



Other Portraits

Mrs. Bible Digital Photography 2021

Portraits

“Photography is a way of feeling, of touching, of loving. What you have caught on film is captured forever... It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything.”

— Aaron Siskind

There is nothing more distinctively human than our faces. They show the world who we are. We record the milestones and events of our lives— *births, school, birthdays, holidays, weddings, anniversaries, and vacations*—to tell the story of our lives. We capture these moments with feelings and emotions that are visible in the expressions of our subjects.



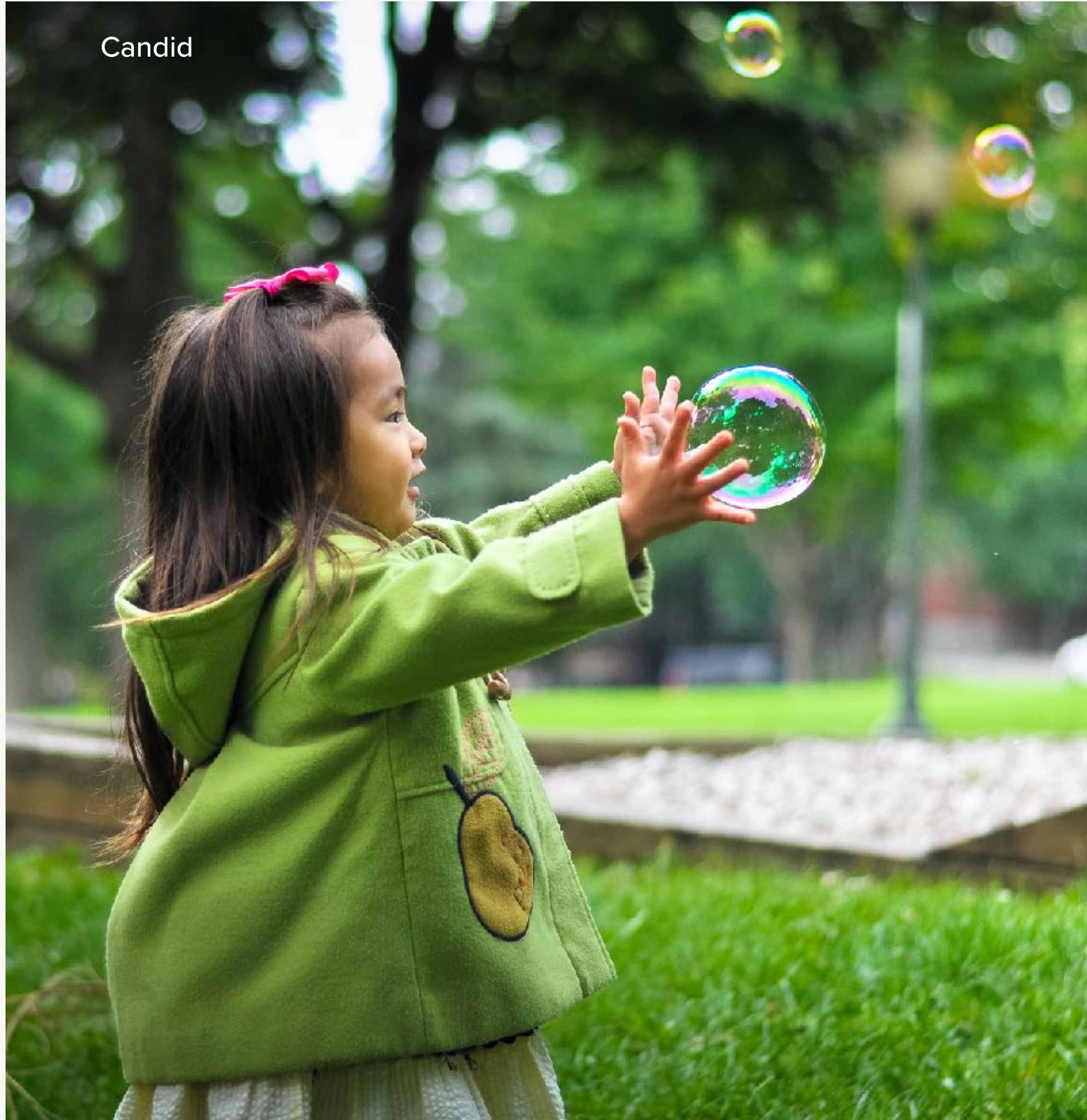
The Candid Portrait

Candid Portraits capture a person going about everyday life and activities, whether it's playing basketball, singing in a choir, watching TV, or talking with friends. Don't try and pose your subject. It's more effective if the person is completely natural. Try to take your photographs without the subject noticing you. If you fade into the background, your subject will be relaxed and spontaneous.

Be sure to include your subjects surroundings in candid portraits. The background gives context and meaning, and can explain what your subject is doing. Try to capture moods—excitement, concentration, shyness, or anger.



Candid



Candid



Candid





The Environmental Portrait

The **Environmental portrait** uses a subject's surroundings to help tell that person's story. This type of portrait is a combination of a formal portrait and photojournalism. It not only shows the face of the subject, but the subject's life, as well. Here the subject can be a smaller part of the image.

While the subject is still the most important part of the image, the background helps to provide additional details to the story the image tells about the subject. Environmental portraits can show a complete picture of a person and what makes them tick, or they can simply provide hints about a person's life and interests. The room and the subject's possessions and surroundings can be pieces of a puzzle the viewer will want to solve.



Candid portrait



Environmental Portrait



Environmental Portrait

The Self Portrait

In the **Self portrait**, you become your own subject. If you are like most people, you might not like being in front of the camera. This is a common feeling, but self-portraits don't have to be totally revealing.

With traditional self-portraits, you simply take a picture of yourself. You show who you are and something about your life. You can choose to reveal as much or as little as you want about your life. You can choose to share your home, or even include your pet. You are in control of the image. You can also show yourself doing things such as writing, painting, playing music, practicing sports, or any other favorite activity.

My preference is to take a portrait in a mirror or window with the camera half covering my face. It tells you that I am not completely comfortable in front of the camera and that I enjoy taking photographs.





Self Portrait



Self Portrait



Self portrait



Techniques & Tools

Fill the frame: “Most amateurs don’t get close enough and their subject is too small,” says John. By manually controlling the depth of field — actually picking up your feet and putting your camera close to your subject rather than zooming, you’ll get a more confident and captivating shot.

Framing: Frames are a great photographic element that you can use to lead the viewer’s eyes into the image. They focus attention on a particular point. Frames provide a sense of repetition, depth, and a path for the eyes to explore.

A frame in the foreground creates a build-up to the central part of an image. You can also place the frame in the background and your main subject in the foreground.

Vignetting: It is most commonly used in portraits because they call for all of the attention to go toward the subject. In this sense, vignettes are the perfect solution for various portraits, especially posed ones. For an even more dramatic effect, consider using vignetting in portraits shot in front of a solid-colored backdrop. This will heighten the contrast in your photo and ensure that all eyes are on your model/subject.

Key Terms

- **Candid Portraits** *capture a person going about everyday life and activities.*
- **Environmental portrait** uses a subject's surroundings to help tell that person's story.
- **Self portrait** is when you become your own subject.
- **Framing:** Frames are a great photographic element that you can use to lead the viewer's eyes into the image.
- **Vignetting:** It is most commonly used in portraits because they call for all of the attention to go toward the subject.



To Do:

- Add to your Google Doc of the Key Terms for Class.
- **Assignment:** Take two of each of the discussed portrait styles (candid portrait, environmental portrait, self portrait).
- Edit your images (crop, camera raw filter, etc.)
- Post to your blog with the definition of each of the three portraits.

