

NAME:

MARY ELLEN MARK

WEBQUEST

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4AwZxnDrWCc>

1. Why does Mary Ellen Mark believe street photography is hard?
2. Mark says her goal is to “make images that stand on their own.” Thinking about her explanation in the video, what does this mean to you?
3. Why does she believe being a female street photographer is an advantage?
4. Using your image investigation skills, pick out evidence and explain what you believe is going on in this picture.



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Read the full story of the image: This image is from Mary Ellen Mark's 1983 photo series *Streetwise*. The caption reads: *Friends Rat, 16 (left), and Mike, 17, have this Colt .45 only for defense, they insist, against men who try to pick them up or rob them. "I get hassled a lot" says Rat. "Mike's my protection." They picked Seattle because Mike had once lived there.* Every city in America has them. There are a thousand in Seattle alone—homeless teenagers who use only their first names to hide their identities. And more alarming than that gun in Mike's hand is what these street kids represent today: a new generation of runaway and abandoned children struggling to survive on their own. Each year more than one million American youngsters between 11 and 17 run away. More than half are girls, and the majority are never reported missing by their apparently indifferent families. These kids aren't looking for '60s-style hippie adventure. Many leave home because living there has become impossible for them. Most are fleeing turbulent households racked by conflict, violence, neglect and—in a disturbingly high percentage of cases—sexual abuse. "Some of these kids are running for damn good reasons. The most logical option they have is to get out of there," says Gordon Raley, staff director of the House Subcommittee on Human Resources, which gathers data on runaways. But a growing number are casualties of the prolonged recession. "The economy has had a tremendous impact," Raley continues. "There are a hell of a lot of kids literally kicked out and thrown away." Each year some 5,000 unidentified teenagers end up in unmarked graves, according to federal records, and another 50,000 simply disappear. No one knows what happens to them. Too young to get jobs or to receive welfare, a significant majority resort to theft, peddling drugs, and prostitution to support themselves. Father Bruce Ritter, a Catholic priest, whose Covenant House crisis centers in New York, Toronto and Houston aid thousands of kids each year, believes that 80 percent of runaways use sex to survive. "Without dealing in myth or exaggeration, there are 500,000 kids younger than seventeen involved in prostitution," says Ritter. "Nobody will dispute that. They have nothing to sell but themselves." Government programs and privately funded centers like Ratter's shelter roughly 10 percent of the chronically homeless at any given time. In Seattle, where 6,000 runaways are reported each year, there are only a single eight-bed facility, The Shelter, and a few impoverished church-run programs like the St. Dismas Center to provide help. Fending for themselves, most street kids spend the nights in abandoned buildings, unlocked cars, steam-bath cubicles, under bridges and even in cemeteries. Some pool their cash to rent cheap motel rooms, with as many as 15 sleeping on the floor. To illuminate this growing national problem and encourage more effective solutions to it, LIFE here examines these children's dangerous and pitiful lot.

5. Now that you know the whole story, how has your opinion of the image changed?
6. Did you guess correctly or was your initial idea way off?

Read this article: <http://time.com/3896742/mary-ellen-mark-streetwise/>

7. Based on the article, what do you believe was Mark's goal in photographing what she did?
8. Now that you know more about Mary Ellen Mark and what she wanted to do as a street photographer, choose an image of hers to discuss. Visit this website: <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/gallery/2015/may/26/mary-ellen-mark-legendary-photographs-in-pictures> and copy/paste an image of your choice. (If the website is blocked, do a Google Image search - just be sure the picture you find is actually hers!).
Discuss why you chose the image - what did you like/not like and what stands out? What elements/principles/rules do you see and how do they help tell the story of the picture? What is the story?

Please make sure your NAME is on this document and you SUBMIT ON HAIKU

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