

The Hero's Story

(Year 4 - Ages 9-10):

Lesson 7 of 9

Lesson Overview

Lesson Title:	The Hero's Story
Year Level:	Year 4 (Ages 9-10)
Lesson Duration:	60 minutes
Key Focus Areas:	Empathy, listening comprehension, gratitude, connecting metaphors to real-life.
Curriculum Links:	Australian Curriculum – Health and Physical Education (Foundation) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AC9HP4P03: Describe and apply emotional responses, including the principles of empathy and respect, in a range of situations.• AC9HP4P02: Analyse how behaviours and actions influence the connections and relationships people have with others• AC9E4LY07: Listen to and respond to spoken texts; identify and interpret key points, themes and ideas.• AC9E4LY06: Plan, create, edit and publish... informative texts, using text structures, language features, and visual features to suit the purpose and audience.

Learning Intentions

- Understand that the "Hero's Pledge" has a **real** and positive impact on people's lives.
- Listen to and comprehend a simple, real-life story about the gift of donation.
- Use empathy to understand the feelings of gratitude and joy from a recipient's story.
- Express their understanding of a story through creative writing and drawing.

Success Criteria

- Retell one positive fact or feeling from the "Hero Story."
- Explain in their own words how the gift of donation gave someone the "Treasure of More Time."
- Create a "Story Snapshot" that joyfully summarises the positive outcome of the story.



Teaching Sequence

Work through this lesson in the following sequence:

Duration	Part	Focus
10 minutes	Part A. The Story Keeper's Mission	Introduction, Metaphor Review, and Hook
20 minutes	Part B. Hearing the Hero's Story	Active Listening & Empathetic Connection
20 minutes	Part C. The "Good News" Report	Creative Activity ("Story Snapshot" Worksheet)
10 minutes	Part D. Sharing the Good News	Reflection and Sharing

Part A. The Story Keeper's Mission (10 minutes)

Step 1. Review and Introduction

- Gather students on the floor. Hold up the "Echo Stone" prop from Lesson 5.
- Say: "Hello, heroes. In our last lessons, we have learned about so many amazing things: The 'Helping Hero Team,' the 'Treasure of More Time,' and the 'Hero's Echo.'"
- Say: "Today, we have a very special and important job. We are going to become 'Story Keepers.' A Story Keeper's job is to listen with their whole heart to a true story and to keep it safe so they can share its kind and powerful message."

Step 2. Setting the Scene

- Say: "All our metaphors are real. The 'Hero's Pledge' is real. The 'Hero's Echo' is real. And today, we are going to listen to a real story about what happens when all those pieces come together. We are going to hear an 'echo' of a real hero's kindness."
- Ask: "What do we need to do to be good 'Story Keepers'?" (Listen respectfully, be quiet, use our empathy).

Part B. Hearing the Hero's Story (20 minutes)

Step 1. Story Time: "A Hero's Story: The Gift of a New Game"

- Introduce the teacher-created resource. This is the most important part of the lesson.
- Say: "This is a true, positive story called 'The Gift of a New Game.' It's about a real person, just like you, whose 'Treasure Map' was empty because their 'spare part' was sick. Let's listen with our hearts to hear what happened."
- Read the story aloud. (The story should focus on "before" - being tired and unable to play - and "after" - receiving the gift from a "Helping Hero family," and now being able to play soccer and plan "Dream Adventures").



Step 2. Empathetic Connection (Class Discussion)

- Ask: "What a powerful 'echo'! What was the 'Treasure' that the person in our story received?" (The "Treasure of More Time," the "gift of a new game," the "gift of health.")
- Ask: "How did the 'Hero's Pledge' (from Lesson 6) and the 'Helping Hero Team' (from Lesson 3) all work together in this story?"
- Ask: "What feelings do you think the person and their family felt in the happy ending of the story?" (Gratitude, joy, excitement, relief).

Part C. The "Good News" Report (20 minutes)

Step 1. Introduce the Creative Activity

- Say: "Story Keepers, that was a 'good news' story. When we hear good news, we should share it! You are now all 'Kindness Reporters' for the 'Good News Gazette.'"
- Distribute the "My Story Snapshot" worksheet.
- Instruct: "Your mission is to report this amazing, happy news. On your 'Story Snapshot,' you need to:
 - Write a Headline that is happy and exciting.
 - Draw a Picture of the happy outcome of the story (the person playing soccer, smiling, etc.).
 - Fill in the Key Story Facts about the treasure they received.
 - Write a short Message of Gratitude to the 'Helping Hero' family who started this echo."

Step 2. Creative Time

- Allow 15 minutes for students to work on their "Story Snapshots."
- Circulate and help them, reinforcing the positive, joyful language.
- Prompt: "What's a great 'Good News' headline? 'Hero's Echo Saves the Day!' or 'A New Game Begins!'"

Part D. Sharing the Good News (10 minutes)

Step 1. "Stop the Presses!" (Sharing)

- Say: "Stop the presses! The 'Good News Gazette' is in! Let's share this wonderful news."
- Ask 3-4 students to stand and be "news reporters," sharing their "Story Snapshot" with the class. Ask them to read their headline and describe their picture.
- Alternative: Have students do a "Gallery Walk" to read all the good news.

Step 2. Reflection

- Ask: "How did it feel to hear a real story where all our metaphors came true?"
- Say: "It is so powerful to be a 'Story Keeper.' You have all done a beautiful job of capturing the joy, gratitude, and kindness of a real 'Hero's Echo.' This is the most important part of donation: the 'Treasure of More Time' and the new 'Dream Adventures' it makes possible."



Differentiated Learning

- Extension:
 - Challenge students to write a short, 2-3 sentence news article in the "Key Story Facts" section, using "who, what, where, why" (Who was helped? What did they get? Why was it a 'good news' story?).
- Learning Support:
 - As a class, brainstorm 3-4 possible "Headlines" on the board for students to choose from.
 - Provide a "Word Bank" on the board with key themes: Treasure, Time, Gratitude, Joy, Hero, Echo, Soccer, New Game.

Teacher Reflection

- Did the "Story Keeper" and "Kindness Reporter" metaphors successfully frame the listening activity as a positive, respectful, and important job?
- Was the teacher-created story ("The Gift of a New Game") simple, positive, and safe enough for this age group?
- Were students able to connect the real story back to the metaphors we've built (Treasure, Echo, Pledge, Team)?
- Did the "Story Snapshot" activity help students focus on the joyful outcome and the feeling of gratitude?

Assessment

- Worksheet (Activity): Assess the "My Story Snapshot" worksheet. Is the headline positive? Does the picture show the happy outcome? Can the student identify the "Treasure of More Time"?
- Class Discussion: Listen for students' ability to connect the real story to the metaphors. Can they explain how the donation was an "echo" that gave "time"?
- Empathetic Understanding: Observe the students' "Message of Gratitude." Does it show a basic understanding of empathy and thankfulness?

Additional Notes:

This lesson is a critical bridge from the abstract to the concrete. The Safety and Sensitivity guidelines in the "Teacher Content" document are paramount. The only story used must be the teacher-created, age-appropriate, positive one. This lesson proves to students that the concepts they've learned are not just 'magical' but real, and that the outcome is one of joy, hope, and profound kindness.

