KIDS DON'T GET ENOUGH ART THESE DAYS. Sort of explains why some of them might think that Britain’s most influential novelist is an East Coast predator. For the record, Virginia Woolf isn’t a bloodthirsty carnivorous mammal nor is she from Virginia.

Adeline Virginia Woolf was raised in London in the 1880s. While her brothers went to school, she was educated at home. Only when the boys brought friends home from Cambridge University was the famed Bloomsbury Group created with Virginia as the cornerstone. Here she escaped the conventions of society to freely explore philosophy, religion and art. With this freedom, Virginia went on to create the modern novel.

During the Post-Impressionist movement, she was encouraged to reject linear writing. Art like Virginia Woolf’s can transform lives. It pays off in a lot more ways than you can imagine. In fact, the more art kids get, the more knowledgeable they become in subjects like math and science. The end result is that your well-rounded kid becomes a well-rounded adult. For Ten Simple Ways to instill more art into kids’ lives, visit AmericansForTheArts.org.

Her most well-known novel, Mrs. Dalloway, is a modern masterpiece in her signature “stream-of-consciousness” style. And now more than three-quarters of a century after her death, she continues to inspire readers and writers. Other than Shakespeare, she is perhaps studied by more college students than any other author in the world.

One of the world’s most influential writers, Virginia Woolf. Novella writers, not Canis lupus.

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