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## **What Leadership Means to Me**

A leader is someone who is caring, is not perfect, knows his or her potential, helps others, respects others, learns from others mistakes, and teaches values to others. The leader who shows all of these traits is my great-grandma, Marie.

She is caring because she gives me gifts even though she has a lot of relatives. She doesn't have a lot of money, but she always finds a way to be giving. A leader is someone who cares about others before themselves.

Though she is a good leader, my great-grandma has flaws. When she was younger, she would stay out late even though she should have stayed home, doing her homework or getting sleep. Even though she is not perfect, my great grandma is a leader because she knows she is not perfect.

My great-grandma had great potential. When she was young, my great-grandma was the smartest kid in school, and she knew it. She was good at trivia, and she worked her mind by doing crossword puzzles and Jeopardy, even as she got older. Leaders need to be smart and keep working to get better at things.

My great grandma also is a leader because she helps others. When she was young, her father made her help him on the farm. Leaders sometimes do things even if they don't want to. They help others because it is the right thing to do. My great grandma did this when she worked for her dad on the farm.

Grandma Marie was very respectful of others. Her father beat her sometimes, but even though he was abusive, she was very respectful to her father. A leader has to be respectful of others even if the leader doesn't want to.

My great-grandma also shows leadership by learning from other people's mistakes. One thing she learned from others is the dangers of abusing alcohol. Her father was an alcoholic, and she saw how it affected him and her family. She knew she wanted to teach her kids not to drink. A leader sees someone else making mistakes and doesn't want to make the same mistakes.

My grandma is very religious. She taught me the Catholic faith that she believes in and taught me to believe the same values. She recently had a stroke, and instead of being sad, she knew that God has gotten her through many difficult things and would get her through this, too. A leader is a positive influence and teaches good values to others.

My great-grandma has many leadership qualities. She is caring, not perfect, knows her potential, helps others, respects others, learns from others' mistakes, and teaches good values to others. A quote by an unknown person says, "Leadership is not a one-day thing. It is a constant

commitment to excellence, a habit, a daily practice.” My grandma Marie has been a leader for ninety- three years. Her being a leader makes me want to show the same leadership qualities.