

2.1 The Guardian Lions of the New York Public Library

ABOUT THIS TOOL—Metaphors have power. During the 1930s, New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia named the guardian lions in front of the New York Public Library for the qualities he felt New Yorkers would need to survive the economic depression: Fortitude and Patience. These names have endured ever since, capturing two important touchstones needed for navigating life’s challenges.

Similarly, this tool aims at providing you a meaningful gauge for guiding your actions in ways that meet your personal aspirations for excellence.

APPLICATION—Identify the touchstones, or core values, of your management practice in the space provided, below. What do you want to be known for in your interactions with others?



FORTITUDE



PATIENCE

*The Guardian
Lions of the
New York
Public Library*



CLARITY



CARING

*The author’s
Guardian
Lions that
inform his
management
practice*



*What are
your two
Guardian
Lions that you
want to be
known for as
a manager?*

Source: Developed by the author