

# UNTITLED

Photograph

## Photographed by Nadya Kwandibens

Nadya Kwandibens is Ojibway (Anishinaabe) and French from the Northwest Angle #37 First Nation in Ontario. Identifying with her Ojibway heritage, she is also known as Makoons and is from the Loon Clan. She is a self-taught photographer specializing in artistic natural-light portraiture and event photography. Her work has appeared in various magazines such as *This*, *Spirit*, *SAY*, and *Red Ink*. She founded Red Works Studio, a photography company that empowers contemporary Indigenous lifestyles and cultures through photographic essays, features, and portraits.

### Before

This photo is currently untitled. Give it a title. Why did you give it this title?

### During

As you view the photo, what questions do you have for the photographer?

## What Inspired Me to Create This Selection

“We, as Indigenous people, are often portrayed in history books as nations once great; in museums as nations frozen stoic; in the media as nations forever troubled. These images can be despairing; however, my goal seeks to steer the positive course. If our history is a shadow, let this moment serve as light. We are musicians, lawyers, doctors, mothers, and sons. We are activists, scholars, dreamers, fathers, and daughters. Let us claim ourselves now and see that we are, and will always be, great, thriving, balanced civilizations capable of carrying ourselves into that bright new day.”

### After

- 1. Reading for Meaning** What main theme is expressed in this photo? Are other themes presented?
- 2. Critical Literacy** Do you think the photographer assumes the viewer holds certain values or views of the world? What might those assumptions be?
- 3. Reading for Meaning** What effect does the young woman looking at the camera have in this photo? How does this connect to the photographer's statement of inspiration?
- 4. Understanding Form and Style** How would you describe the style of this photo? How effective is it in conveying the meaning of the photo?



- 5. Student Voice** Look back at the title you gave this photo. After reading the photographer's inspiration and analyzing the photo, do you still think your title is appropriate or would you give it a new one?
- 6. Metacognition** How does knowing why the photographer took this photo help you understand it?

## Beyond

**Student Voice** Select an issue that is important to you. Take a photo that represents that issue. Explain orally or in writing how the photo relates to your views on the issue.