

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7203/metode.8.10461>

VIRGINIA WOOLF: BETWEEN WRITING AND DISEASE

Josep Ballester-Roca, Noelia Ibarra-Rius

ABSTRACT

The authors offer an analysis of mental illness in the work of a key twentieth century author: Virginia Woolf. A critical review of her literary legacy allows us to get closer to what might be one of the most intense literary portrayals of illness and its metaphors and, at the same time, to the representations, euphemisms, silences, and monsters depicted in the chapters of her life and in the unique voice of an essential author.

KEYWORDS

illness; literature; writing; Virginia Woolf; woman

FULL TEXT:

[PDF](#)

REFERENCES

1. American Psychiatric Association. (2000). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders. Washington: APA.
2. Baldessarini, R. J. (2000). A plea for integrity of the bipolar disorder concept. *Bipolar Disord*, 2, 3–7. doi: 10.1034/j.1399-5618.2000.020102.x
3. Bell, Q. (1996). *Virginia Woolf. A biography*. London: Hogarth.
4. DeSalvo, L. (1989). *Virginia Woolf: The impact of childhood sexual abuse on her life and work*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
5. Figueroa, G. (2005). Virginia Woolf: enfermedad mental y creatividad artística. *Revista Médica de Chile*, 133, 1381–1388. doi: 10.4067/S0034-98872005001100015
6. García Nieto, R. (2004). Virginia Woolf: caso clínico. *Revista de la Asociación Española de Neuropsiquiatría*, 92, 3501–3519.
7. Minow-Pinkey, M. (1987). *Virginia Woolf and the problem of the subject*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.
8. Woolf, L. (1970). *The journey not the arrival matters: An autobiography of the years 1939-1969*. London: Harcourt, Brave & Word.
9. Woolf, V. (1975). *The letters: Vol. I. The flight of the mind, 1888-1912*. London: Chatto & Windus.
10. Woolf, V. (1980). *The letters. Vol VI. Leave the letters till were dead, 1936-1941*. London: Chatto & Windus.
11. Woolf, V. (1985). *The diary of Virginia Woolf. Vol. V*. London: Penguin.
12. Woolf, V. (1988). *Els anys*. Barcelona: Edhasa.
13. Woolf, V. (1996). *Al far*. Barcelona: Edicions 62.
14. Woolf, V. (2003). *Mrs. Dalloway*. Barcelona: Proa.

Antiplagio (URKUND)



Send an e-mail attaching the document to check for plagiarism. As soon as possible you will get in your e-mail address a similarity report performed by URKUND Antiplagiarisme system.

[Check Plagiarisme](#)

ARTICLE TOOLS

- [Indexing metadata](#)
- [How to cite item](#)
- [Finding References](#)
- [Review policy](#)
- [Email this article \(Login required\)](#)

USER

Username
Password
 Remember me
[Login](#)

KEYWORDS

[Ebola](#) [argumentation](#) [biotechnology](#)
[black holes](#) [brain](#) [cancer](#) [climate](#)
[change](#) [communication](#) [environment](#)
[equality](#) [evolution](#) [language](#) [literature](#)
[neuroscience](#) [pseudoscience](#)
[science](#) [science](#) [communication](#)
[science](#) [fiction](#) [scientific](#) [method](#) [travel](#)
[women](#)

[Journal Help](#)

British writer Virginia Woolf, who allegedly suffered from bipolar disorder. Her disorder was strongly related to her family background. The age difference between Virginia and her brothers should be noted - Gerald was 16 years her senior, and George was. Correspondence: Fla. Virginia Woolf also left written accounts about how, after the death of her mother Julia, her half-brother. George would enter her room and enthusiastically lie next to her and take her into his arms. She later wrote about his "violent guts of passion," and that his behavior was "a little better than a brute's." Virginia Woolf wrote *Between the Acts* shortly before she died and against a backdrop of turmoil and war. Today, her final novel is one of her least-known - and most striking. She felt that *Between the Acts* was "too silly and trivial" to bring out in its current form. Instead, she wrote, she would aim to revise it for publication later in the year. The following day, before Lehmann had even received her letter, Woolf filled her pockets with stones, walked into the River Ouse and drowned. Her mental state was a recurrence of her

15. Woolf, V. (2013). Momentos de vida. Barcelona: Lumen.

16. Woolf, V. (2014). De la enfermedad. Barcelona: Centellas.



Texts in the journal are –unless otherwise indicated– published under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License](#)

depressive illness, likely intensified by the advent of war in Europe. She was 59, the author of eight novels including Orlando, Mrs Dalloway and To the Lighthouse as well as numerous pieces of non-fiction. A Wave in the Mind: Virginia Woolf on Writing and Consciousness. Labors of Love. Famous Writers' Sleep Habits vs. Literary Productivity, Visualized. Also: Because Brain Pickings is in its twelfth year and because I write primarily about ideas of a timeless character, I have decided to plunge into my vast archive every Wednesday and choose from the thousands of essays one worth resurfacing and resavoring. Subscribe to this free midweek pick-me-up for heart, mind, and spirit below — it is separate

MÈTODE SCIENCE STUDIES JOURNAL - WWW.UV.ES/METODE

[MAILING LIST](#) [NEWS](#) [THE TWO CULTURES OBSERVATORY](#)

from the standard Sunday digest of new pieces: — Published February 25, 2015 — <https://www.brainpickings.org/2015/02/25/virginia-woolf-writing-self-doubt/> — www.brainpickings.org. PRINT ARTICLE.

© 2012 Universitat de València. Servei de Biblioteques i Documentació, Servei d'Informàtica

[Contacte](#)

British writer Virginia Woolf, who allegedly suffered from bipolar disorder. Her disorder was strongly related to her family background. The age difference between Virginia and her brothers should be noted - Gerald was 16 years her senior, and George was. Correspondence: Fla. Virginia Woolf also left written accounts about how, after the death of her mother Julia, her half-brother. George would enter her room and enthusiastically lie next to her and take her into his arms. She later wrote about his "violent guts of passion," and that his behavior was "a little better than a brute's." Virginia Woolf wrote Between the Acts shortly before she died and against a backdrop of turmoil and war. Today, her final novel is one of her least-known - and most striking. She felt that Between the Acts was "too silly and trivial" to bring out in its current form. Instead, she wrote, she would aim to revise it for publication later in the year. The following day, before Lehmann had even received her letter, Woolf filled her pockets with stones, walked into the River Ouse and drowned. Her mental state was a recurrence of her depressive illness, likely intensified by the advent of war in Europe. She was 59, the author of eight novels including Orlando, Mrs Dalloway and To the Lighthouse as well as numerous pieces of non-fiction. A Wave in the Mind: Virginia Woolf on Writing and Consciousness. Labors of Love. Famous Writers' Sleep Habits vs. Literary Productivity, Visualized. Also: Because Brain Pickings is in its twelfth year and because I write primarily about ideas of a timeless character, I have decided to plunge into my vast archive every Wednesday and choose from the thousands of essays one worth resurfacing and resavoring. Subscribe to this free midweek pick-me-up for heart, mind, and spirit below — it is separate from the standard Sunday digest of new pieces: — Published February 25, 2015 — <https://www.brainpickings.org/2015/02/25/virginia-woolf-writing-self-doubt/> — www.brainpickings.org. PRINT ARTICLE.