



## Introduction to Leadership Qualities Past and Present

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<b>Grade Level:</b>	Middle and High School
<b>Standards:</b>	CCSS.RI.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources. CCSS.RI.7: Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
<b>Sources Used:</b>	<b>Library of Congress and Other Sources</b> Alger, H. (1883). The backwoods boy OR The boyhood and manhood of Abraham Lincoln. David McKay: Philadelphia, PA. Available online: <a href="https://www.gutenberg.org/files/52073/52073-h/52073-h.htm">https://www.gutenberg.org/files/52073/52073-h/52073-h.htm</a> . Ferris, J. (1909). Lincoln the rail splitter [color print]. Available online: <a href="https://catalog.loc.gov/vwebv/search?searchCode=LCCN&amp;searchArg=93504457&amp;searchType=1&amp;permalink=y">https://catalog.loc.gov/vwebv/search?searchCode=LCCN&amp;searchArg=93504457&amp;searchType=1&amp;permalink=y</a>

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### Introduction:

What is a good leader? Why are these qualities important? How are these qualities presented in the media to convince the public that someone is a good leader? In this module, you will explore these questions through the leadership qualities of Abraham Lincoln and how he was presented as a leader to the general public. You will also see how these characteristics show up in more recent presidential campaign advertisements to determine how many of these qualities presented about Abraham Lincoln in the past are still valued today.

### Source Information:

For well over 100 years presidential campaigns have needed to convince voters that their candidate is the best fit for the job. What qualities do they promote as the ideal candidate? What techniques do they use to persuade others? In this module, learners may find that several of these strategies have remained very consistent over the years.

**Warm-up Activity: What Makes a Good Leader?**

**Your Task:** All of the following qualities are important, but which ones do you think stand out the most in importance for a leader? Rank them from *less important* (5) to the *most important* (1) characteristics you think good leaders must have.

#	#	#	#	#
<b>Caring</b>	<b>Generous</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Strong</b>

**The Five Pillars of Leadership:** For the purposes of these lessons related to Abraham Lincoln and his approach to leadership, we will examine the following characteristics: Empathy, Honesty, Humility, Integrity, Perseverance. Review the definitions of each pillar below.



**Empathy** When someone shows compassion or can relate to another person's feelings.

**Honesty** Someone who is trustworthy or fair.

**Humility** A person who is modest or humble.

**Integrity** Being reliable, consistent, or honorable.

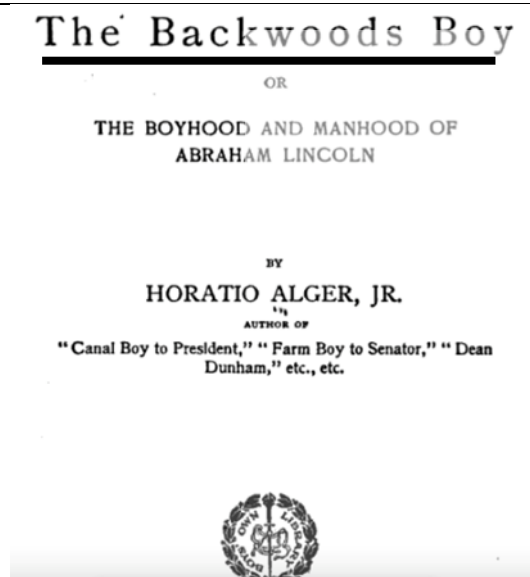
**Perseverance** Someone with grit, insistence, devotion or even stubbornness.

## Presenting Abraham Lincoln

**Background:** Even long after his death, the qualities people admired (and promoted) about Abraham Lincoln were still celebrated. To what extent do these qualities represent the Five Pillars of Leadership?

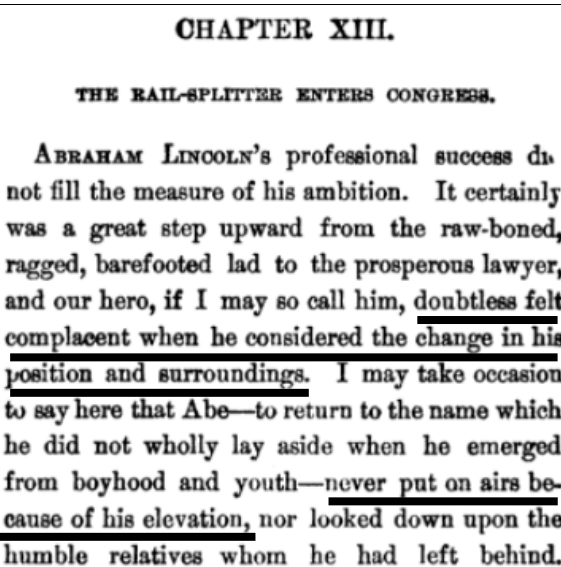
**Your Task:** Identify which of the **5 Pillars of Leadership** (see previous page) best represents each excerpt from this Horatio Alger biography of Abraham Lincoln.

The title page for Horatio Alger's biography with a very intentional title.



Which pillar is best represented in the underlined title, "The Backwoods Boy"?

Toward the end of this excerpt, Alger describes how a successful Lincoln treated his relatives.



Which pillar is best represented in the underlined phrases, "...doubtless felt complacent" **and** "never put on airs"?

In this excerpt, Alger describes Lincoln's simple beginnings and compares that to other successful leaders.

### CHAPTER IX.

#### IN THE LEGISLATURE.

MY young readers will have noticed how extremely slender thus far had been the educational advantages of young Lincoln. Of the thousands of men who have risen to eminence in this country from similar poverty, few have had so little to help them. In England the path of promotion is more difficult, and I doubt whether any one circumstanced as Abraham Lincoln was could ever have reached a commanding position. It

Which pillar is best represented in the underlined phrase, "I doubt whether any one circumstance"?

Alger describes how well Lincoln handled traveling (or "roughing it") while visiting towns as a lawyer.

### CHAPTER XI.

#### MR. LINCOLN FORMS TWO PARTNERSHIPS.

PRACTICING law in those days, and in that region, had some peculiar features. It was the custom for lawyers to "ride the circuit," that is, to accompany the judges from one country-town to another, attending to such business as might offer, in different sections of the State. Railroads had not yet found their way out so far West, and the lawyer was wont to travel on horseback, stopping at cabins on the way to eat and sleep, and, in brief, to "rough it." One brought up like Lincoln was not likely to shrink from any hardships which this might entail. Indeed, it is likely that, upon the whole, he enjoyed it, and that these journeys increased his natural shrewdness and knowledge of human nature, and furnished him with no inconsiderable part of the apposite stories which he was wont to quote in later years.

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Which pillar is best represented in the underlined phrases, "One brought up like Lincoln" and "his natural shrewdness"?



## Illustrating Freedom

**Background:** What influences the way we see leaders? How are these techniques used to help the public see someone positively or negatively?

**Your Task:** First, review the image for information about 5 Media Techniques used when presenting a person: Sound, Eye Contact, Subject Composition, Lighting, and Perspective. Then, test your knowledge and identify how these techniques are used in modern advertisements for presidential candidates at <https://educatingwithevidence.siu.edu/interactive-modules/lincoln/campaign-biographies/persuading-the-public.php>.

**Sound** is not part of this painting but you could imagine birds singing or other soothing sounds from nature to further illustrate a peaceful scene.

**Eye Contact** is sometimes used to show someone is honest and paying attention to the public or is dishonest and not able to look a person in the eye.

**Subject Composition** includes facial expression and clothing, both of which can be used to show someone with good or negative qualities. Here the painter uses a neutral expression to help show Lincoln is humble but determined as he wears common clothing and wipes his brow from a hard day's work.



**Lighting** on a person's face may go unnoticed, especially when the light source is from the top, as the artist has done here. Lighting from below the person gives what is called "monster lighting" and is used to show someone is scary or not to be trusted.

**Perspective** includes zoom and camera angle. Zooming in or out on a subject can help include or exclude important information or make them look scary or threatening. It can also be used to help show a person's kindness when speaking directly to the audience. Camera angle is how we look at the subject. Here the artist has zoomed out to include a lot of scenery that depicts Lincoln's hard work outdoors, including the fence rails he has split by hand.