# WHY SOME PEOPLE THINK

# VIRGINIA WOOLF

# IS THE STATE'S OFFICIAL ANIMAL.

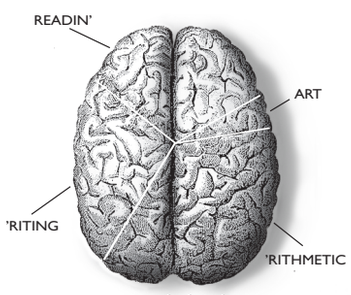
*Portrait of Virginia Woolf:* Novelis writeris, *not* Canis lupus.

**KIDS DON'T GET ENOUGH ART THESE DAYS.** Not in their schools or their communities. They don't have enough access to ballets, musicals or literature. Sort of explains why some kids might think Britain's most influential female novelist is actually an East Coast predator. Virginia Woolf is not a carnivorous mammal. Nor is she from Virginia. She is, however, fit to teach your kid a thing or two.

*When Virginia Woolf wrote legendary novels, she did it with opposable thumbs.*

**A MODERN FEMINIST IN LONDON.** Adeline Virginia Stephen was born in London in 1882. And while her brothers attended school, she was educated at home. Only when the boys brought friends home from Cambridge University was the famed Bloomsbury Group formed with Virginia as a cornerstone. Here she escaped the conventions of society to freely explore philosophy, religion and art. And with this freedom, Virginia went on to create the modern novel.

**THE FRENCH INVASION.** During the French Post-Impressionist movement, Virginia was influenced to reject linear writing. She focused on the inner lives of her characters rather than on plot. And as a result, her works are profoundly poetic. Her most well-known novel, *Mrs. Dalloway*, takes place solely within the thoughts of characters and marks the birth of Virginia's "stream of consciousness" style. Virginia said "cheerio" to the male viewpoint and revealed women's experiences instead.




*Give your kids a bigger chance to succeed. Up their daily dose of art.*

Dedicated "Woolfians" study Virginia's work and even make pilgrimages to her English home in droves. What's more, her life and writings continue to inspire readers three-quarters of a century after her death. Yet to kids, she's becoming extinct faster than some species of wildlife.

**HAVE A SPOT O' TEA AND A JOLLY-GOOD CHAT ABOUT THE ARTS.** As a parent, you know that giving your kid more access to art can result in a more well-rounded adult. Still, the art kids receive adds up to just a couple of hours a month. Maybe. If Virginia Woolf can make a place for modernism in 19th-century England. Bloody hell. We can get off our bums and make room for it today. Take your child to a play. Or read a novel aloud. It'll pay off in more ways than you can imagine. For *Ten Simple Ways* to get more art in your kid's life, visit www.AmericansForTheArts.org.

**ART. ASK FOR MORE.**

AmericansForTheArts.org

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