

Why some people think

Walt Whitman

makes chocolate candy.

KIDS DON'T GET ENOUGH ART THESE DAYS. So no wonder some of them mistake America's most revolutionary poet for a box of chocolates.

The son of a Quaker carpenter, Walt Whitman grew up with an affinity for nature. This, along with his awe of New York City, inspired him to write a fresh kind of poetry, the likes of which Americans had

never seen. His collection of poems became known as *Leaves of Grass*. Due to its hedonistic, sensual, even narcissistic subject matter, the poems were often banned. This guy pushed the envelope all right, before most folks even knew there was an envelope to push.

Throughout his career, Whitman rewrote and reinvented *Leaves of Grass*, expanding and



Whitman satisfied his sweet tooth with rich, wave-like verse. Every kid should make poetry a part of his diet.

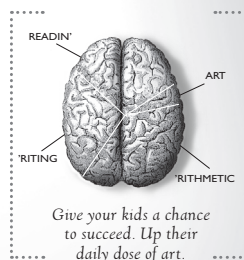
editing his masterpiece in an effort to publish the quintessential collection. In essence, *Leaves of Grass* was Walt himself in verse form. Walt Whitman changed poetry. His life's work was way ahead of its time. And even though he emerged long before the Summer of Love, he was the one true original beatnik — an inspiring example for writers like Ginsberg and Kerouac.



Too much of Whitman's art won't give you a stomachache.

Walt Whitman can influence your child, too. That's what poetry does. In fact, the more art kids get, the smarter they become in subjects like math and science.

So they become more well-rounded adults. For *Ten Simple Ways* to get more art in kids' lives, visit AmericansForTheArts.org.



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