

# Leadership Lessons from the Muppets



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“I believe that we form our own lives, that we create our own reality, and that everything works out best. I know I drive some people crazy with what seems to be ridiculous optimism, but it has always worked out for me.”

*Jim Henson*



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“Listening is the first step and the last  
step.”

*Cantus Fraggle*



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## Good things about being a frog

- ✓ Being green.
- ✓ Sitting in the sun on a lily pad.
- ✓ Having thousands of brothers and sisters.
- ✓ Going to the hop.
- ✓ Playing leapfrog.
- ✓ Having bears and pigs and dogs and chickens as your friends.
- ✓ Getting kissed by princesses hoping to turn you into a handsome prince.

*Kermit*



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“Simple is good.”

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“If just one person believes in you  
Deep enough and strong enough  
Believes in you hard enough and long enough  
Before you knew it, someone else would think  
“If he can do it, I can do it”

Making it two. Two whole people who believe in you.  
And maybe even you can believe in you too.”

*Robin and the Muppet Gang*



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*“We see with our eyes. We know with  
our hearts. Outside...Inside.”*

*Cantus Fraggle*



# Leadership Lessons from the Muppets

“I guess I was wrong when I said I never promised anyone. I promised me.”

*Kermit*



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“Jim was the fellow who uncorked the bottle, you know. He not only uncorked the bottle, he also shook it up.”

*Frank Oz*



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“Kermit’s function on the show is very much like my own in that he’s trying to hold together this group of crazies. And that’s not unlike what I do.”

*Jim Henson*



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“Jim was a master collaborator, not just because he allowed equal time for everyone’s input, but because he had the ability to validate the input and rank its usefulness at the same time.”

*Steve Whitmire*



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“A film is not done by one person. It’s done by a lot of people. I love this whole collaborative aspect. When it works well, you end up with something better than any of us started out to do.”

*Jim Henson*



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“Whenever characters become self-important or sentimental in the Muppets, then there’s always another character there to blow them up immediately.”

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“When I was young, my ambition was to be one of the people who made a difference in this world. My hope still is to leave the world a little better for my having been there. It’s a wonderful life and I love it.”

*Jim Henson*



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“I believe that we can use television and film to be an influence for good; that we can shape the thoughts of children and adults in a positive way.”

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“Here’s some simple advice: Always be yourself. Never take yourself too seriously. And beware of advice from experts, pigs, and members of Parliament.”

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“Jim didn’t think in terms of boundaries at all the way the rest of us do. There are always these fences we build around ourselves and our ideas. Jim seemed to have no fences.”

*Jon Stone*



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“If our ‘message’ is anything, it’s a positive approach to life. That life is basically good. People are basically good.”

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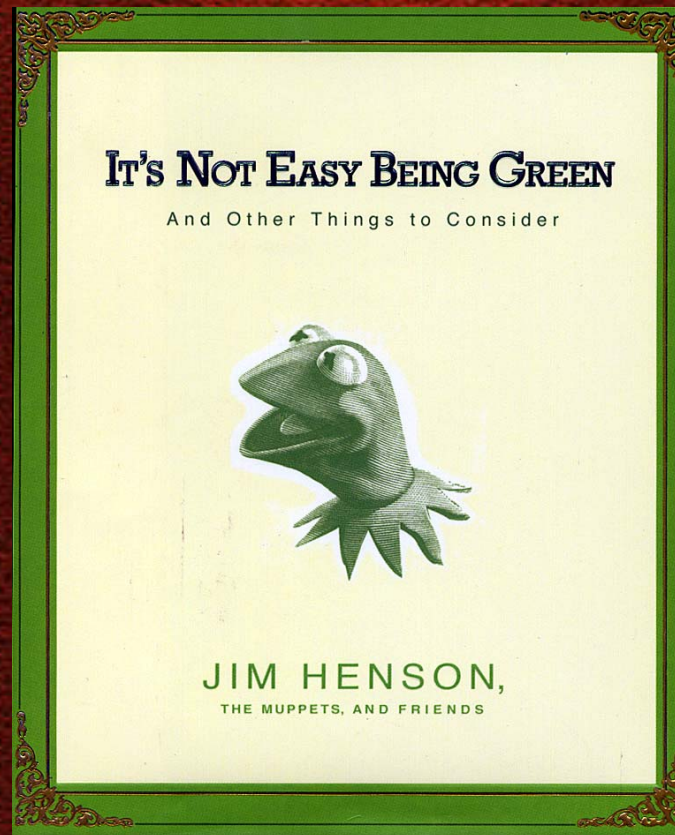
# Leadership Lessons from the Muppets

“Life’s like a movie, write your own ending  
Keep believing, keep pretending  
We’ve done just what we set out to do  
Thanks to the lovers, the dreamers, and you.”

*Kermit and the Muppets*



# Leadership Lessons from the Muppets



## Quotes from *It's Not Easy Being Green* by Jim Henson

I believe that we form our own lives, that we create our own reality, and that everything works out best. I know I drive some people crazy with what seems to be ridiculous optimism, but it has always worked out for me.

*Jim Henson*

Listening is the first step and the last step.

*Cantus Fraggles*

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*Kermit and the Muppets*

# Group Roles...*The Muppets*

## Group Roles observed

### **PRODUCT**

- Initiator
- Information Seeker
- Moderator

### **PROCESS**

- Encourager
- Harmonizer
- Team Player

### **EGO**

- Blocker
- Avoider
- Dominator
- Class Clown

## Group Roles Defined

### **PRODUCT**

**Initiator**- Gets things going and keeps things on track.

**Information Seeker**- Asks questions about the situation. Or provides answers.

**Moderator**- Ensures that all members have an opportunity to participate.

### **PROCESS**

**Encourager** - Thanks and praises members for their ideas.

**Harmonizer**- Promotes group togetherness. Helps when things get tense.

**Team Player**- Willing to take on any job that helps the group.

### **EGO**

**Blocker**- Rejects all suggestions.

**Avoider**- Doesn't want to get involved.

**Dominator**- Wants to control the group and only talks about what he/she wants.

**Class Clown**- Draws attention to himself/herself but seldom contributes a serious answer.

Suppositions (twists on group roles) made during the movie:

Relevance...so what?