

**ROLE MODEL BIO:** Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair is Anishinaabe (St. Peter's/Little Peguis) and an Assistant Professor at the University of Manitoba. He is a regular commentator on Indigenous issues on CTV, CBC, and APTN, and his written work can be found in the pages of The Exile Edition of Native Canadian Fiction and Drama, newspapers like The Guardian, and online with CBC Books: Canada Writes. Niigaan is the co-editor of the award-winning Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water (Highwater Press, 2011) and Centering Anishinaabeg Studies: Understanding the World Through Stories (Michigan State University Press, 2013), and is the Editorial Director of The Debwe Series with Portage and Main Press. Niigaan obtained his BA in Education at the University of Winnipeg, before completing an MA in Native- and African-American literatures at the University of Oklahoma, and a PhD in First Nations and American Literatures from the University of British Columbia.

**LEARNING GOALS:**

- I will make connections between a role model's life experiences and my own

**SUCCESS CRITERIA:**

- I can identify 3 specific actions that helped Niigaan achieve their goals
- I can connect examples of these themes to my actions in my own life

**IDENTIFY** *Some of the themes below are discussed in the Fireside Chat with Niigaan Sinclair*

**Indigenizing history**

**overcoming shame**

**forgiveness**

**fallibility**

**perspective**

How have these themes have been present in Niigaan's life?

- Listen to the interview
- Record notes of relevant themes and examples

**CONNECT** *Reflect on your own journey. Where do these themes appear in your own life?*

**Discuss with a friend or family member. Record your connections in writing, drawing or with music.**

**"If you're able to spend that little bit of energy left to try and make this world a better place and to help make the path easier for those who are coming, you'll leave a legacy that you don't even know about. You'll leave a legacy that will impact millions of people that you don't even know that you impacted". -Niigaan Sinclair**

**EXTEND** *Part of self-care and positive self-talk comes from taking responsibility for past actions.*

**Looking back into your personal past, where might you be able to take responsibility for good things that have occurred? How does embracing positivity challenge your self-perception?**