

99 WRITING

# What walking the red road means to me is

by Mariah Valenzuela

**TYPE**  
**POETRY**

What walking the red road means to me is

I'm walking for myself and for my people

There's power to what WE behold

We are walking with positive attitudes and thoughts

No stone should ever be left behind

Because we are all one

I am walking a clean road for my mother, uncles

For the ones who can't be here

My grandmothers, my grandfather, sisters, brothers

My future sons and daughters, my community

Mamma raised a hustler

But that doesn't mean I got to be on the corner selling  
drugs

That means Imma grind to whatever I put my mind to

That means there's power behind MY name

Power behind these words

That means my pencil is my weapon

That means I am Native American

And I am walking for Indigenous Women!

In response to: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women