Democratic –

Testing:
- When Shackleton realised that the men were moving the boats too slowly he allowed them to discuss whether they wanted to continue or wait for a lengthy period on ice till it melted.

Abdicratic –

Joining:
- As he used Servant Leadership characteristics a lot on this voyage there were many instances where Shackleton helped the men with duties that needed to be carried out. Cases include him pumping water out of the boat when it was capsizing and rowing with the rest of his crew to Elephant Island.

Delegating:
- When the *Endurance* was stopped to fetch a seal a crewmember had shot Shackleton made an executive decision for everyone to leave the ship to stretch their legs. Together the crew decided to run a few games of soccer for some entertainment.

There are hundreds of reasons why Ernest Shackleton is one of the most historical examples of a noble leader. What I find most outstanding though is how he advocated growth within his men, promoting it by giving constructive criticism as well as compliments to encourage them. He wasn’t afraid to give feedback on the work his crew were doing and if need be would clarify the goals and objectives that he wanted to prioritise. This would give the men something to work towards as well as evade any confusion. Shackleton was ready to seize new opportunities and willing to change the job at hand from task to relationship focused when times called for it.

Although the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition technically failed, risking the lives of the 28 men and putting them through the most miserable months of their life – it’s an amazing tale packed with lessons which can help us in the planning and execution of our own adventures. Ernest Shackleton was clearly born to lead and used a range of qualities and skills to achieve what he could on behalf of his crew and although failing provided his crew is an incredible experience which should be learned from but definitely not deter explorers. Because as Shackleton once said “the only true failure would be not to explore at all”.