

Analysis of A Leader: Misty Copeland's Life in Motion

Deirdre Wilson-Redmond

William Paterson University

Abstract

The chart displays this researcher's five leadership character trait selection as related to Misty Copeland, the principal ballerina for the American Ballet Theatre. Additionally, there is a juxtaposition of other famous leaders to Ms. Copeland. The analysis focuses on leadership styles, purpose and goals as it pertains to a leader's actual effectiveness and outcomes. It is a brief sketch based on Misty Copeland's biography.

Name: Deirdre Wilson-Redmond

Outcome #: 2

Book/Movie Title: Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina by Misty Copeland

Tom Peters Essentials Choose Five	Leader in Book/Video/DVD	Leader in My Life	Comments
1. Leaders create opportunities	“Tonight I will become the first black woman to star in Igor Stravinsky’s iconic role for the American Ballet Theatre.” She says this is for ALL the “little brown girls.” By being a barrier -buster she is making way and creating opportunities for future black ballerinas. (Copeland, 2014)	As result of her company’s organizational structure, Joyce Meyer reaches millions of people around the world with the Gospel which is what she says she is called to do, “Making nation of all men...”	Creating opportunities means a couple of things. Leaders actually produces scenarios and situations that help other people, say on their job or in a volunteer setting. They can like Misty Copeland, set the stage to develop of mindset of anything is possible. The opportunity is thereby created by default because people say, “look she did it. I think I can...I think I can...I think I can...”
2. Leaders are visionaries	“I have to think about whether I want to add sass or longing or, as I will tonight, the exotic other worldly energy of the mythical Firebird. You have to know the appropriate way to adorn each story and character with your body.” “I remember the first time I stood on the stage at the Metropolitan Opera House....It felt right. It felt like a promise: someday, somehow, it was going to happen for me...A decade	Martin Luther King, Jr. was ABSOLUTELY a visionary all the way up until the evening before his untimely death. When he spoke, one could even visualize what he was saying and in doing so, those followers wanted to put his words into action. Another important historical leader who was a visionary was Jesus Christ. He still leads today through the Bible.	Misty Copeland is very aware of the influence she has had on the dance world. She actively engages herself in the process of being a black lead ballerina in an mostly white world.

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	later, I am here, waiting for the moment when I will explode onto the stage in a burst of red and gold.” (Copeland, 2014)		
3. Leaders are great storytellers	In this book, Misty described the impact of having a fatherless childhood as her mother married multiple times. Her new daddy was an alcoholic, but she had a real concern for his welfare. (Copeland, 2014) This makes her human to many and in turn people are attracted to her success like a moth to a flame. This book is a “can do” story told with so much love and soul-baring Strength is also on display.	I love listening to Joyce Meyer , a Christian leader, tell stories of the trials and triumphs of growing up in a sexually abusive home. Many people can relate to her experiences and they draw strength from listening to how she overcame the bad times.	Storytelling makes for great people connections. We identify with the plight of others because it may be what we are going through or have gone through. People draw on the courage of leaders when they hear stories of how they conquered battles and slew giants. Stories most often must be told with hindsight in mind. A good story is also engaging and memorable.
4. Leaders re-do	Although Misty would often perform in pain, she says that her practices are everyday. During these practices she would still be perfecting her art because as she says it her book repeatedly... “this is for the little	Joyce Meyer, whom I watch almost every morning talks a great deal about mistakes she has made over the years and how she has had to come to grips with their consequences. But she doesn’t dwell on them. Meyer uses the	In my opinion, there is a humility in re-dos. Too many re-dos or fumbles may lead to lack of confidence from your followers, however, so it is important to endeavor to get it right the first time. People follow confident leaders.

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	black girls.” (Copeland, 2014)	re-do examples to encourage people, by her example to get back up on the horse.	Still there is humility in admitting when a different approach might be called for.
5. Leaders express their passion	Though Misty Copeland did not begin her journey to ballerina stardom until she was 13, once she was engaged in her dream she displayed bulldog passion about succeeding. Her success was against all odds since her mother had moved them several times and married several men over the years. (Copeland, 2014)	My school principal last year, Sandra Diodonet was extraordinarily passionate about her job as principal. I watched her and her drive was contagious. When speaking privately with her, I found her to be warm and engaging coupled with her knowledge and organization.	I believe that I am drawn to people who are passionate about what they do primarily because I too, consider myself to be a passionate leader.

Reference

Copeland, M. and Jones, C. (2014). *Life in motion: an unlikely ballerina*. New York, NY: Touchstone.