

# The Hero's Pledge

(Year 4 - Ages 9-10):

## Lesson 6 of 9

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

### Teacher Preparation

#### Introduction for Teachers

This lesson adapts the senior curriculum's most complex topic, "Debating Consent Systems," into a safe, non-threatening, and tangible activity for Year 4 students: "The Classroom Choice." The goal is not to have students debate the ethics of consent. The goal is to explain how the Australian system works using a simple metaphor.

Students will explore two different, fair ways to make a group decision (an "opt-in" vs. "opt-out" model) by pretending to form a "Kindness Club." This neutral activity provides the language and a concrete framework to understand that the "Hero's Pledge" (the decision to donate) is an "opt-in" choice in Australia. This powerfully reinforces the theme from Lesson 5: because it's a choice you must opt-in to, sharing that choice with your family (the "Hero's Echo") is the most important step.

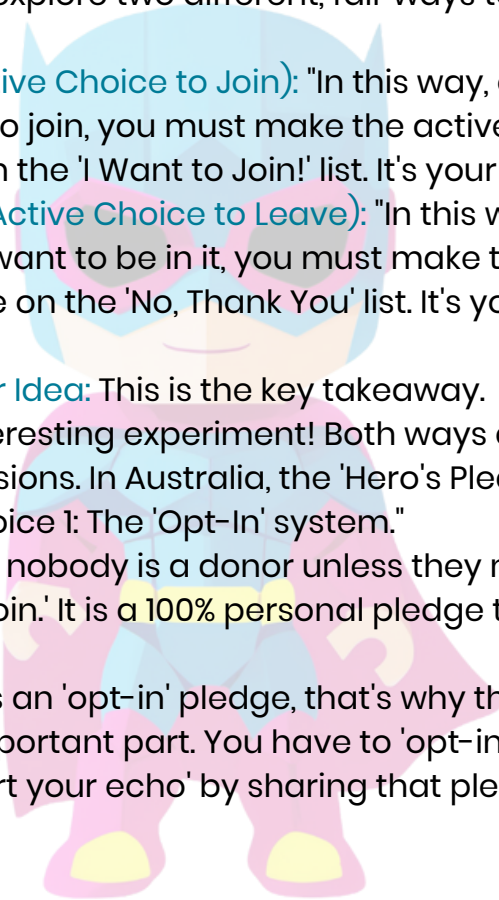
### Teacher Resources

- Resource: "Classroom Choice Scenario Cards" (one for "Opt-in," one for "Opt-out").
- A poster: "KINDNESS CLUB SIGN-UP SHEET (Opt-In)."
- A poster: "KINDNESS CLUB 'NO, THANK YOU' SHEET (Opt-Out)."
- Student Worksheet: "My Hero's Pledge."
- A picture book about making a choice or a promise (e.g., The Promise by Nicola Davies).



## Key Concepts & Language for Teachers

- **The "Hero's Pledge" Metaphor:** This frames the decision as a serious, positive, and personal promise.
  - **Say:** "In our last lesson, we talked about our 'Hero's Echo.' Today, we're going to talk about the promise or the pledge that starts that echo. A 'Hero's Pledge' is a brave, kind promise you make to help others."
- **The "Classroom Choice" Activity (The Metaphor):** This is the central, non-threatening activity.
  - **Say:** "We're going to be 'Community Planners' and decide how to start a new 'Kindness Club.' We'll explore two different, fair ways to make this choice as a big group."
  - **Choice 1: "Opt-In" (Active Choice to Join):** "In this way, everyone starts out NOT in the club. If you want to join, you must make the active choice to 'opt-in' by signing your name on the 'I Want to Join!' list. It's your choice to join."
  - **Choice 2: "Opt-Out" (Active Choice to Leave):** "In this way, everyone starts out IN the club. If you don't want to be in it, you must make the active choice to 'opt-out' by signing your name on the 'No, Thank You' list. It's your choice to leave."
- **Connecting to the Bigger Idea:** This is the key takeaway.
  - **Say:** "That was an interesting experiment! Both ways are used in the world to make fair group decisions. In Australia, the 'Hero's Pledge'—the promise to be a donor—works like Choice 1: The 'Opt-In' system."
  - **Say:** "This means that nobody is a donor unless they make the special, active choice to 'opt-in' or 'join.' It is a 100% personal pledge that you must choose to make."
  - **Say:** "And because it's an 'opt-in' pledge, that's why the 'Hero's Echo' from our last lesson is the most important part. You have to 'opt-in' by making the choice, and then you have to 'start your echo' by sharing that pledge with your family, so your heroic wish is heard."



## Safety and Sensitivity Considerations

- **This is NOT a Debate:** This is the most critical rule. At no point should students debate which system is "better" or "worse." The "Classroom Choice" activity is a simple, neutral exploration of two different ways to make a decision. Keep the tone light and focused on the process of choice.
- **Focus on the Australian System (Opt-In):** The goal is not to compare Australia to other countries. The goal is to use the "opt-in" metaphor to explain our system: it is a personal choice that you must actively make.
- **Reinforce the "Hero's Echo":** The ultimate takeaway of this lesson must be the same as Lesson 5: the conversation is key. Because it's an "opt-in" pledge, the only way for your wish to be known is if you share it with your family.
- **Keep it Non-Medical:** This lesson is about Civics (how we make group choices). It is not about donation itself. Stick to the established metaphors: "Hero's Pledge," "spare part," "Hero's Echo."

## Magical Body Facts for Year 4 (Ages 9-10)

- **Your Body is a Democracy!** No single part of your body works alone. Your brain (the 'captain') has to "get a vote" from your nerves, your heart, and your stomach before it decides you are hungry or tired. It's all about teamwork!
- **A Hairy Situation:** The average person's head has about 100,000 hairs. Each hair is a tiny 'pledge' your body makes, promising to grow for about 3-7 years before it rests and a new one takes its place.
- **The Longest Journey:** If you linked all the blood vessels in your body end-to-end, they would "opt-in" to a journey of over 96,000 kilometers—that's more than twice around the entire Earth!
- **Your Amazing Eyes:** Your eyes can process 36,000 bits of information every single hour. They make a "choice" millions of times a day about what to focus on to keep you safe and show you the world.
- **A "Hero's Pledge" of Healing:** Your skin is your body's biggest hero. When you get a cut, your body makes an immediate "pledge" to fix it. Cells from all over "opt-in" to the repair team to build new skin and protect you.

