

See video evidence and Choreographic intention (below)

Achieved
NZQA Intended for teacher use only

‘Choosing one meant losing all the rest’

“I saw myself sitting in the crotch of this fig tree, starving to death, just because I couldn't make up my mind which of the figs I would choose. I wanted each and every one of them, but choosing one meant losing all the rest, and, as I sat there, unable to decide, the figs began to wrinkle and go black, and, one by one, they plopped to the ground at my feet.”

Choreographic stimulus

The choreographic intention of my dance is to explore the emotional turmoil of indecision and the inability to choose a path in life, using the fig tree analogy as a metaphor to represent this struggle. I aim to explore the tension between inner desires and external pressures when facing difficult choices about the future. The dance will capture the struggle of wanting everything but being overwhelmed into inaction.

Last year, while reading Sylvia Plath's *Bell Jar*, I was hugely influenced by her fig tree analogy. Plath describes sitting beneath a fig tree, each fig representing a different life path, full and ripe but eventually withering and falling due to her indecision. I connected deeply with this metaphor, feeling the weight of endless conversations and expectations around university, careers, and life decisions. While these possibilities should be exciting, I often felt and still feel trapped and stuck in a cycle of indecision, perfectionism, and fear of making the wrong choice. This poem and metaphor opened my eyes to the impact of indecision and the way wanting every possibility can actually lead to losing them all. It captured in words, the grief of watching opportunities because of feeling unable to choose, a feeling I was getting very familiar with.