



**Iowa National Guard Youth and Teen Program**  
**Family Programs Office**  
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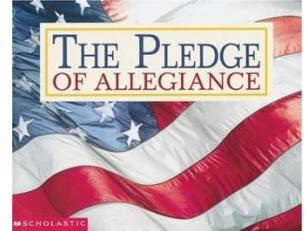


**Book:** The Pledge of Allegiance

**Author:** Scholastic

**Ages:** 6-10

**Lesson:**



1. Begin by showing the students the cover of the book. Then read the title of the book to the children. Have the students infer what the book might be about based on the cover and title.
2. How many of you know The Pledge of Allegiance?
3. What does it mean to make a pledge? What other words can we come up with that mean about the same thing as 'pledge'?
4. Begin reading the story, pausing throughout to ask the following questions:
  - a. What does the word 'allegiance' mean?
  - b. Why do you think they call America the 'United States of America'?
  - c. What does the line 'one nation' mean?
  - d. The Pledge of Allegiance ends with the words 'for all...' why do you think that is? What does that mean to everyone who lives in the United States?
5. After reading the story, ask the students to think about pledges they make. Those in Scout groups often make pledges, as do those in 4-H. If not referred to as a pledge, perhaps an oath or state a creed. The key point being that a pledge/creed is something you believe in...stand behind and support.

**Activities:**

1. Have the class create a word library of synonyms for 'pledge'
2. Using the included Solder's Creed, have the students write their own creed or pledge, identifying things that are important to them and things they believe in or stand for.
3. Take time to say The Pledge of Allegiance in class, calling upon Pledge Leaders each day. You can also use this as an opportunity to talk about showing pride and respect for the flag (i.e. standing tall, hand over your heart, not talking, etc.)

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# **Soldier's Creed**

I am an American Soldier.

I am a warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment, and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

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