'My mother and grandmother were such good cooks that I left everything to them'- has been so nurtured my these stereotypical housewives that she has no initiative of her own, has been so looked after that she struggles to look after herself.

'My mother kept telling me nobody wanted a plain English major. But an English major who knew shorthand was something else again. [...] She would be in demand among all the up-and-coming young men and she would transcribe letter after thrilling letter.'- cynicism evident

'I didn't know shorthand [...] I was a terrible dancer. I couldn't carry a tune. [...] I couldn't ride a horse or ski [...] I couldn't speak German or read Hebrew or write Chinese.'- counting the ways she is inadequate, Esther begins with the activities more traditionally associated with women, cooking, shorthand, performing arts- she feels like a failure as a woman.

'If he loved anybody he would never go to bed with her'- sexual double standard, the splitting apart women have, like Esther and her figs women can only be one thing, forced to make a choice, men cant see them as multi-faceted individuals.

'In Defence of Chastity' article - women cant handle sex emotionally, men might but women must not have sex before marriage, men want to be the ones to teach women about sex, cant respect an unmarried woman they have sex with- unmarried sex = no respect for women.

http://www.jstor.org/stable/40267609

Kate A. Baldwin- ‘The Radical Imaginary of The Bell Jar’