dissolve metal – but don't worry, your body is built to handle it! 🧪
- Your fingerprints are completely unique – no one else in the world has the same ones as you, not even identical twins! 🔍

