Summary

A collection of poems that explore the common theme of self identity. The development from early childhood to adulthood is conveyed chronologically to establish personal growth throughout the years. Focuses on femininity and the expectations that our culture upholds for the modern woman.

Early Childhood

Cute

Don’t call me cute
I’d say to myself
As strangers
pointed and stared

“Goldilocks, Curly Sue”
they’d call me

I hated it—
being called cute
The attention
often too much to bear

Grabbing the dull kitchen scissors
I knew what I was about to do was wrong

*Snip Snip*
The curls fell
piled on the floor

Now hair to my ears
& both front teeth gone
No one stops
or looks in my direction

I walk by those same people
Only this time
I’m met with silence

Longing—
to be called cute

Adolescence

Friends with Boyfriends

Why do girls my age
measure their worth
by the number of boys
they’ve kissed?

Why do they spend all their time
straightening their hair and
picking out the perfect outfit
hoping to impress the opposite sex?

I often wonder
Is something wrong with me?

While my friends go on dates
with their boyfriends that have
consumed their young minds
I am alone

Should I get new clothes?
Should I start wearing makeup?
Maybe then boys will like me

I want to be liked for who I am
The chubby, goofy tom boy

I don’t want to be liked
for someone I’m pretending to be

That’s just not me

Adulthood

A Letter to Myself

Dear younger self,
You are perfect just the way you are
I know, cheesy isn’t it?
But it’s true

You don’t need to change for anyone
Don’t doubt yourself

Your worth depends on much more
than your ability to walk in 6 inch heels
or the brand of clothes you wear

Learn to love the flaws and quirks
that make you unique and
others will soon follow suit

Those nights alone will eventually be missed as
life can get chaotic
Take advantage of the peaceful moments

It may seem like you don’t fit in
or you that you need to fix yourself
to be like everyone else

Trust me, you don’t
So please:
Stay true to yourself

Project Overview

The search for identity cannot happen overnight. In this day and age, we are subject to our culture’s pressure for perfection. This project tackles several examples of the struggle to find one’s self in the modern world. Some of these inner struggles include:

- What is femininity?
- Are one’s looks all that really matters?
- Who are we trying to impress?