

When I Crawled Out the Creek by Elliott Carter

Introduction:

*“I received a comment in a workshop that “When I Crawled Out the Creek” wasn’t quite framed correctly—that transness is more about becoming a person than it is about destroying a person. **But emotions are rarely this neat!** I don’t like how my body currently is, but I am also terrified of saying goodbye to it.”*

- Elliott Carter

Directions: Follow the steps provided below:

1. Read “[When I Crawled Out the Creek](#)” by Elliott Carter, paying close attention to the speaker’s conflicting emotions about her identity throughout the piece.
2. Identify two different emotions in the poem that are diametrically opposed from one another, i.e. love and hate, guilt and innocence, or something to that extent. Then place each of those two emotions in the two spaces provided for you.
3. In the rows underneath each of those emotions, simply copy/paste specific evidence from the text that depicts those feelings.
4. In the row underneath, discuss how the two conflicting emotions work with one another in the text to create a sense of complexity. Why are the speaker’s feelings not - as the poet put it - “neat” and “tidy”? What does the emotional “push and pull” reveal about the speaker? Your response should consist of no less than three complete sentences.

Conflicting Emotions 1	
Emotion 1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>	Emotion 2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>
Specific Textual Evidence	Specific Textual Evidence

<p>Discuss how the two conflicting emotions work with one another in the text to create a sense of complexity? Why are the speaker's feelings not - as the poet put it - "neat" and "tidy"? What does the emotional "push and pull" reveal about the speaker?</p> <p><i>*Your response should consist of no less than three complete sentences.</i></p>	

Conflicting Emotions 2	
<p>Emotion 1</p> <div></div>	<p>Emotion 2</p> <div></div>
<p>Specific Textual Evidence</p>	<p>Specific Textual Evidence</p>
<p>Discuss how the two conflicting emotions work with one another in the text to create a sense of complexity? Why are the speaker's feelings not - as the poet put it - "neat" and "tidy"? What does the emotional "push and pull" reveal about the speaker?</p> <p><i>*Your response should consist of no less than three complete sentences.</i></p>	

Conflicting Emotions 3	
Emotion 1 <div></div>	Emotion 2 <div></div>
Specific Textual Evidence	Specific Textual Evidence
<p>Discuss how the two conflicting emotions work with one another in the text to create a sense of complexity? Why are the speaker's feelings not - as the poet put it - "neat" and "tidy"? What does the emotional "push and pull" reveal about the speaker?</p> <p><i>*Your response should consist of no less than three complete sentences.</i></p>	