

hello

@tjjjwxzq

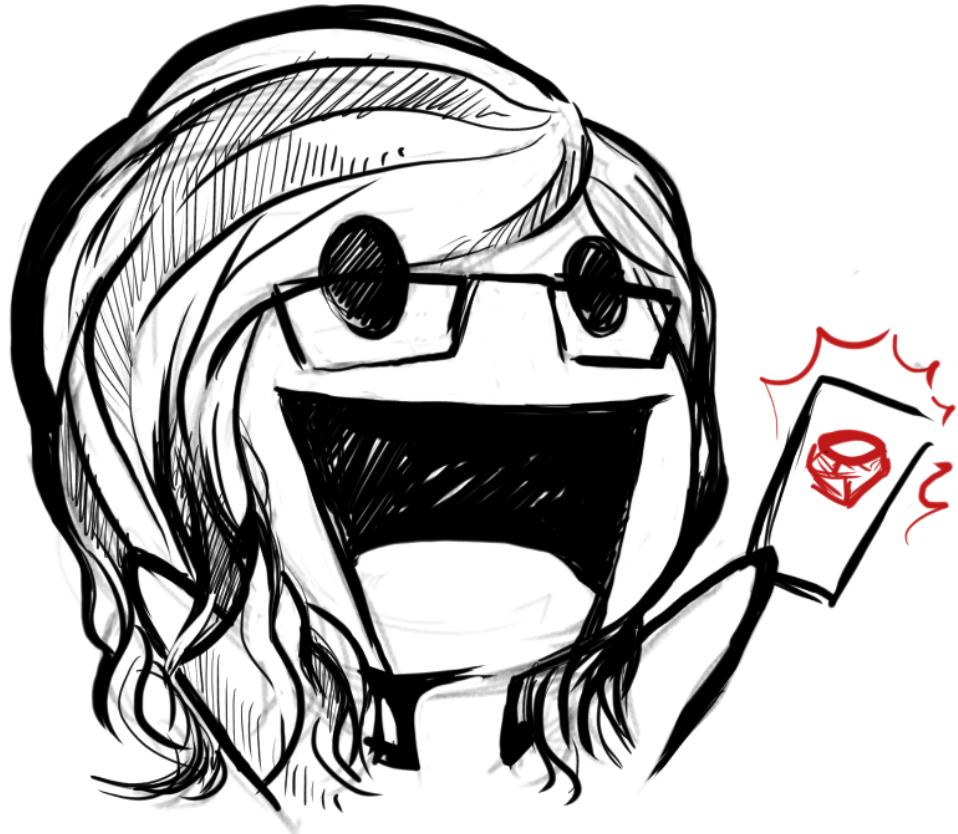


All I'd Wanted to  
Know About  
Ruby's Object Model  
Starting Out



...And  
**Moooarr!!!**





**YAEYYY  
FREE RDRC  
TICKETS!!!!!!**



I AM BUT A YOUNG PADAWAN



WHAT IS IT LIKE TO  
BE ~~A BAT~~ A  
BEGINNER LEARNING  
RUBY?

# SUCH RUBY



# SO BEAUTY

```
stuff = %w(
    breathe read wonder introspect
    learn code write improve marvel
    laugh cry connect love sing draw
    teach create receive give rejoice
    struggle remember forget suffer
    paint wander ramble believe live
)

while 'life' do
    stuff.sample
end
```

```
def turn_your_block_into_a_shiny_proc(&block)
  puts "Did I mention that procs are kinda tricksy?"
  block.call
end

turn_your_block_into_a_shiny_proc do |tricksy|
  puts "I #{tricksy ? "am" : "am not"} tricksy"
end
```

```
class DangerousThing
  def consume
    [:increase_insurance_premium]
  end
end

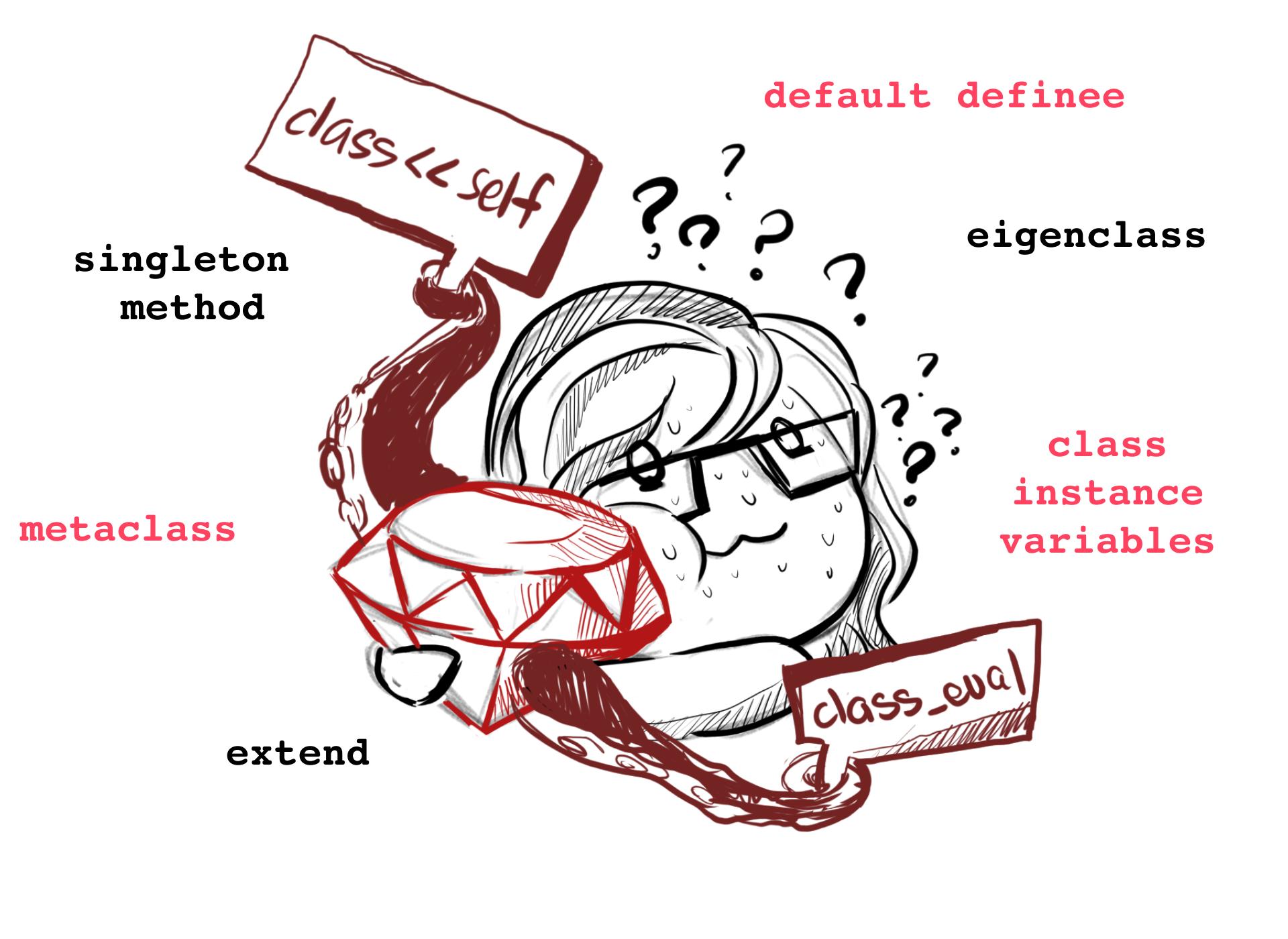
class Cupcake < DangerousThing
  include Icing

  def consume
    super + (add_icing << :lots_of_calories)
  end
end

module Icing
  def add_icing
    [:moar_calories]
  end
end
```



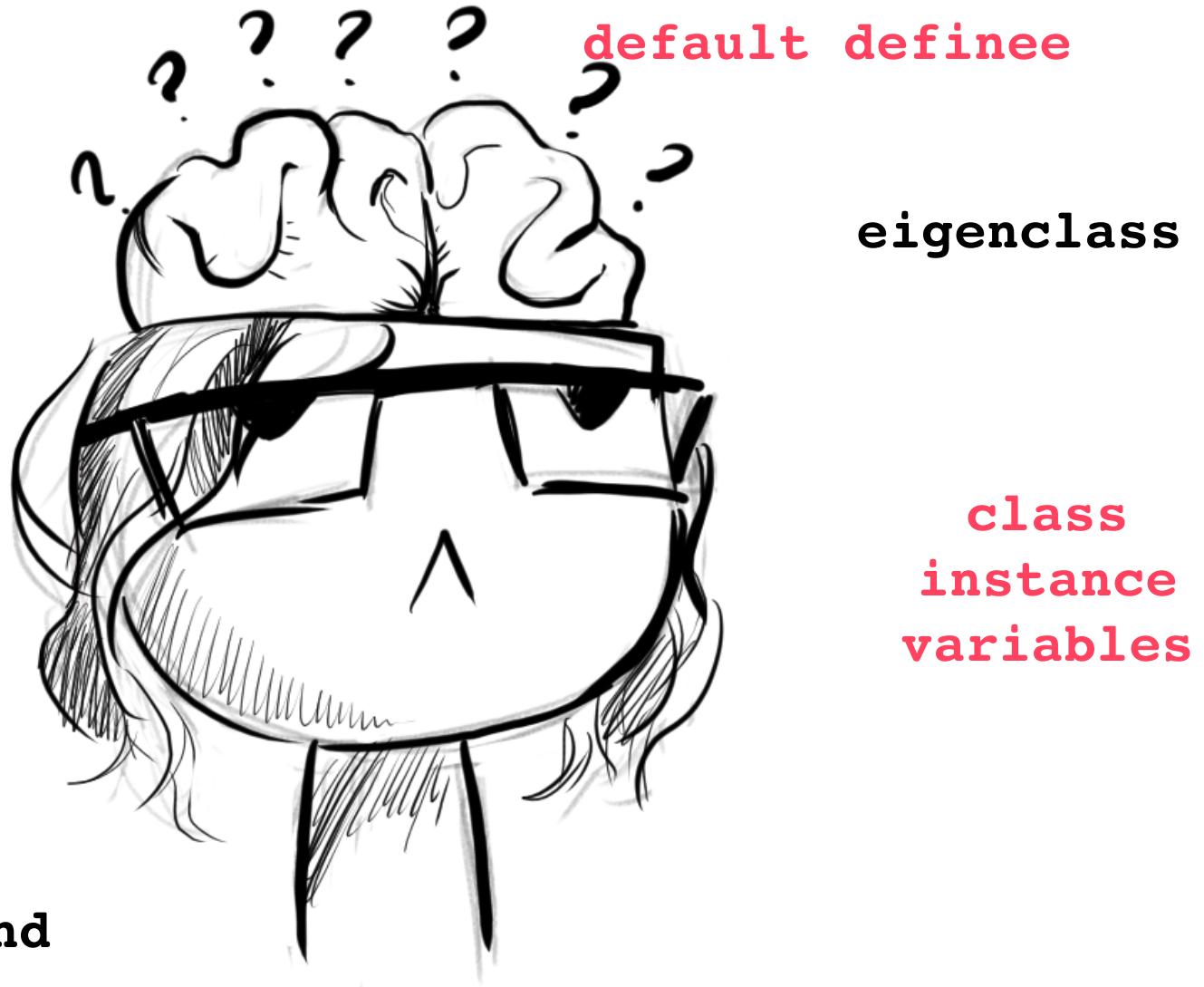




**singleton  
method**

**metaclass**

**extend**



**default definee**

**eigenclass**

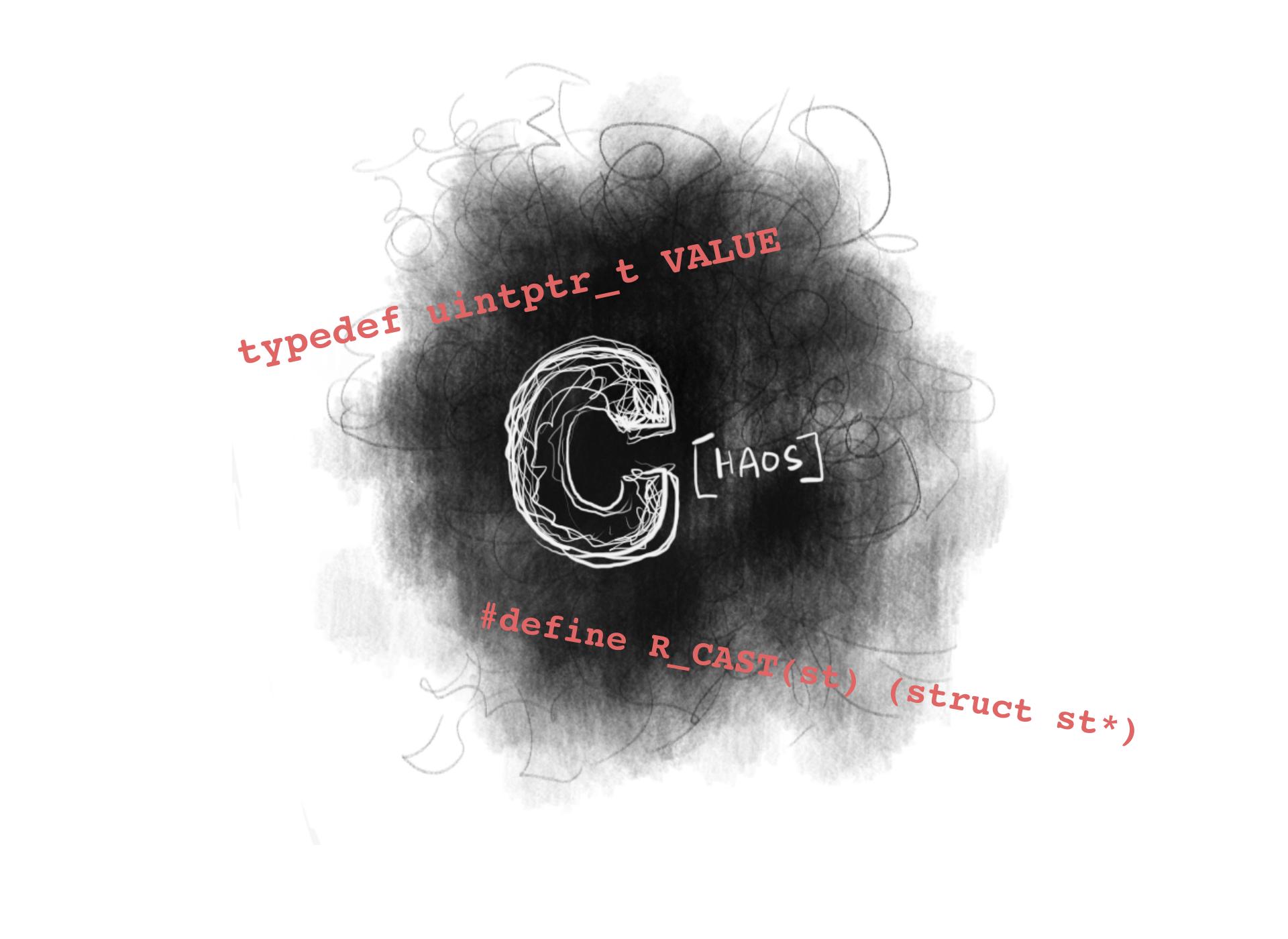
**class  
instance  
variables**



ALL I'D WANTED TO  
KNOW ABOUT RUBY'S  
OBJECT MODEL







`typedef uintptr_t VALUE`

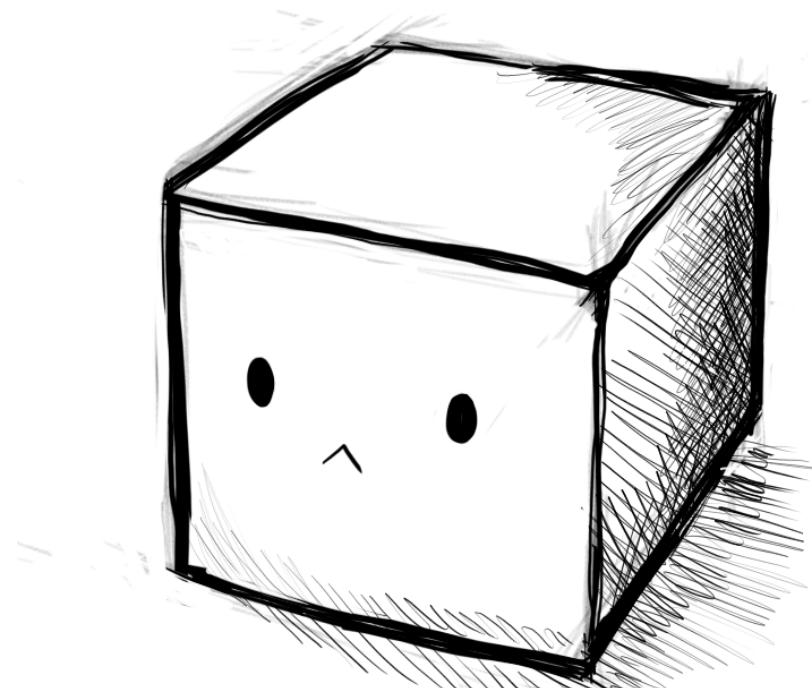
`C [CHAOS]`

`#define R_CAST(st) (struct st*)`

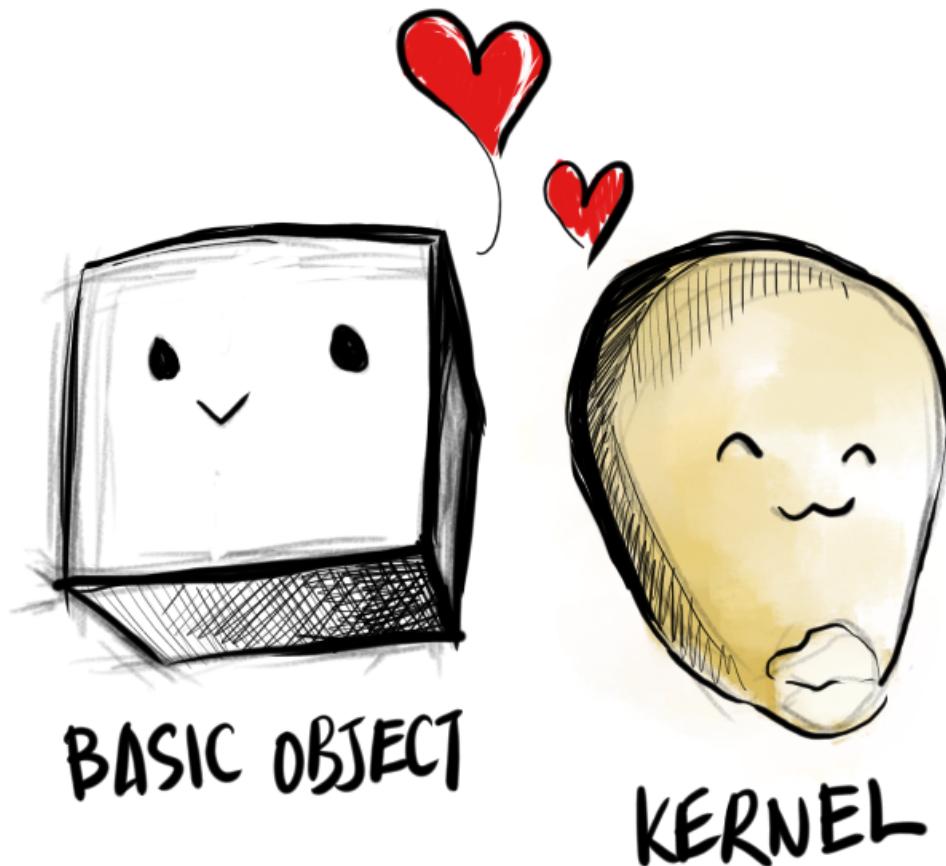


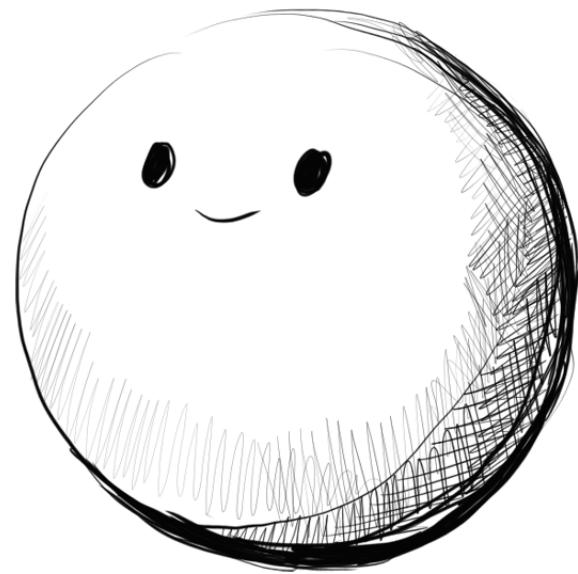


LET US  
MAKE OBJECTS!

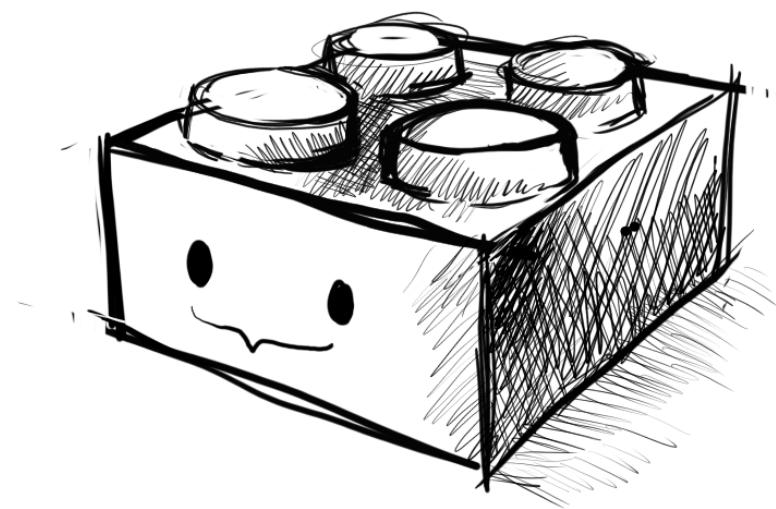


BASIC OBJECT





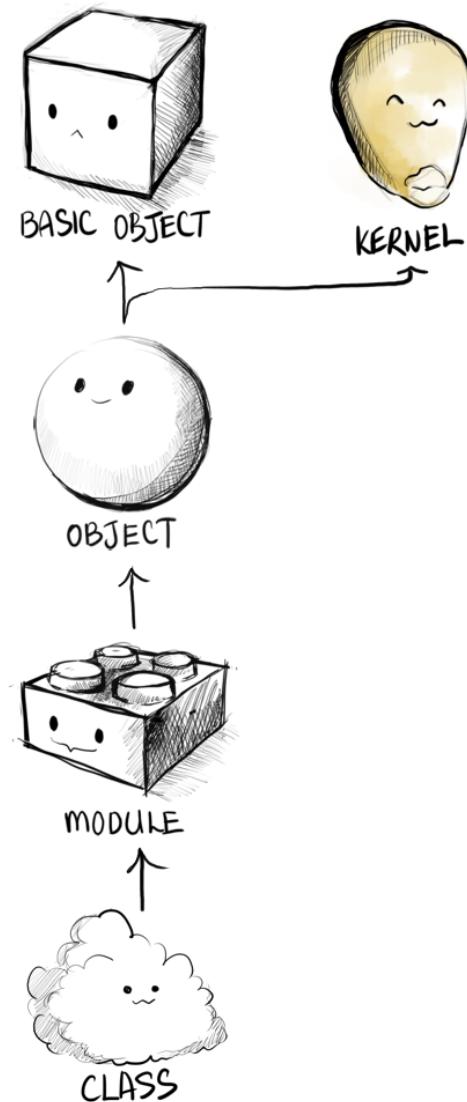
OBJECT

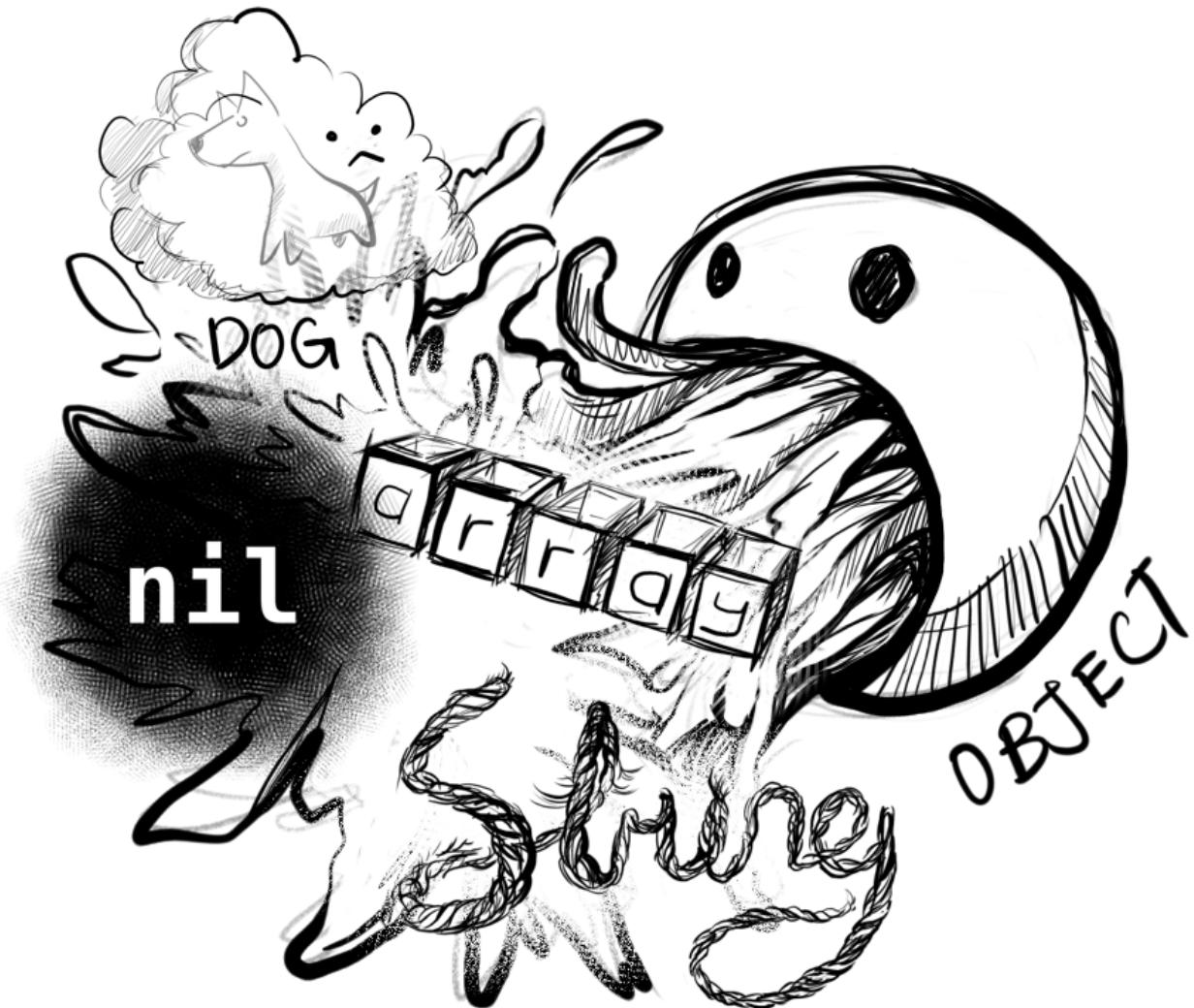


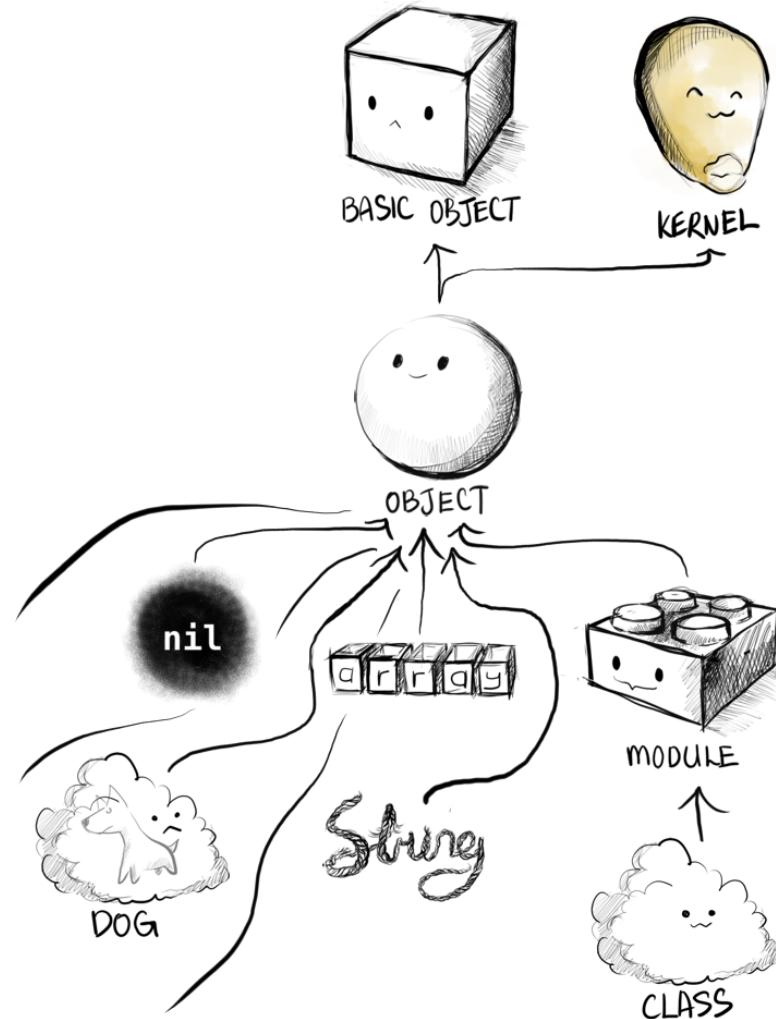
MODULE



CLASS







# INTROSPECTION



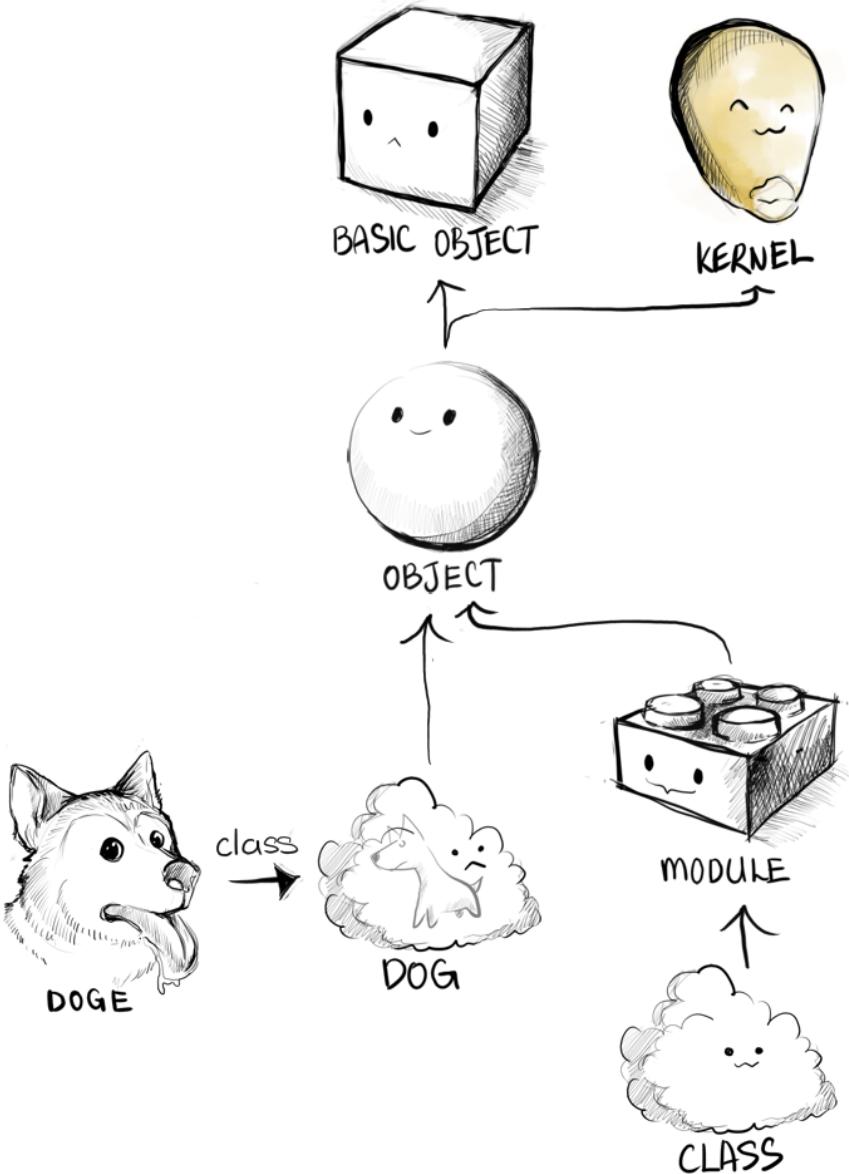
```
class Dog  
# ...  
end  
  
doge = Dog.new
```



doge.class



```
doge.class # => Dog
```





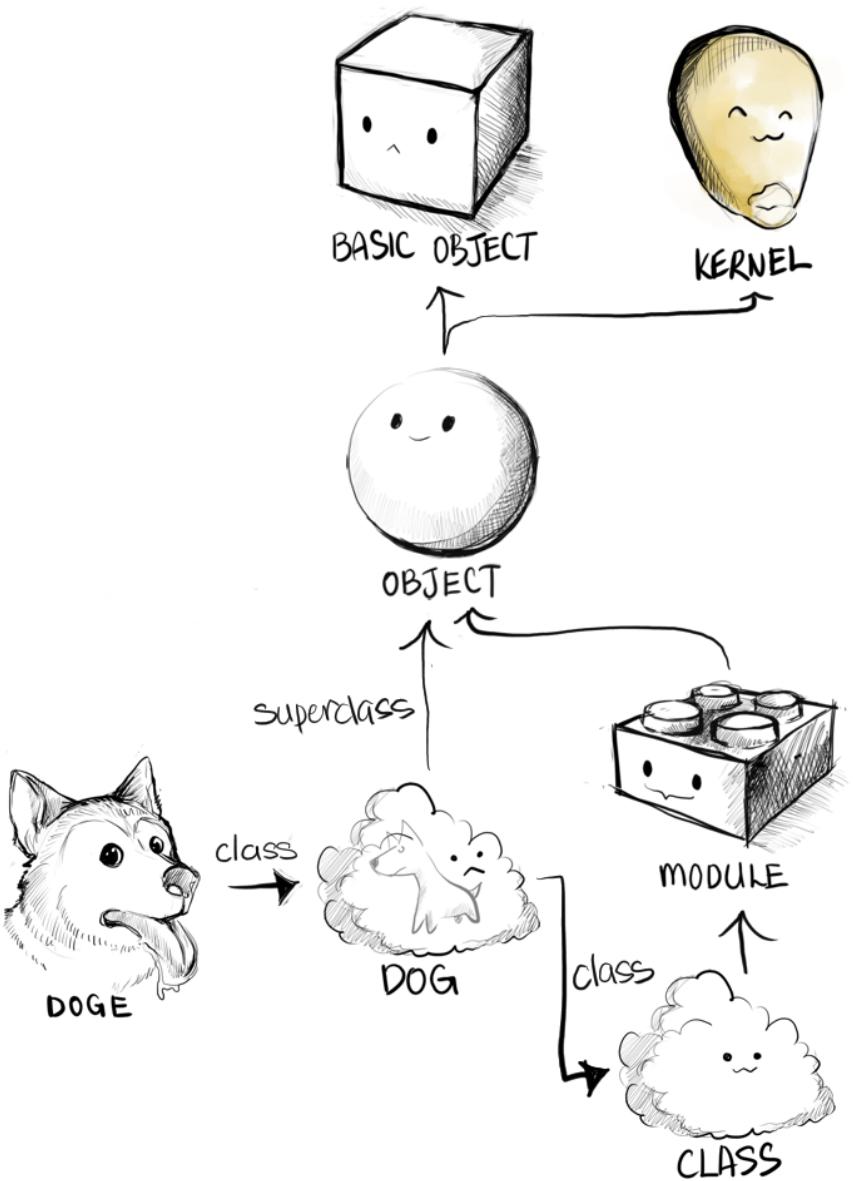
DOG

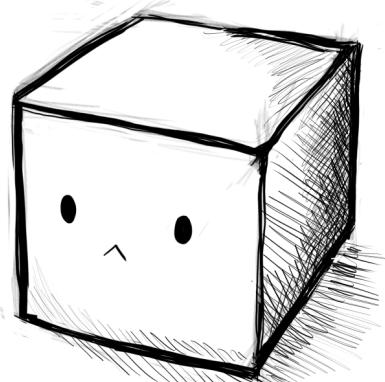
Dog.class # => Class



DOG

Dog.superclass # => Object

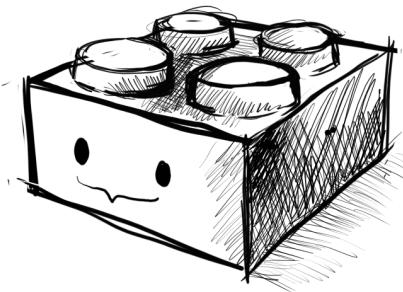




BASIC OBJECT



OBJECT



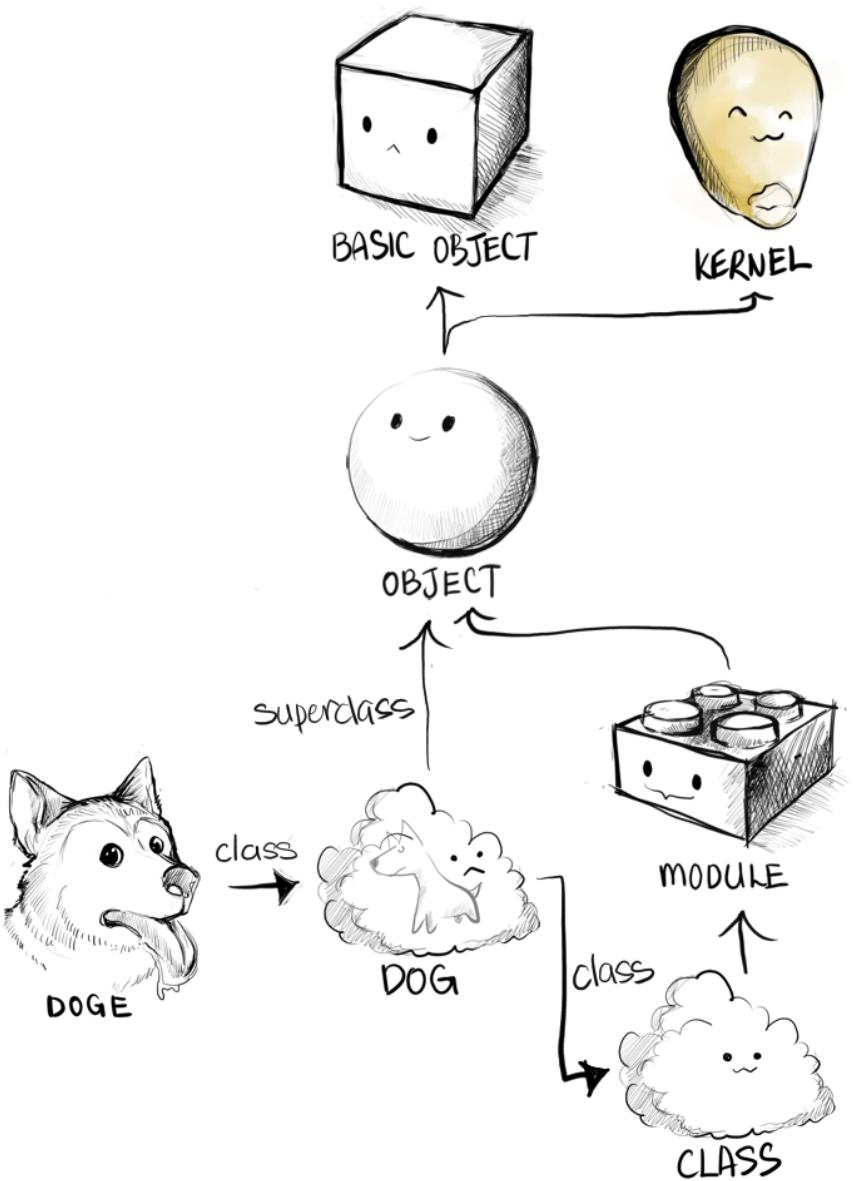
MODULE



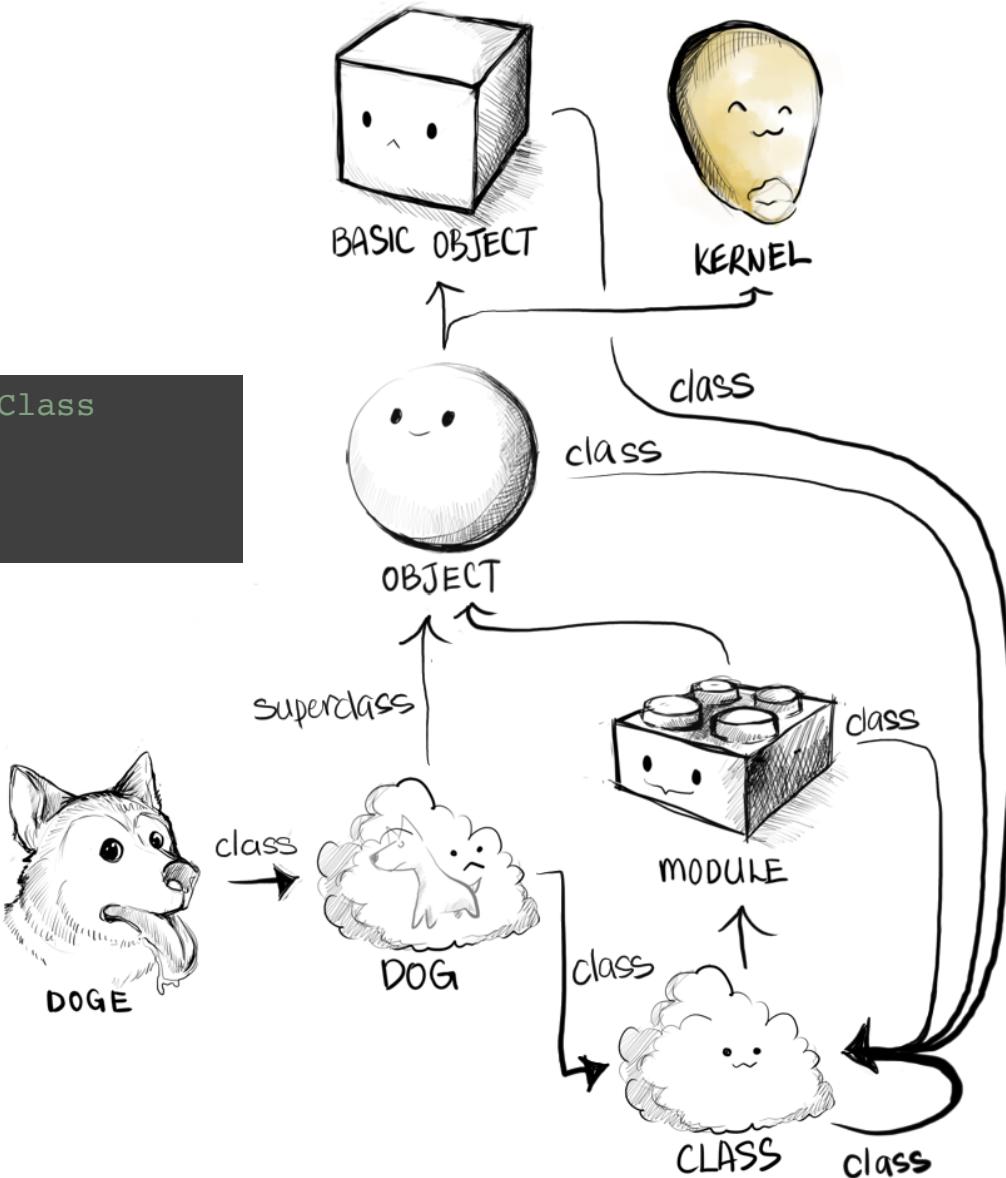
CLASS

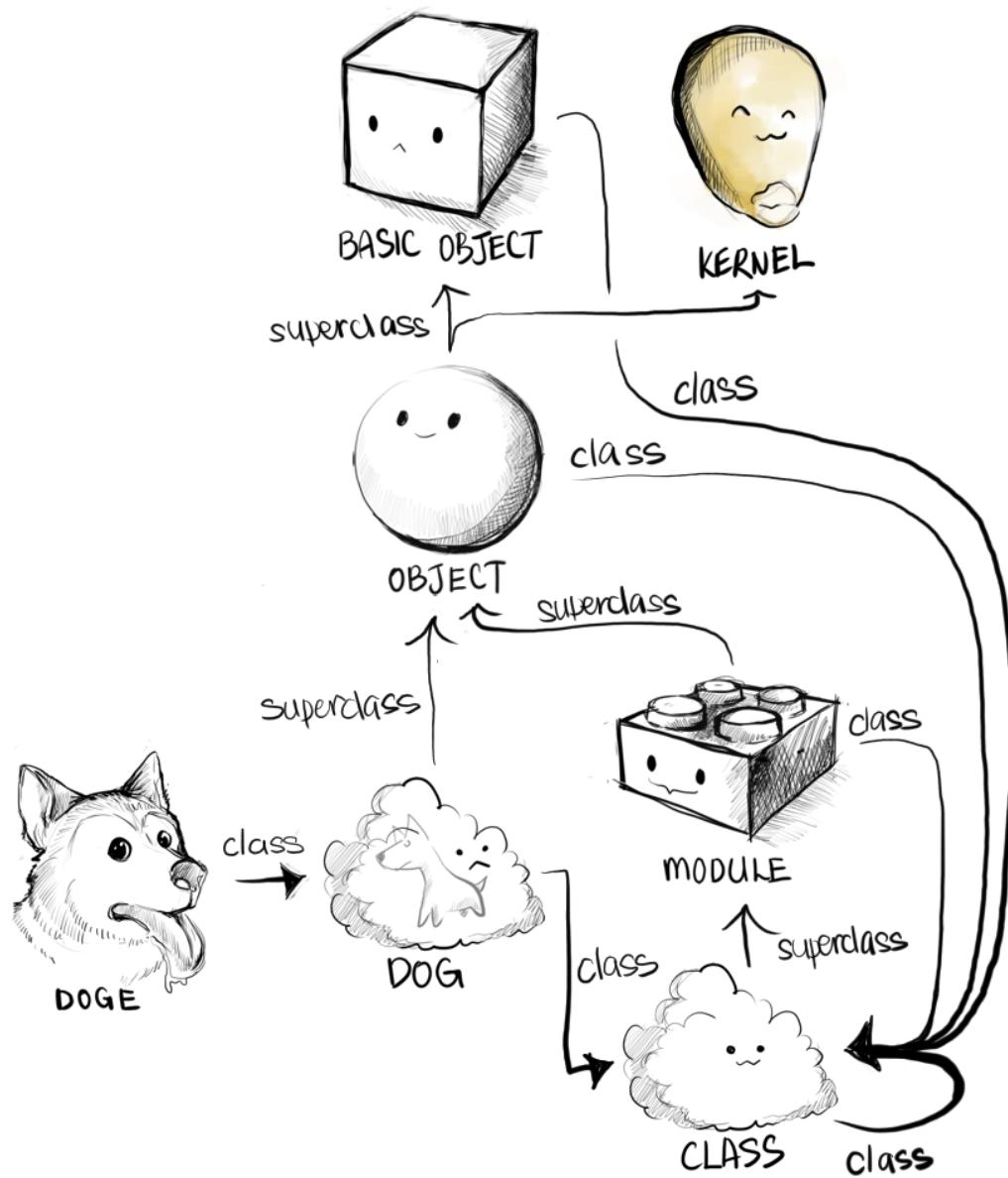
A hand-drawn style illustration of a brain with the words "WHAT AM I?" written across it. The brain is depicted with a black outline and internal grey shading. The text "WHAT" is positioned in the upper half, and "AM I?" is in the lower half, separated by a vertical line. The letters are bold and slightly irregular.

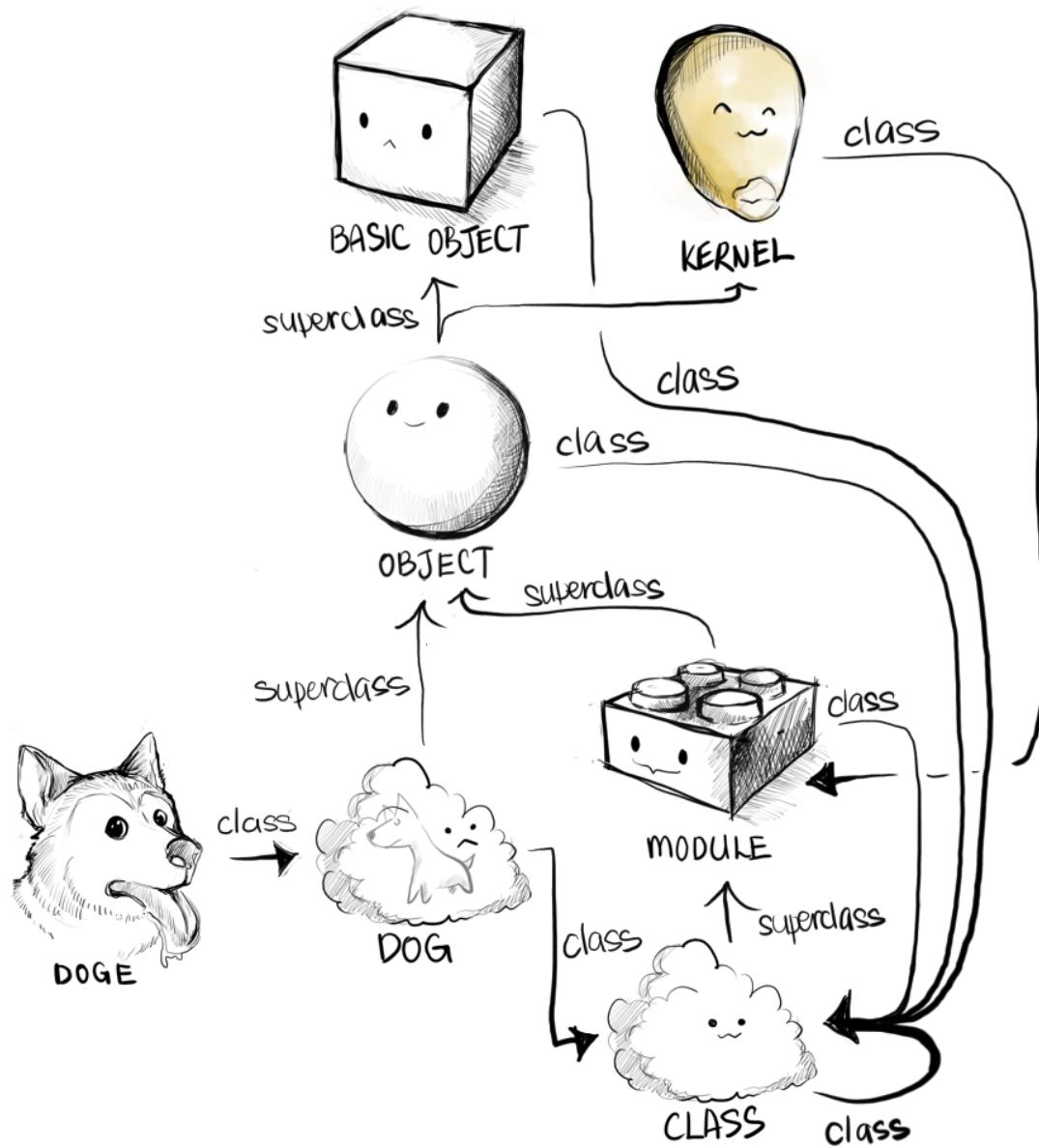
WHAT  
AM I?



```
BasicObject.class # => Class  
Object.class # => Class  
Module.class # => Class  
Class.class # => Class
```







\* dogespeak: make me a unique snowflake



WOOF  
WOOF  
WOOF\*



DOG



DOGE

```
def doge.speak(word)
  @modifiers |= %w(so very many much such)
  "#{@modifiers.sample} #{word}"
end
```



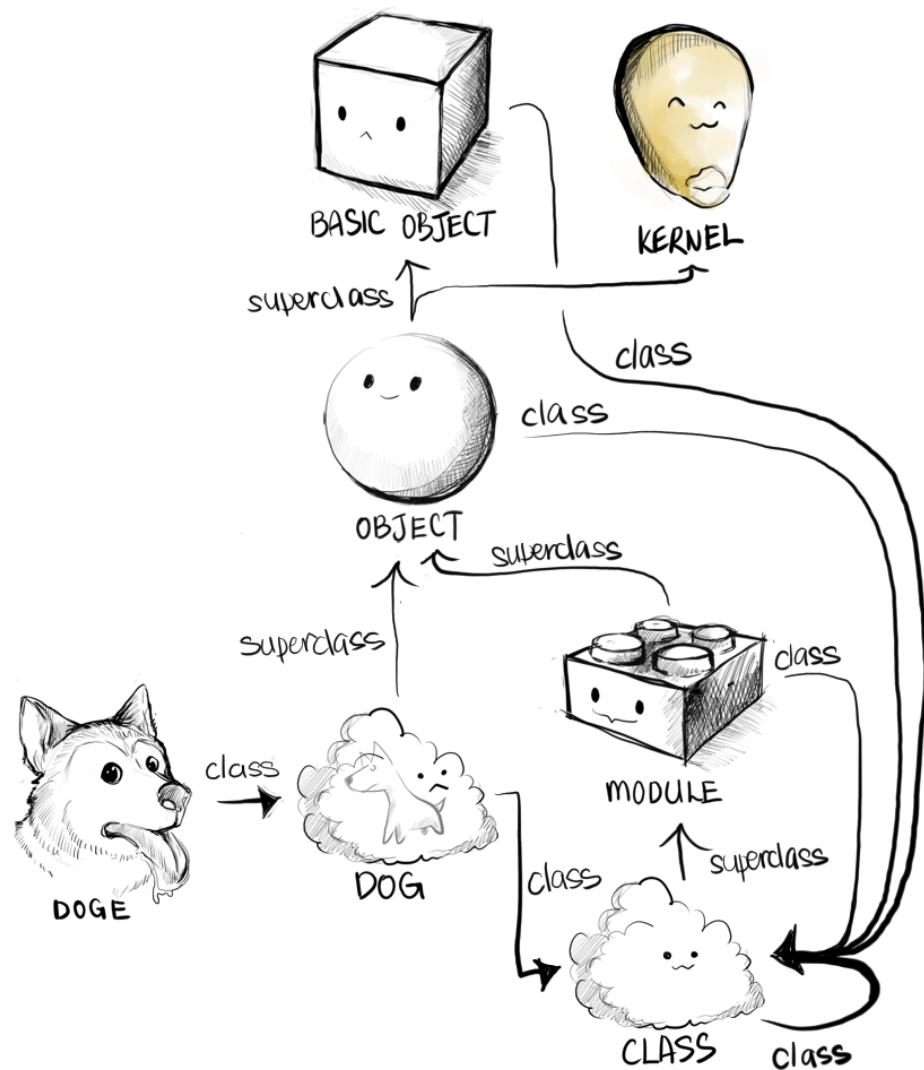
DOGE

```
def doge.speak(word)
  @modifiers |= %w(so very many much such)
  "#{@modifiers.sample} #{word}"
end
```

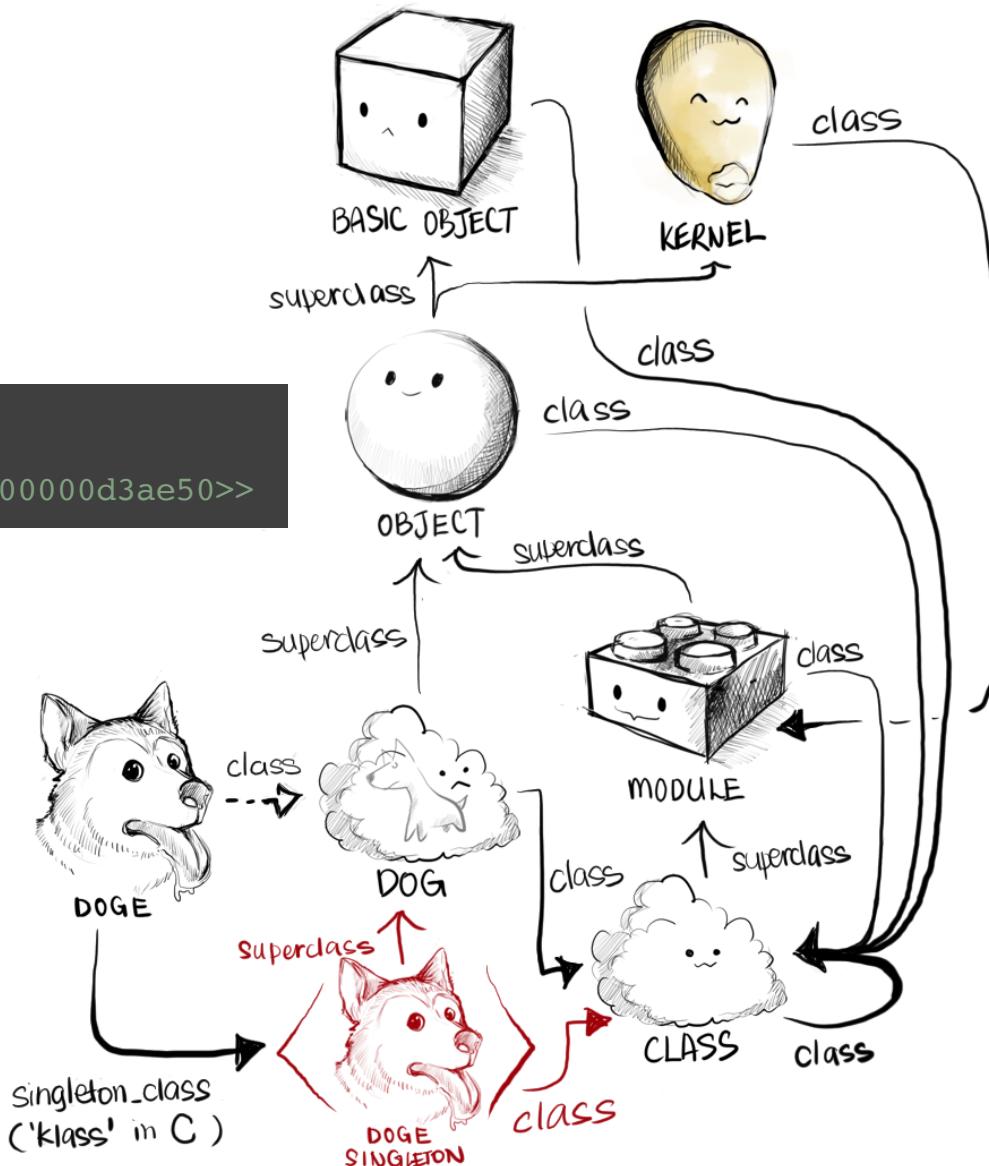


DOGE

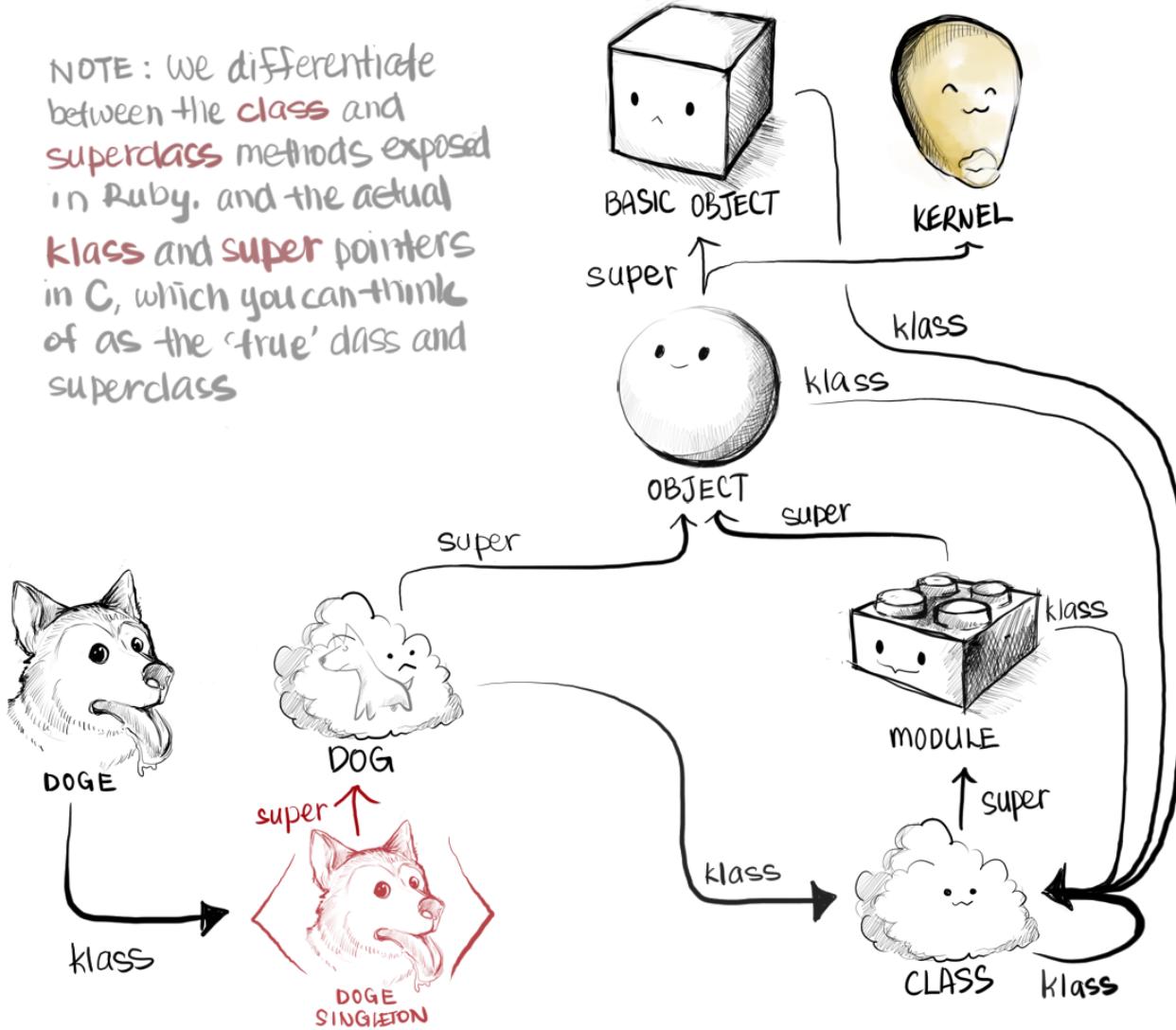
```
def doge.speak(word)
  @modifiers |= %w(so very many much such)
  "#{@modifiers.sample} #{word}"
end
```

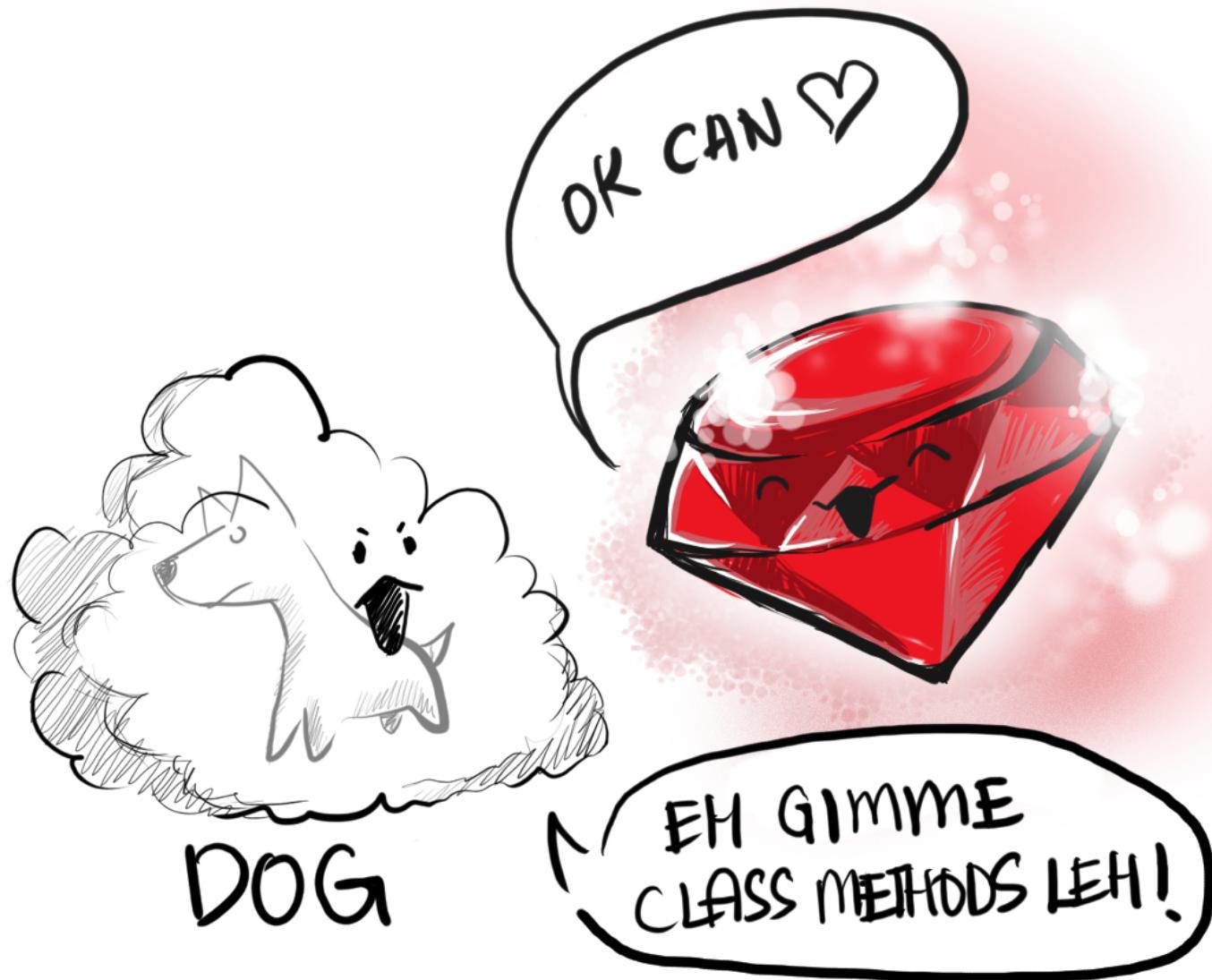


```
doge.class # => Dog  
doge.singleton_class  
# => #<Class:#<Dog:0x0000000d3ae50>>
```

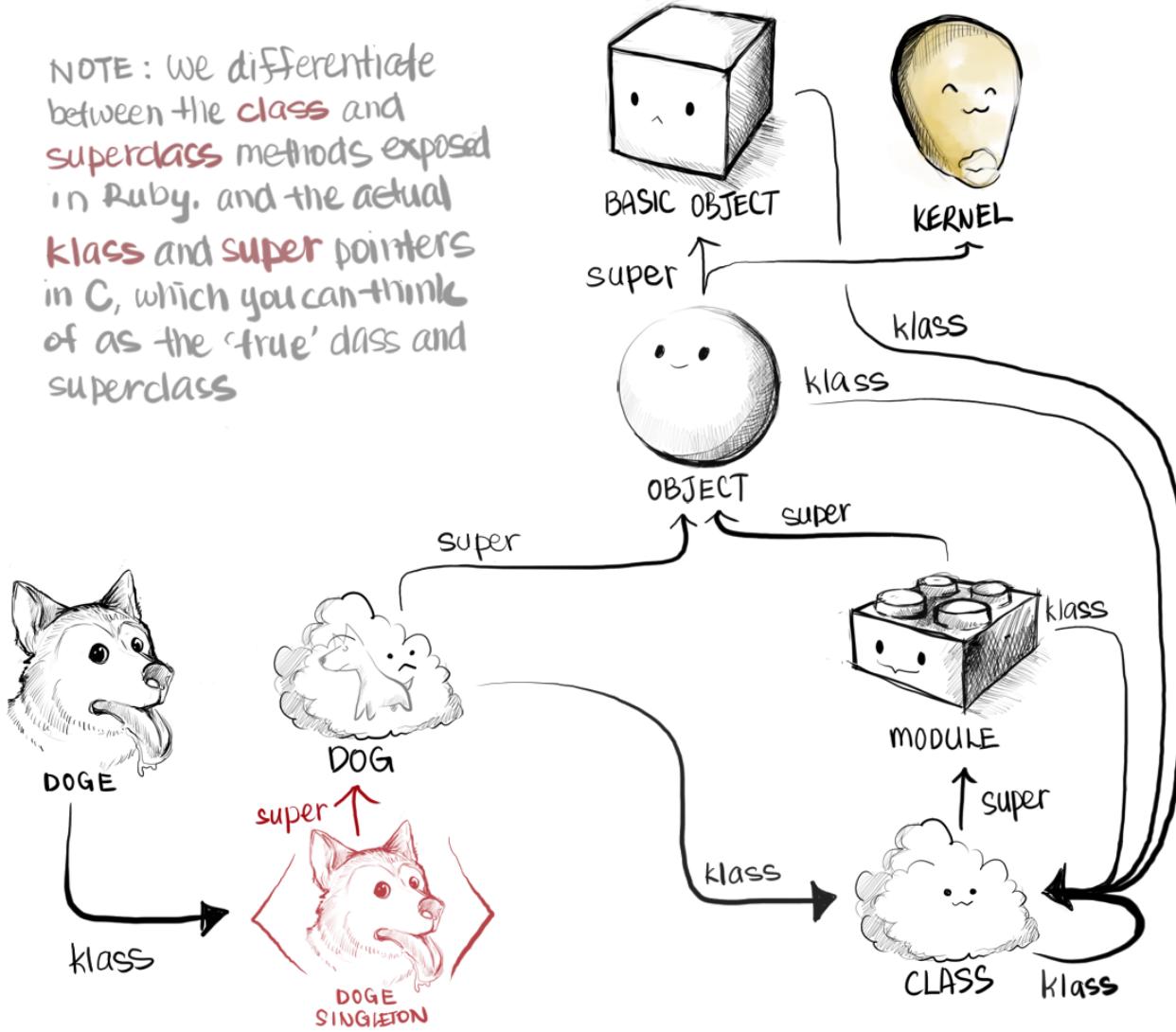


NOTE: We differentiate between the **class** and **superclass** methods exposed in Ruby, and the actual **klass** and **super** pointers in C, which you can think of as the 'true' class and superclass

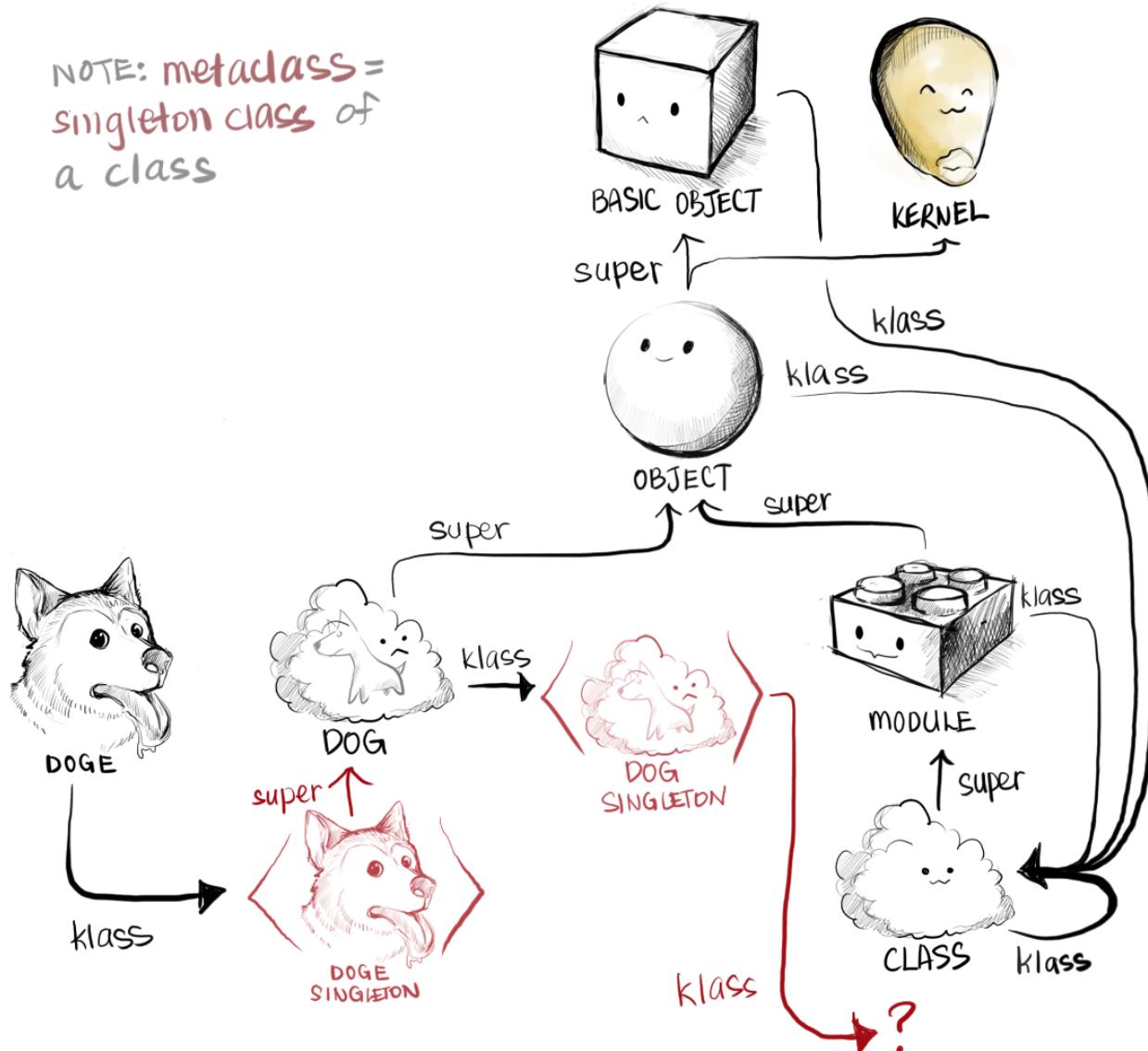


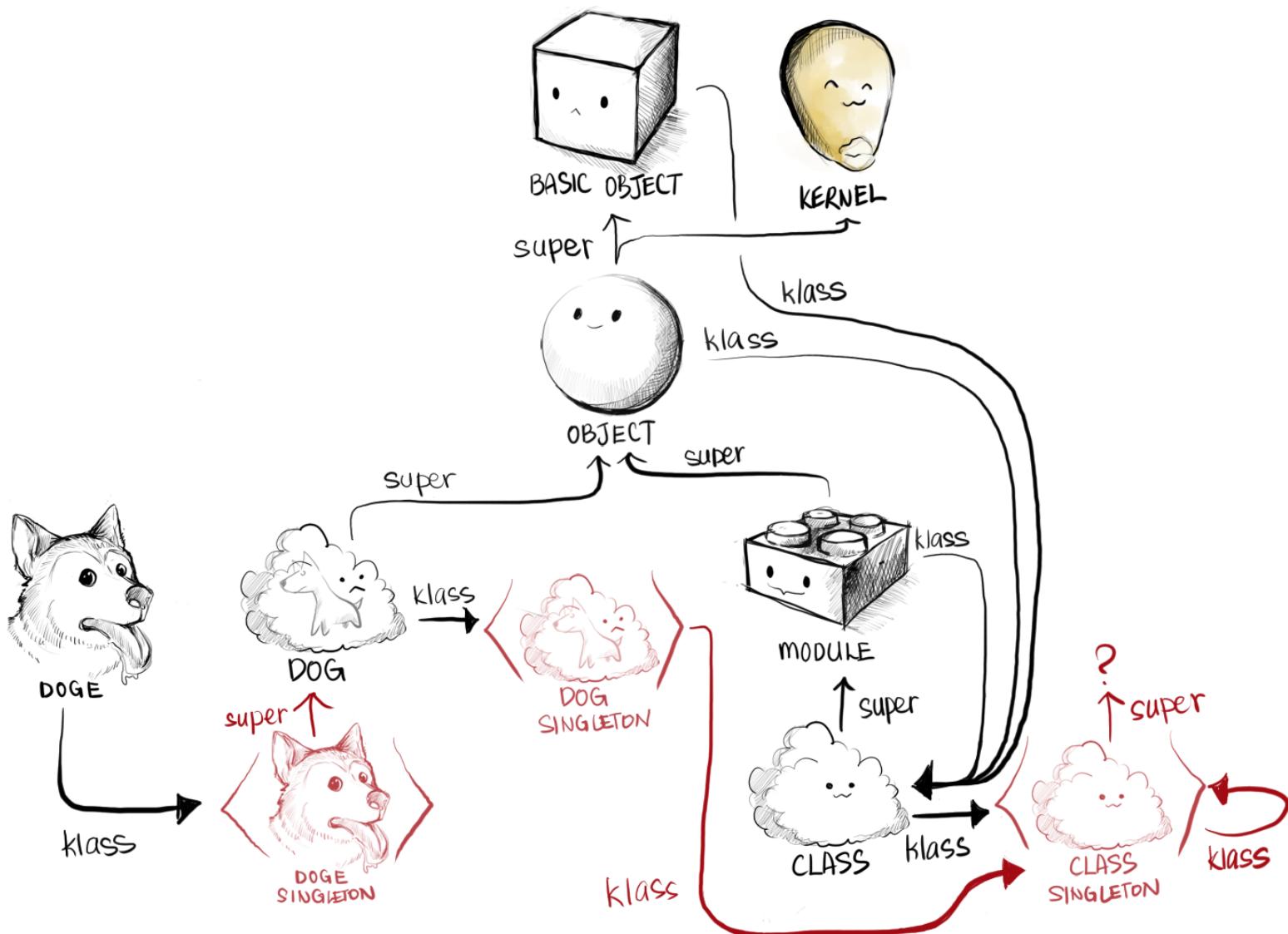


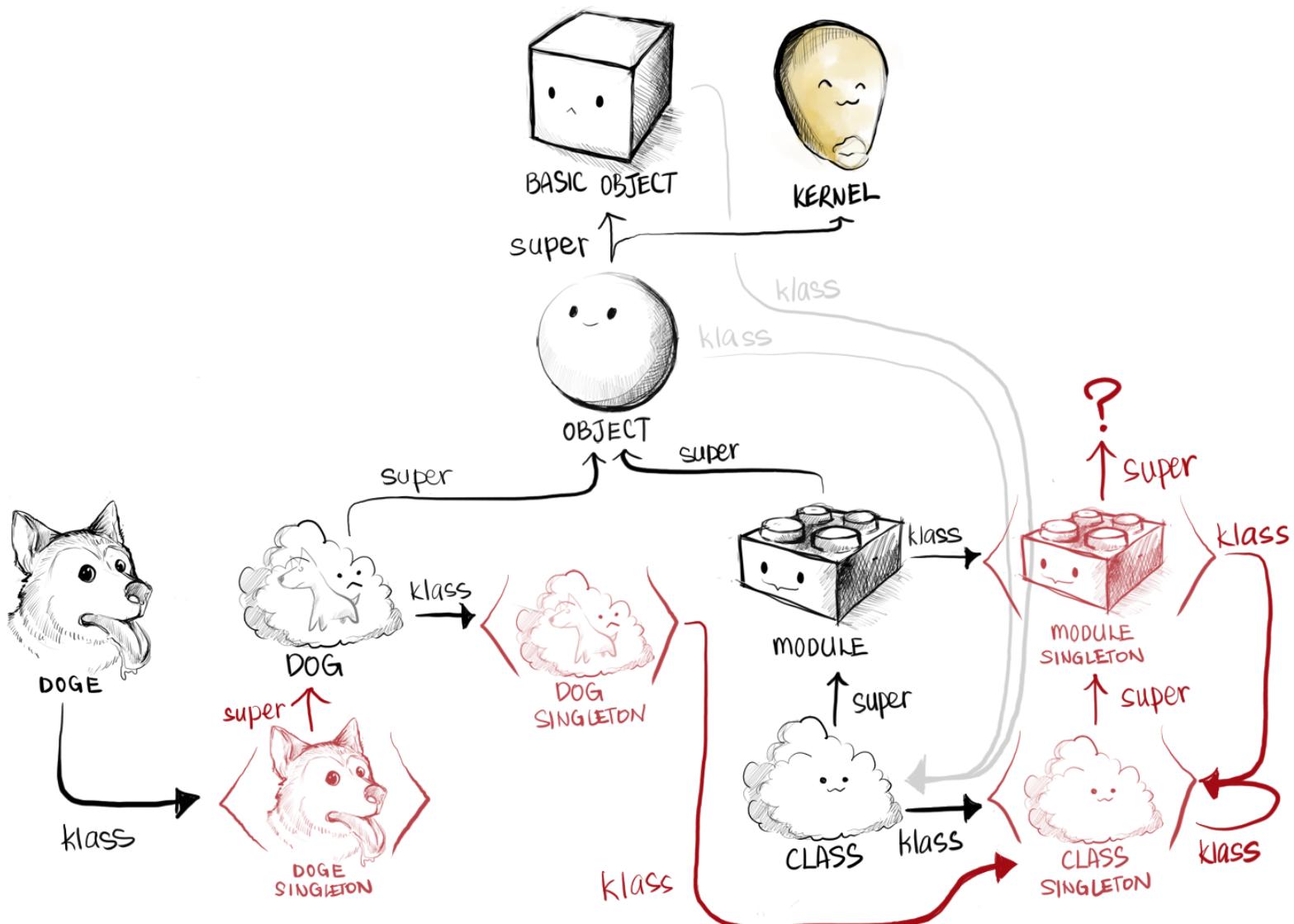
NOTE: We differentiate between the **class** and **superclass** methods exposed in Ruby, and the actual **klass** and **super** pointers in C, which you can think of as the 'true' class and superclass

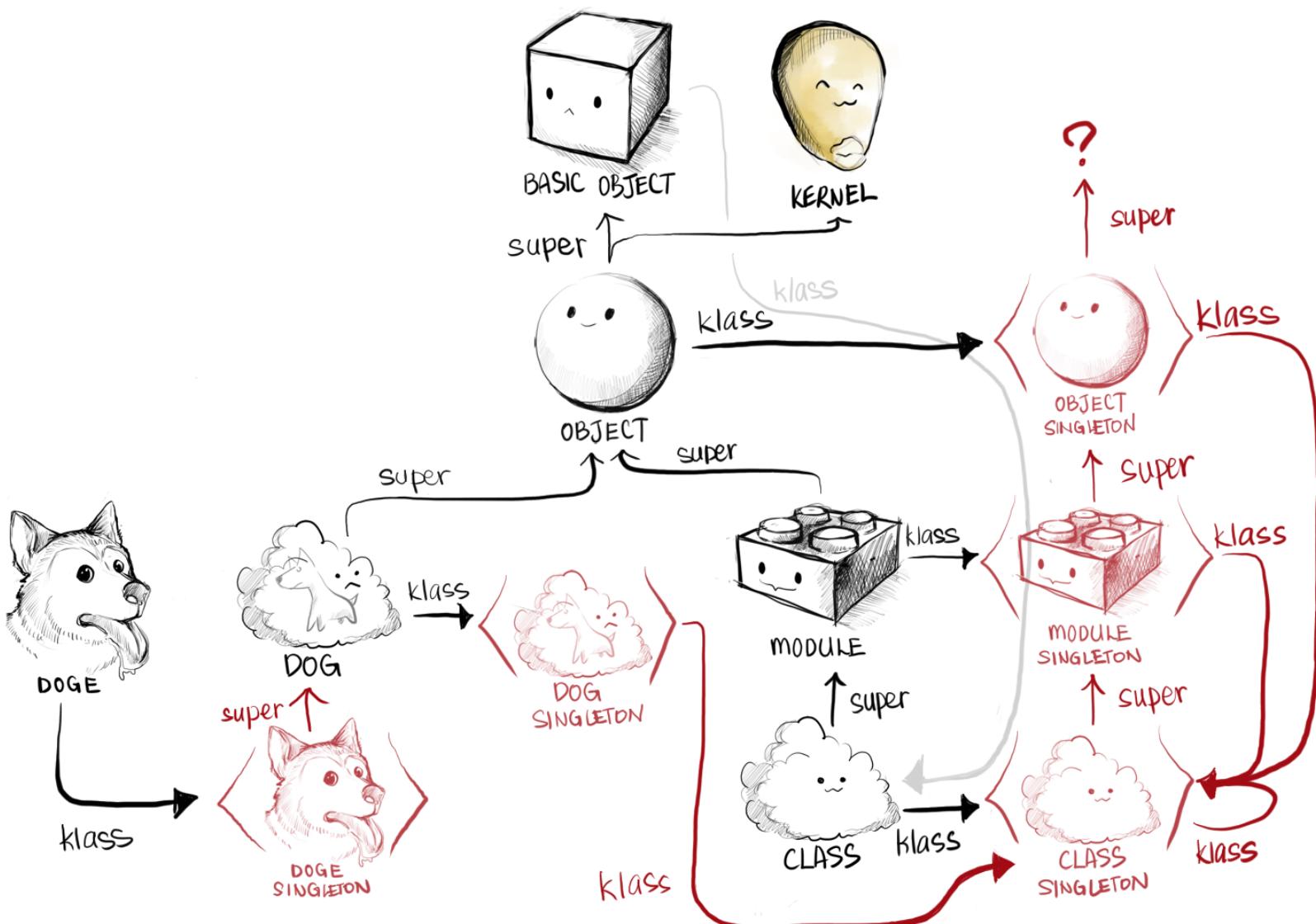


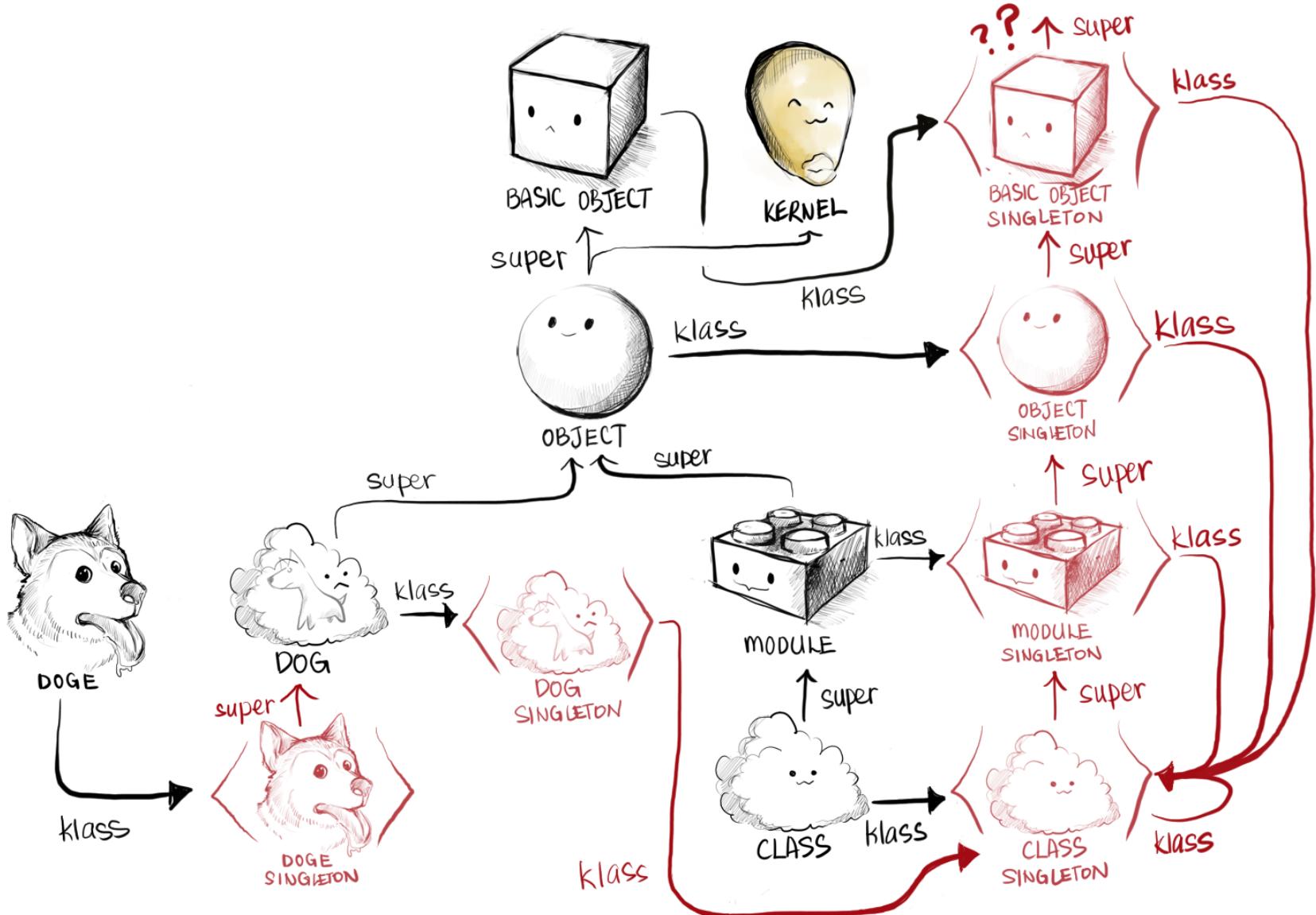
NOTE: metaclass =  
singleton class of  
a class







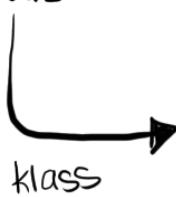




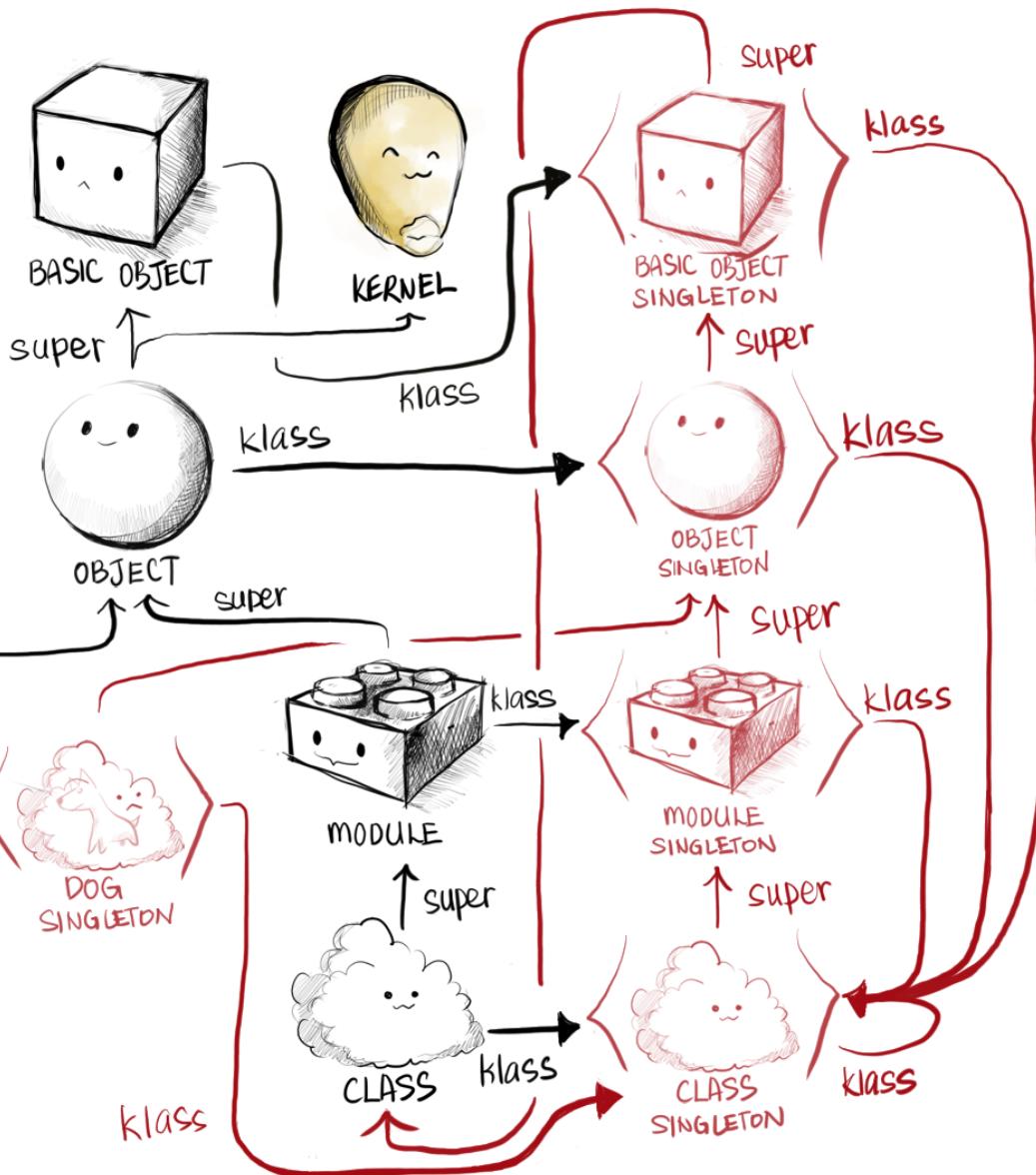
# MOAR ARROWS!!!

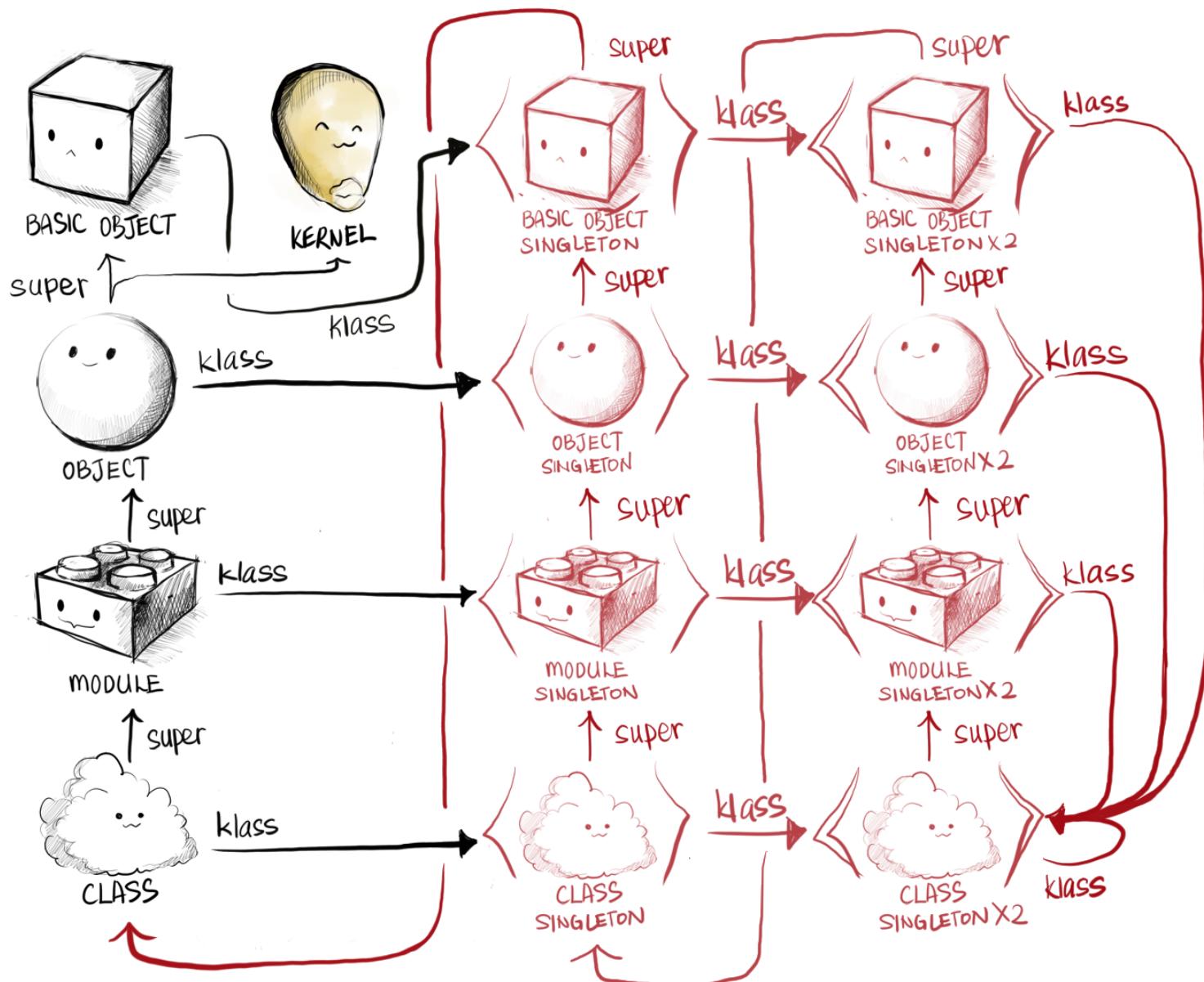


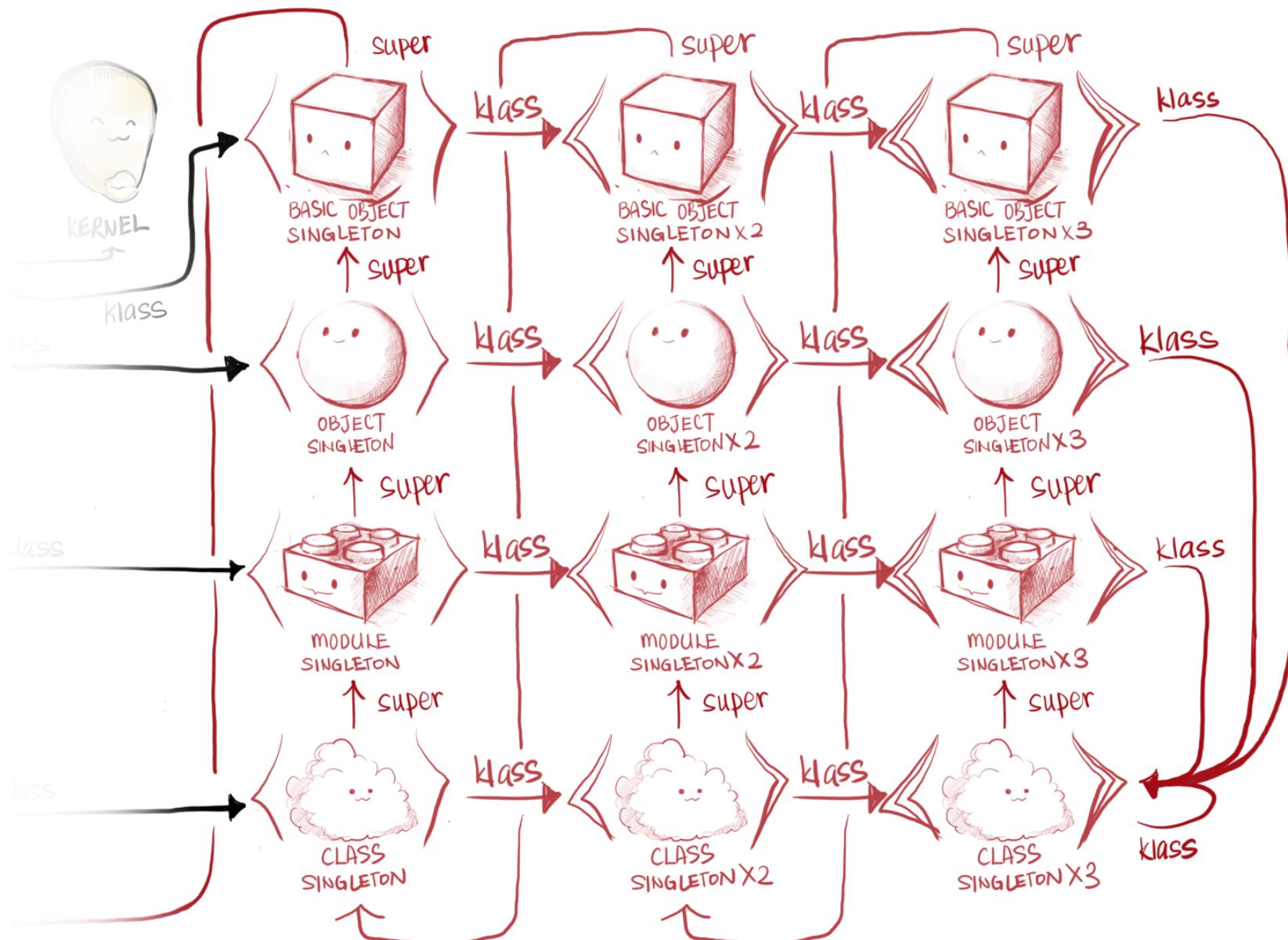
DOGE

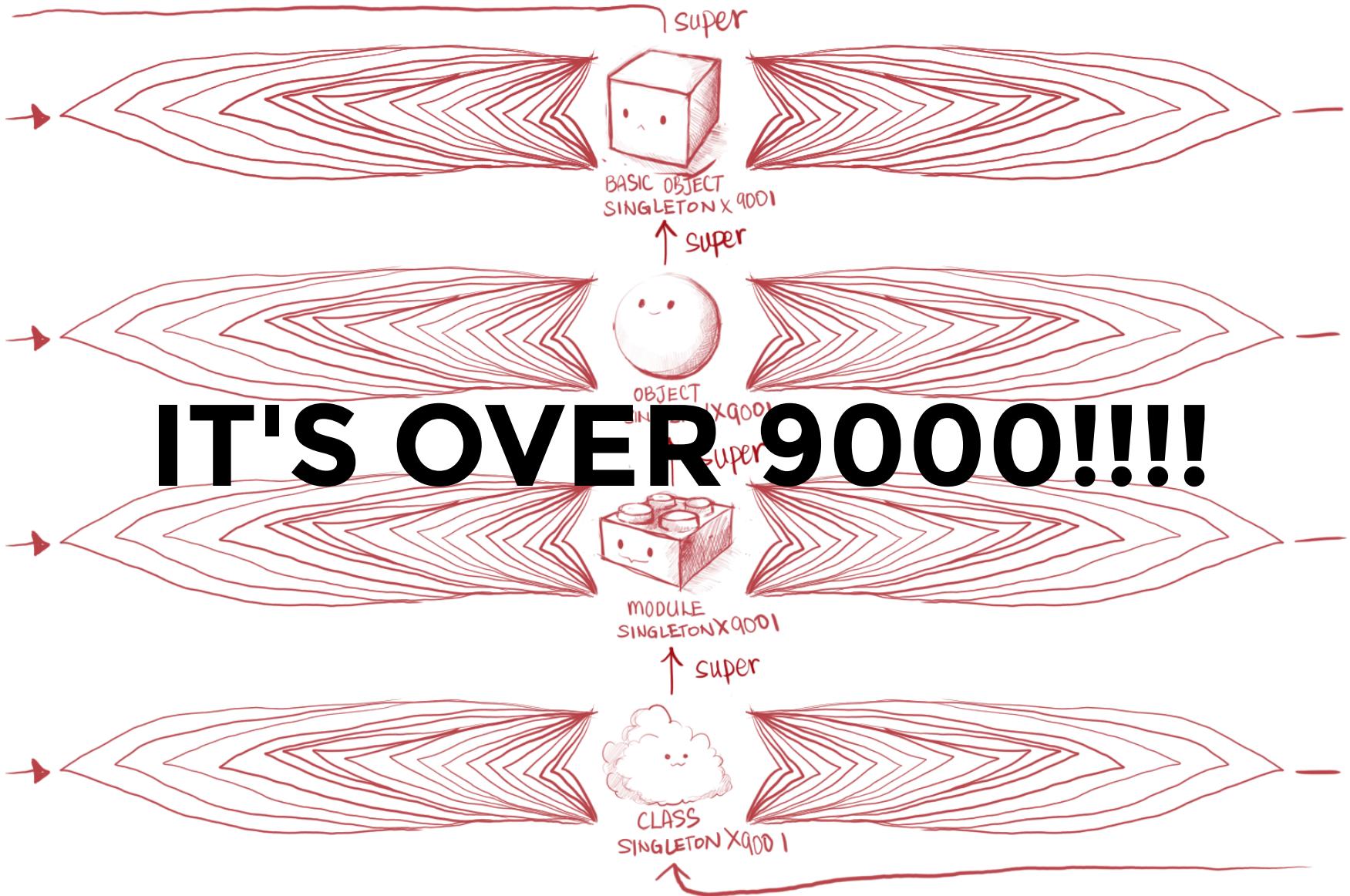


DOG

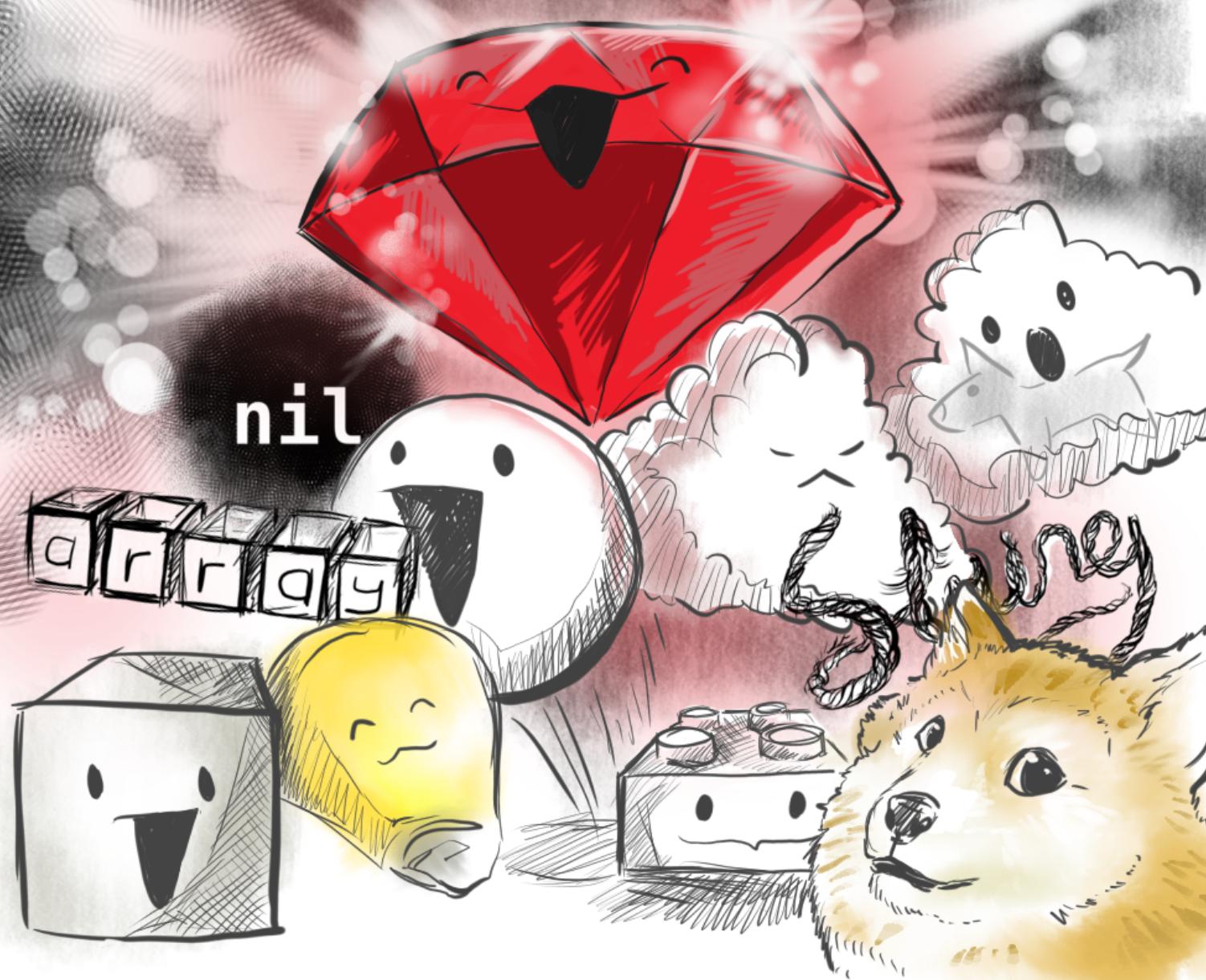








# The End

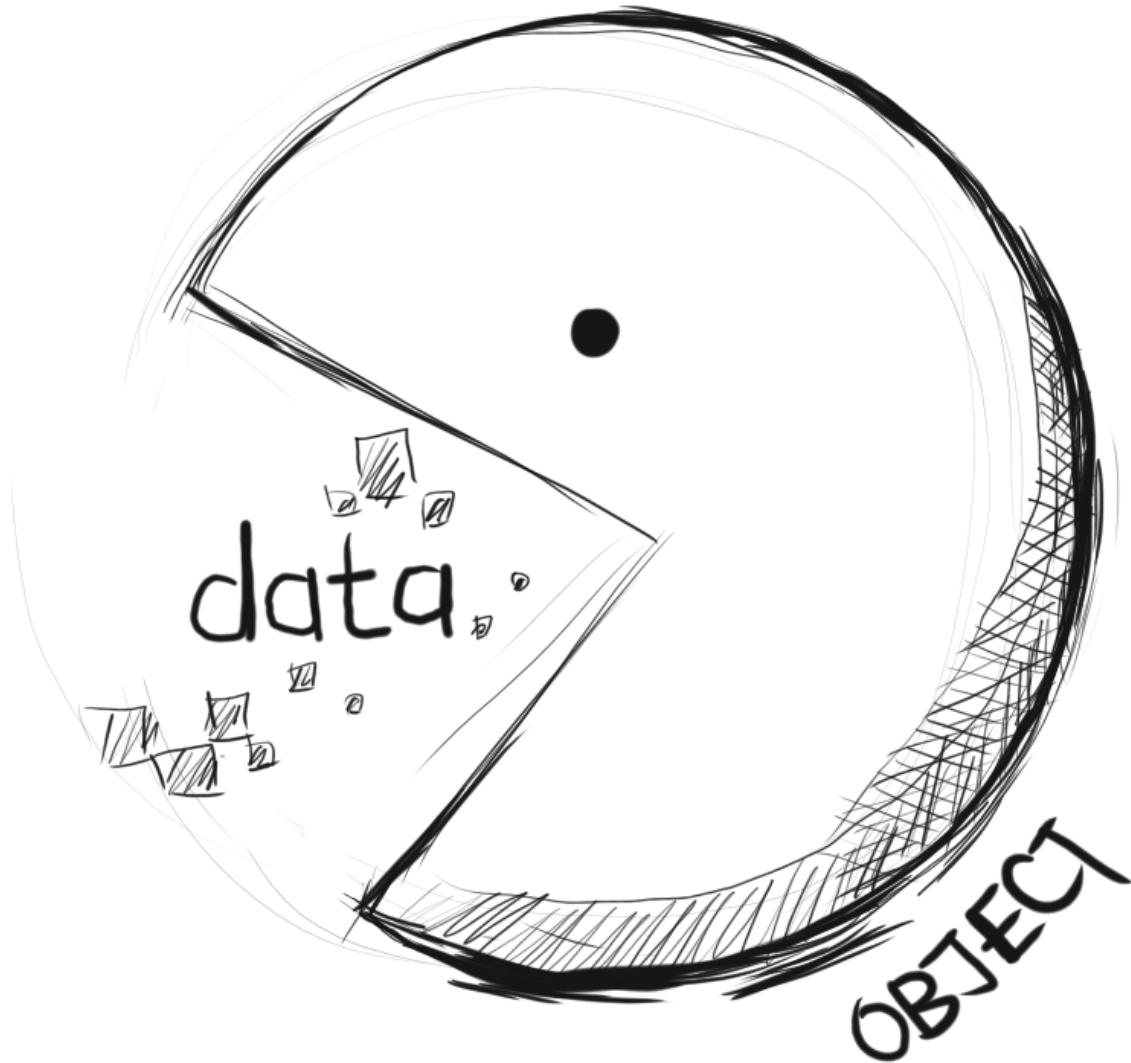




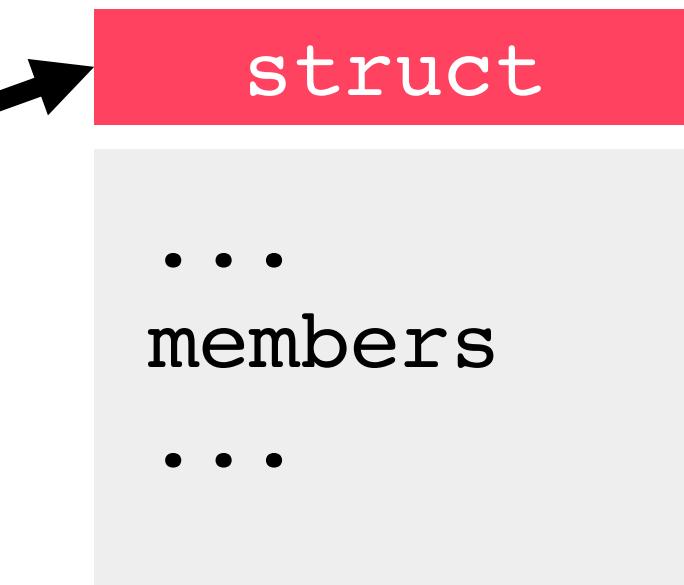
# **BRACE YOURSELVES**



# **CIS COMING**



obj



# 3 structs we care about

```
struct RObject {
    struct RBasic basic;
    union {
        struct {
            uint32_t numiv;
            VALUE *ivptr;
            void *iv_index_tbl;
        } heap;
        VALUE ary[ROBJECT_EMBED_LEN_MAX];
    } as;
};
```

## RObject

(include/ruby/ruby.h)

```
struct RClass {
    struct RBasic basic;
    VALUE super;
    rb_classext_t *ptr;
    struct rb_id_table *m_tbl;
};
```

## RClass

(internal.h)

```
struct RBasic {
    VALUE flags;
    const VALUE klass;
}
```

## RBASIC

(include/ruby/ruby.h)

# RBasic

```
struct RBasic {  
    VALUE flags;  
    const VALUE klass;  
}
```

## Metadata

- *what type of object?*  
(T\_OBJECT, T\_CLASS,  
T\_MODULE etc.)
- *singleton class?*  
(FL\_SINGLETON)

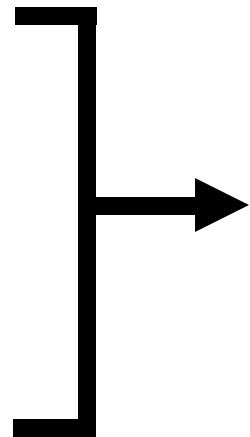
## 'True' class

- *pointer to RClass struct*

# RObject

RBasic plus stuff

```
struct RObject {  
    struct RBasic basic;  
    union {  
        struct {  
            uint32_t numiv;  
            VALUE *ivptr;  
            void *iv_index_tbl;  
        } heap;  
        VALUE ary[ROBJECT_EMBED_LEN_MAX];  
    } as;  
};
```



## Instance variables

- *pointer to the heap*  
*OR*
- *embedded directly*

# RClass

Normal objects are stored as RObject, class objects as RClass

```
struct RClass {
    struct RBasic basic;
    VALUE super;
    rb_classext_t *ptr;
    struct rb_id_table *m_tbl;
};
```

RClass

**'True' superclass**

- *pointer to RClass struct*

**Class Extension Struct**

- class instance variables
- class constants...

**Method table**

- *store instance methods*

# Method Dispatch

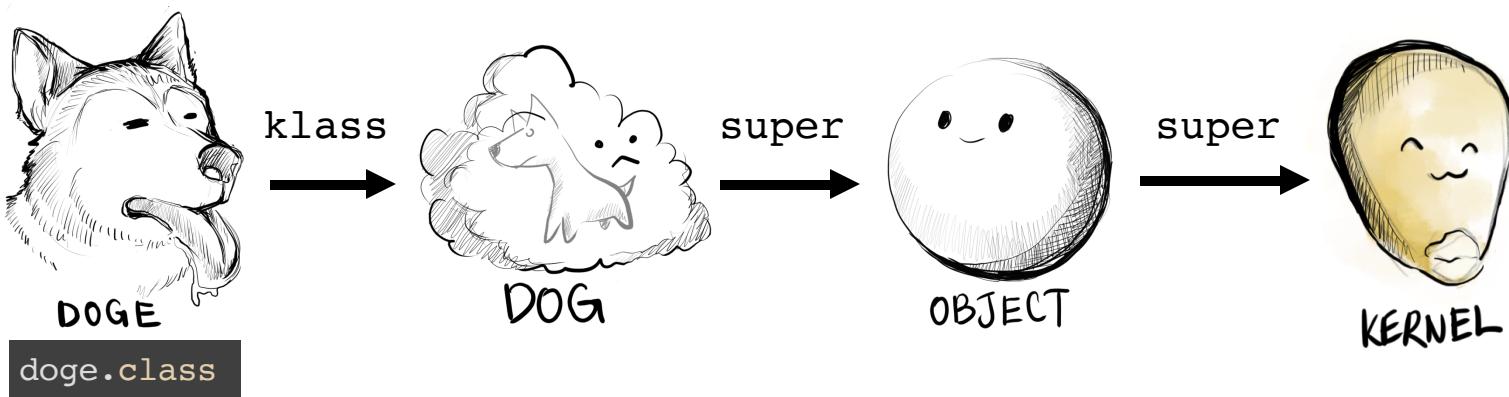
```
static inline rb_method_entry_t*
search_method(VALUE klass, ID id, VALUE *defined_class_ptr)
{
    rb_method_entry_t *me;

    for (me = 0; klass; klass = RCLASS_SUPER(klass)) {
        if ((me = lookup_method_table(klass, id)) != 0) break;
    }

    if (defined_class_ptr)
        *defined_class_ptr = klass;
    return me;
}
```

Keep searching  
method tables  
of **supers** till  
we find  
something

(vm\_method.c)



**Where does it begin?**

# Bootstrap

```
void
InitVM_Object(void)
{
    Init_class_hierarchy();

#define rb_intern(str) rb_intern_const(str)

    rb_define_private_method(rb_cBasicObject, "initialize", rb_obj_dummy, 0);
    rb_define_alloc_func(rb_cBasicObject, rb_class_allocate_instance);
    rb_define_method(rb_cBasicObject, "==", rb_obj_equal, 1);
    rb_define_method(rb_cBasicObject, "equal?", rb_obj_equal, 1);
    rb_define_method(rb_cBasicObject, "!", rb_obj_not, 0);
    rb_define_method(rb_cBasicObject, "!=" , rb_obj_not_equal, 1);

    rb_define_private_method(rb_cBasicObject, "singleton_method_added", rb_obj_dummy, 1);
    rb_define_private_method(rb_cBasicObject, "singleton_method_removed", rb_obj_dummy, 1);
    rb_define_private_method(rb_cBasicObject, "singleton_method_undefined", rb_obj_dummy, 1);

    // ... really long function ...
}
```

(object.c)

# Bootstrap

```
void
Init_class_hierarchy(void)
{
    rb_cBasicObject = boot_defclass("BasicObject", 0);
    rb_cObject = boot_defclass("Object", rb_cBasicObject);
    rb_gc_register_mark_object(rb_cObject);

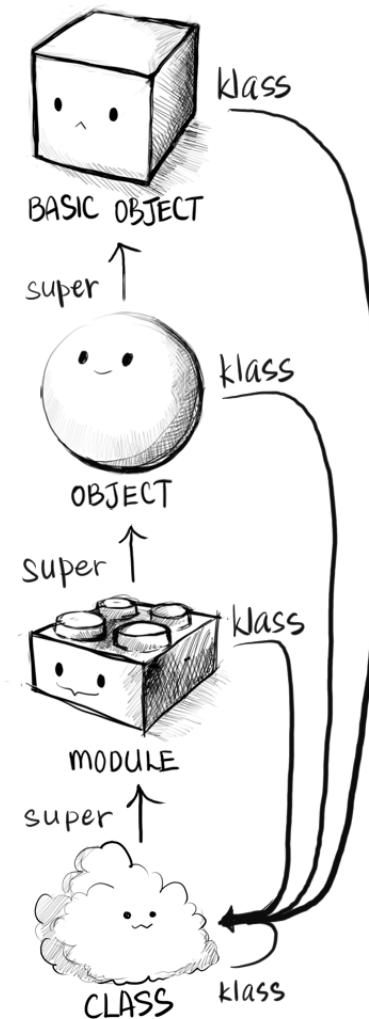
    /* resolve class name ASAP for order-independence */
    rb_class_name(rb_cObject);

    rb_cModule = boot_defclass("Module", rb_cObject);
    rb_cClass = boot_defclass("Class", rb_cModule);

    rb_const_set(rb_cObject,
    rb_intern_const("BasicObject"), rb_cBasicObject);

    RBASIC_SET_CLASS(rb_cClass, rb_cClass),
    RBASIC_SET_CLASS(rb_cModule, rb_cClass);
    RBASIC_SET_CLASS(rb_cObject, rb_cClass);
    RBASIC_SET_CLASS(rb_cBasicObject, rb_cClass);
}
```

(class.c)

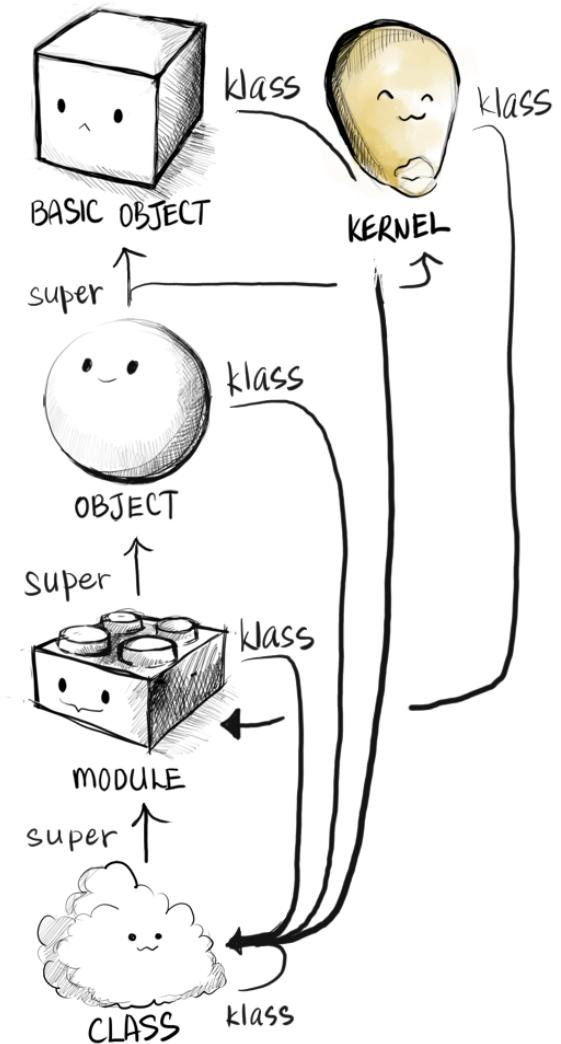


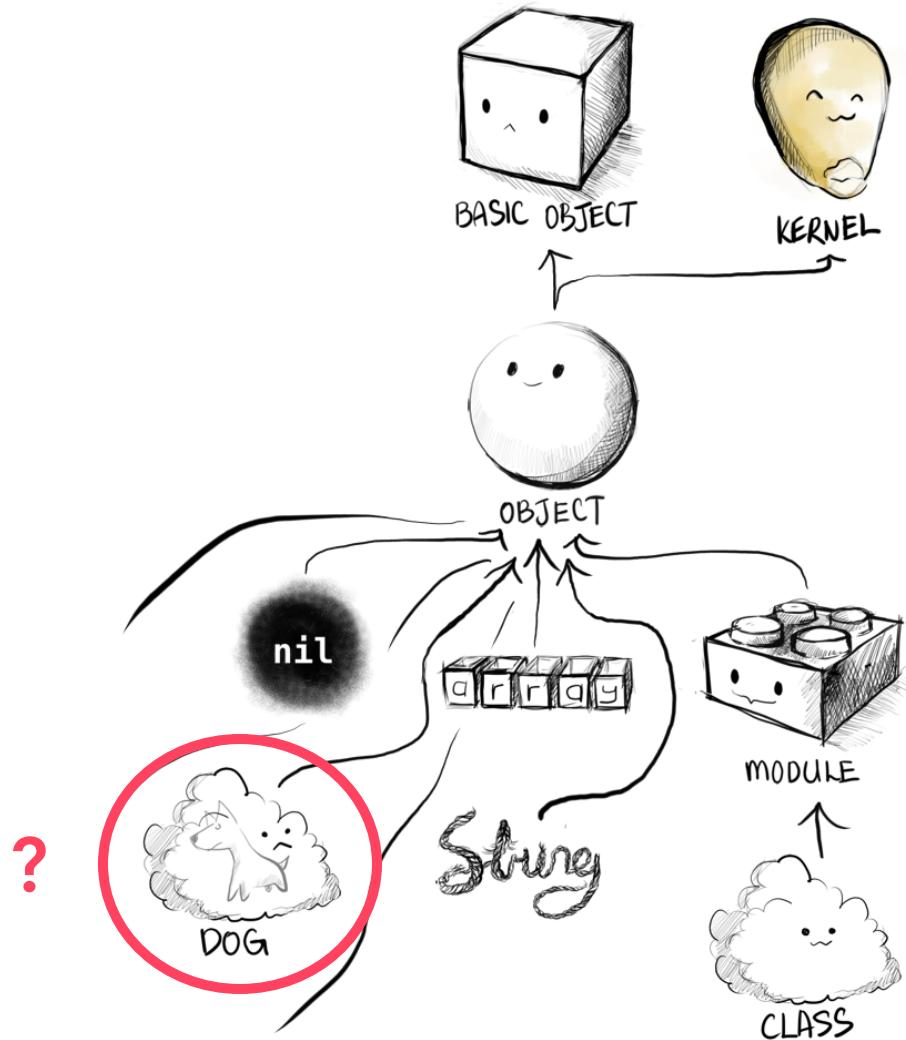
# Where's Kernel?

# Bootstrap

```
void  
InitVM_Object(void)  
{  
    Init_class_hierarchy();  
  
    // ... bunch of stuff ...  
  
    rb_mKernel = rb_define_module("Kernel");  
    rb_include_module(rb_cObject, rb_mKernel);  
  
    // ... really long function ...
```

(object.c)





# Make me a Dog

```
VALUE  
rb_define_class_id(ID id, VALUE super)  
{  
    VALUE klass;  
  
    if (!super) super = rb_cObject;  
    klass = rb_class_new(super);  
    rb_make_metaclass(klass, RBASIC(super)->klass);  
  
    return klass;  
}
```

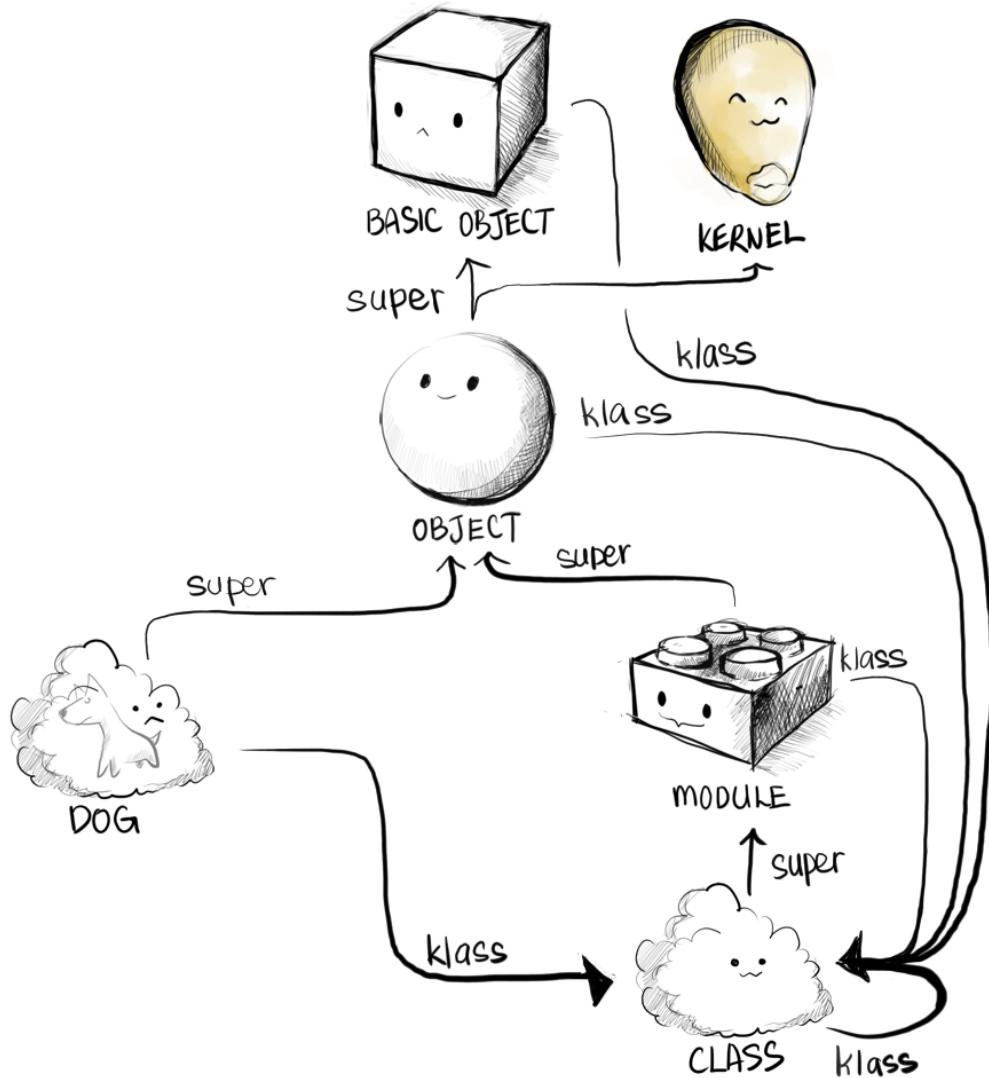
(class.c)

Default super is **Object**

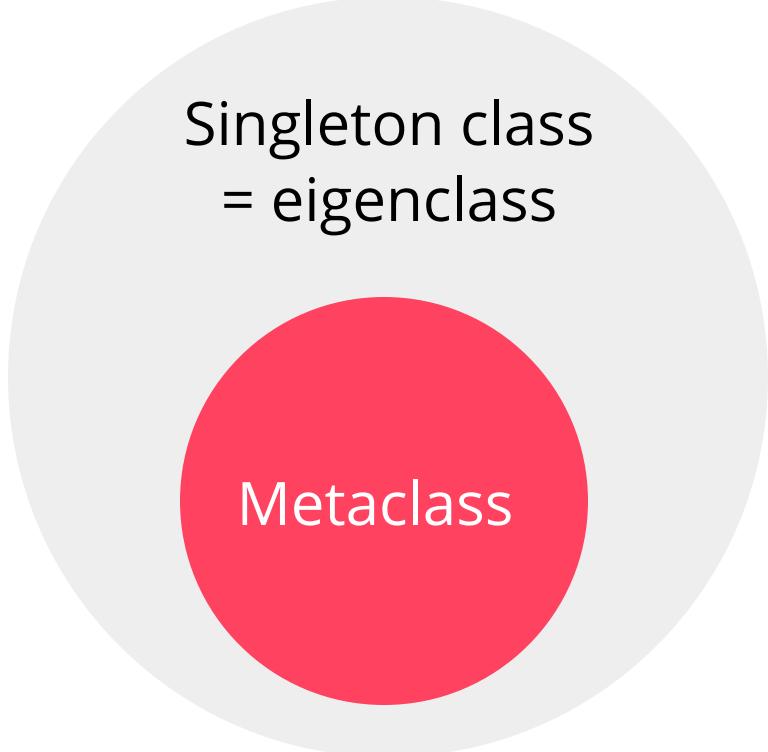
Create the new RClass  
struct with given **super**

Make and set Dog's  
**metaclass** straightaway

(ignore the second parameter, it is unused)



# Terminology...



Singleton class  
= eigenclass

Metaclass

# Terminology...

Metaclasses are also classes, so...

Metametaclasses

Metametametaclasses

Metametametametaclasses

**Meta<sup>n</sup>classes**

**ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY**

**MAKE A METACLASS**

# Make me a <Dog>

(class.c)

```
static inline VALUE make_metaclass(VALUE klass)
{
    VALUE super;
    VALUE metaclass = rb_class_boot(Qundef);
    FL_SET(metaclass, FL_SINGLETON);
    rb_singleton_class_attached(metaclass, klass);

    if (META_CLASS_OF_CLASS_CLASS_P(klass)) {
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, metaclass);
    }
    else {
        VALUE tmp = METACLASS_OF(klass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(tmp));
    }

    RCLASS_SET_SUPER(metaclass, super ? ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(super) : rb_cClass);

    OBJ_INFECT(metaclass, RCLASS_SUPER(metaclass));

    return metaclass;
}
```

1

Initialize metaclass as new  
RClass struct; set singleton flag;  
(attach Dog class to metaclass)

2

Set Dog's **klass** to point  
to the new metaclass;  
Set metaclass's **klass** to  
point to...what?

3

Set metaclass's **super** to point to...what?

# Make me a <Dog>

```
static inline VALUE make_metaclass(VALUE klass)
{
    VALUE super;
    VALUE metaclass = rb_class_boot(Qundef);

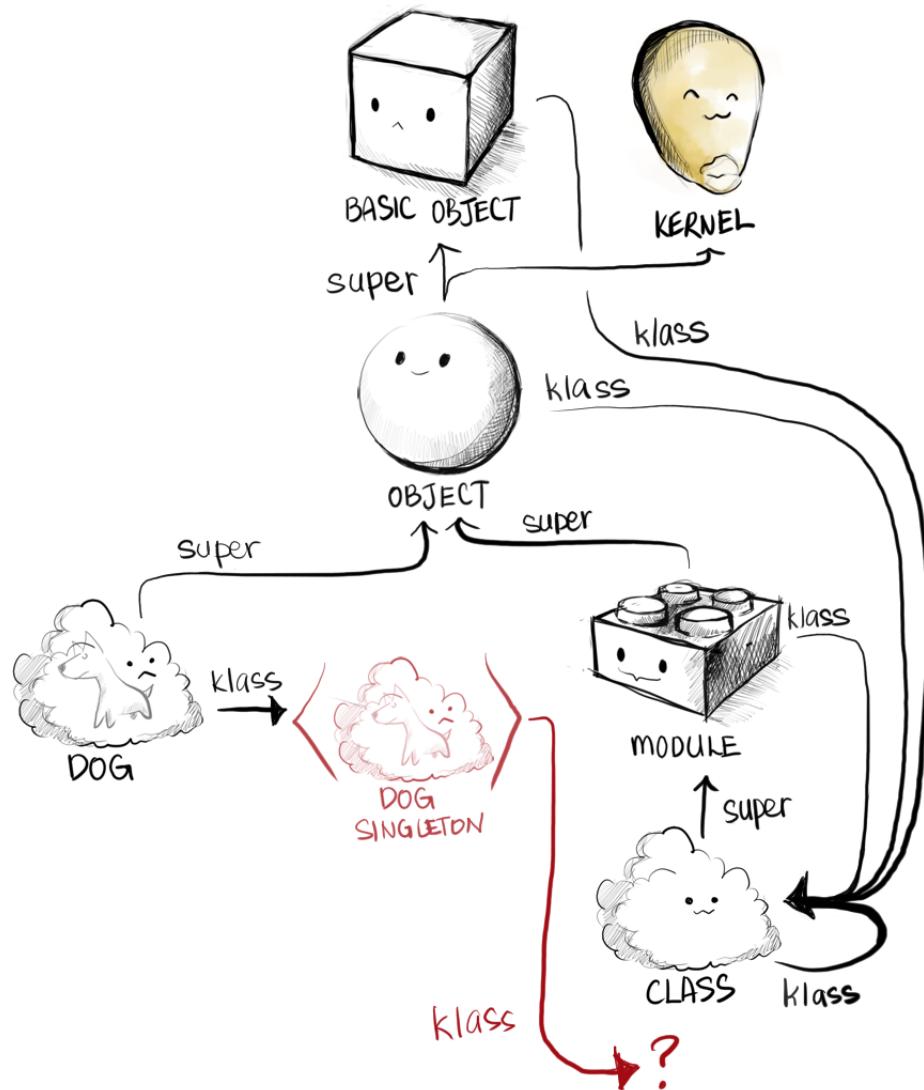
    FL_SET(metaclass, FL_SINGLETON);
    rb_singleton_class_attached(metaclass, klass);

    if (META_CLASS_OF_CLASS_CLASS_P(klass)) {
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, metaclass);
    }
    else {
        VALUE tmp = METACLASS_OF(klass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        /* SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(tmp)); */
    }

    super = RCLASS_SUPER(klass);
    while (RB_TYPE_P(super, T_ICLASS)) super = RCLASS_SUPER(super);
    RCLASS_SET_SUPER(metaclass, super ? ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(super) : rb_cClass);

    OBJ_INFECT(metaclass, RCLASS_SUPER(metaclass));

    return metaclass;/*
}
```



# Make me a <Dog>

```
static inline VALUE make_metaclass(VALUE klass)
{
    VALUE super;
    VALUE metaclass = rb_class_boot(Qundef);

    FL_SET(metaclass, FL_SINGLETON);
    rb_singleton_class_attached(metaclass, klass);

    if (META_CLASS_OF_CLASS_CLASS_P(klass)) {
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, metaclass);
    }
    else {
        VALUE tmp = METACLASS_OF(klass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(tmp));
    }

    super = RCLASS_SUPER(klass);
    while (RB_TYPE_P(super, T_ICLASS)) super = RCLASS_SUPER(super);
    RCLASS_SET_SUPER(metaclass, super ? ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(super) : rb_cClass);

    OBJ_INFECT(metaclass, RCLASS_SUPER(metaclass));

    return metaclass;
}
```

2

Set Dog's **klass** to point  
to the new metaclass;

Set metaclass's **klass** to  
point to...what?

# Make me a <Dog>

```
static inline VALUE make_metaclass(VALUE klass)
{
    VALUE super;
    VALUE metaclass = rb_class_boot(Qundef);

    FL_SET(metaclass, FL_SINGLETON);
    rb_singleton_class_attached(metaclass, klass);

    if (META_CLASS_OF_CLASS_CLASS_P(klass)) {
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, metaclass);
    }
    else {
        VALUE tmp = METACLASS_OF(klass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(tmp));
    }

    super = RCLASS_SUPER(klass);
    while (RB_TYPE_P(super, T_ICLASS)) super = RCLASS_SUPER(super);
    RCLASS_SET_SUPER(metaclass, super ? ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(super) :
        OBJ_INFECT(metaclass, RCLASS_SUPER(metaclass)));

    return metaclass;
}
```

2

tmp is whatever Dog's  
**klass** points to before  
we set it to the new  
metaclass.

**tmp = Class**

This macro calls  
**make\_metaclass(Class)**  
The Dog metaclass's  
**klass** points to the *Class*  
*metaclass!*

# Make me a <Class>

```
static inline VALUE make_metaclass(VALUE klass)
{
    VALUE super;
    VALUE metaclass = rb_class_boot(Qundef);

    FL_SET(metaclass, FL_SINGLETON);
    rb_singleton_class_attached(metaclass, klass);

    if (META_CLASS_OF_CLASS_CLASS_P(klass)) {
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, metaclass);
    } else {
        VALUE tmp = METACLASS_OF(klass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(tmp));
    }

    super = RCLASS_SUPER(klass);
    while (RB_TYPE_P(super, T_ICLASS)) super = RCLASS_SUPER(super);
    RCLASS_SET_SUPER(metaclass, super ? ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(super) : rb_cClass);

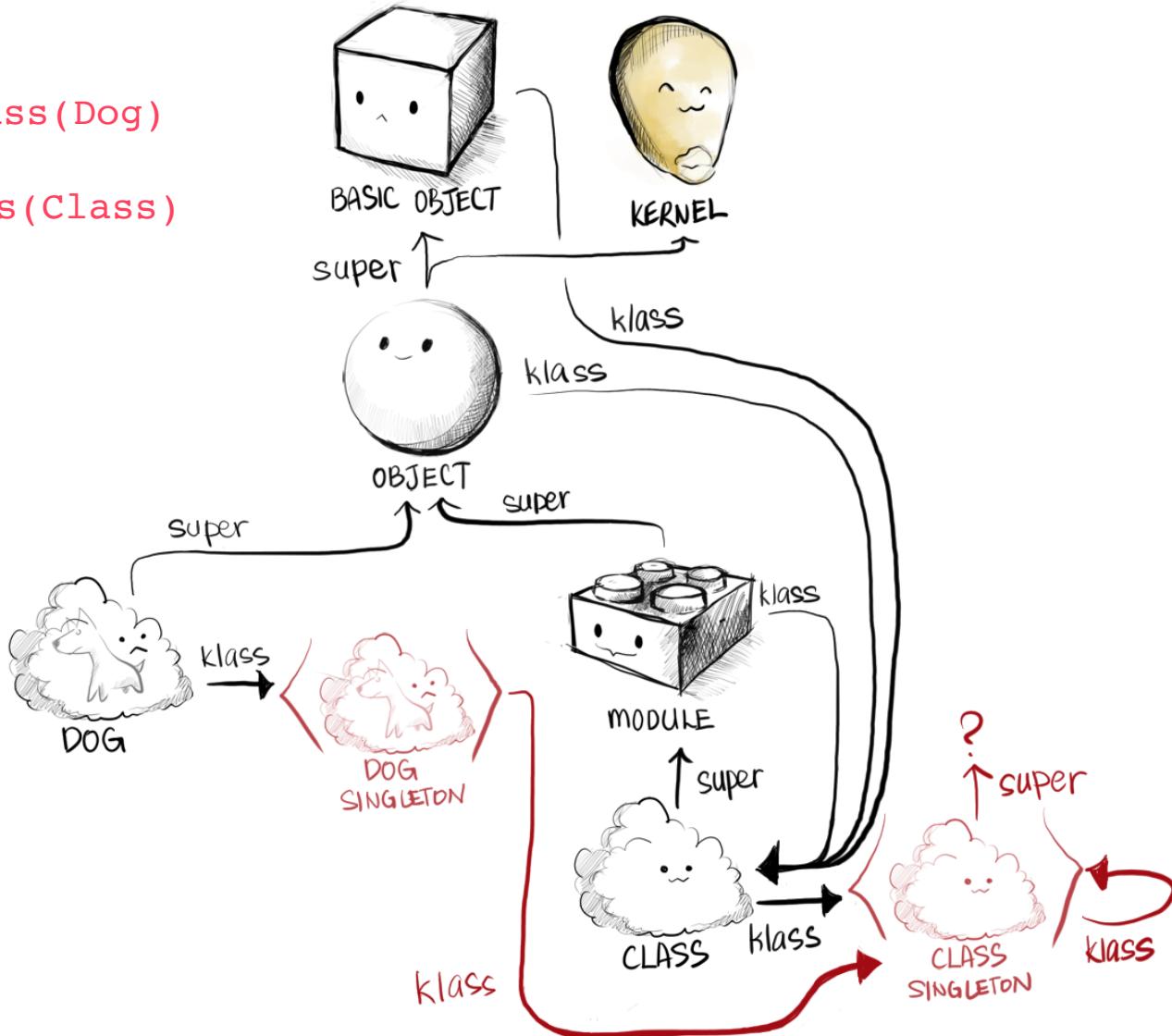
    OBJ_INFECT(metaclass, RCLASS_SUPER(metaclass));

    return metaclass;
}
```

2

The Class metaclass's  
**klass** points to itself!  
(just like how Class's **klass**  
used to point to itself)

`make_metaclass(Dog)`  
↓  
`make_metaclass(Class)`



# Make me a <Class>

```
static inline VALUE make_metaclass(VALUE klass)
{
    VALUE super;
    VALUE metaclass = rb_class_boot(Qundef);

    FL_SET(metaclass, FL_SINGLETON);
    rb_singleton_class_attached(metaclass, klass);

    if (META_CLASS_OF_CLASS_CLASS_P(klass)) {
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, metaclass);
    }
    else {
        VALUE tmp = METACLASS_OF(klass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(tmp));
    }

    super = RCLASS_SUPER(klass);
    while (RB_TYPE_P(super, T_ICLASS)) super = RCLASS_SUPER(super);
    RCLASS_SET_SUPER(metaclass, super ? ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(super) : rb_cClass);

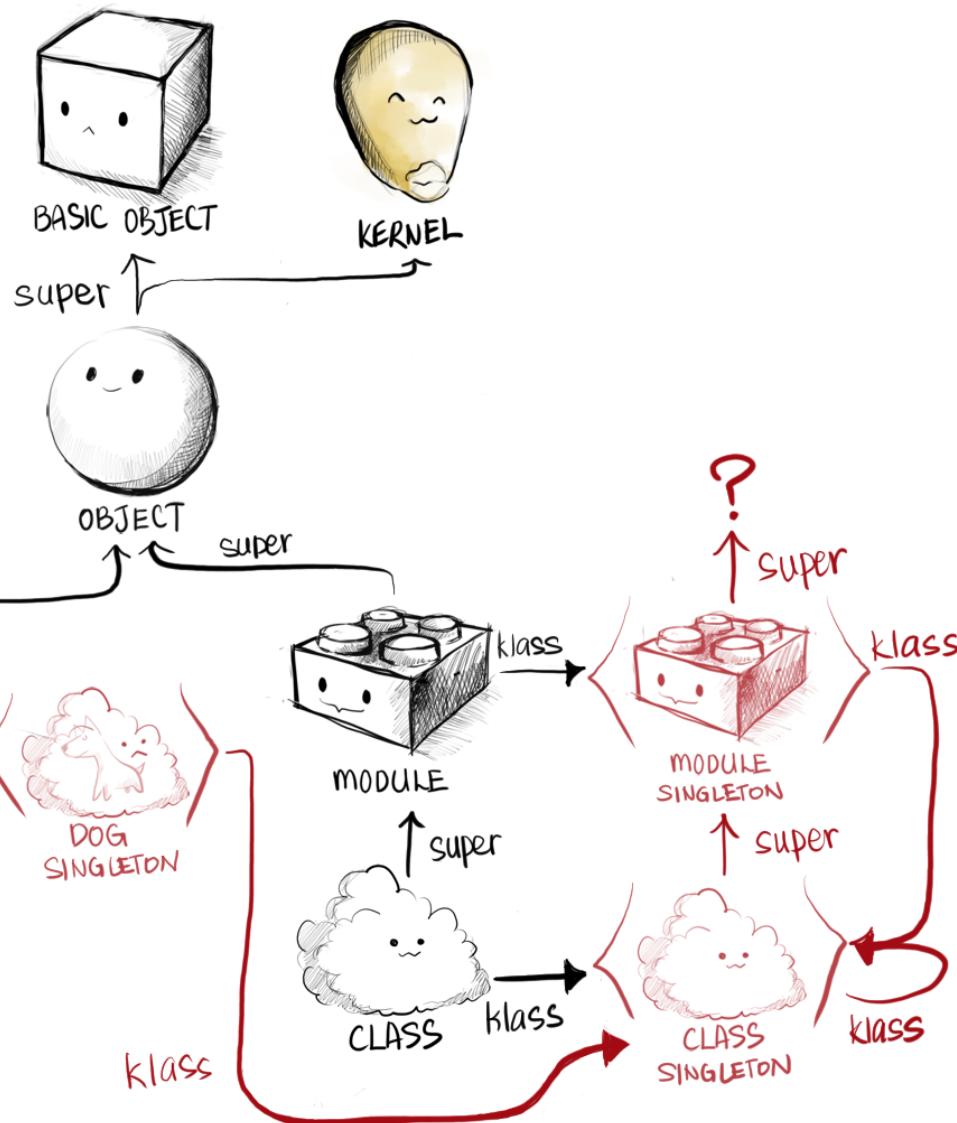
    OBJ_INFECTION(metaclass, RCLASS_SUPER(metaclass));

    return metaclass;
}
```

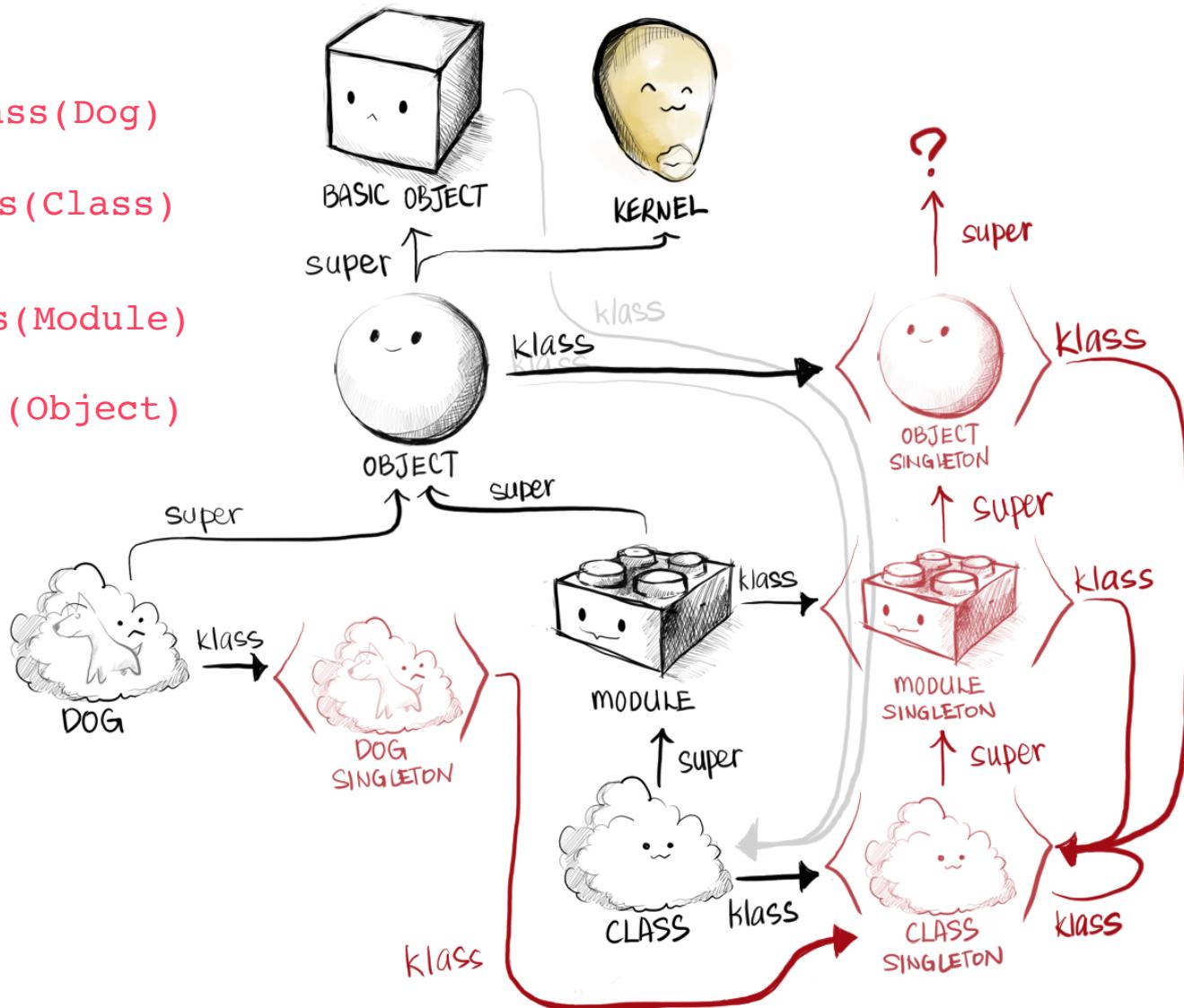
The **superclass** of the Class  
metaclass is the **metaclass of**  
*Class's superclass*

3

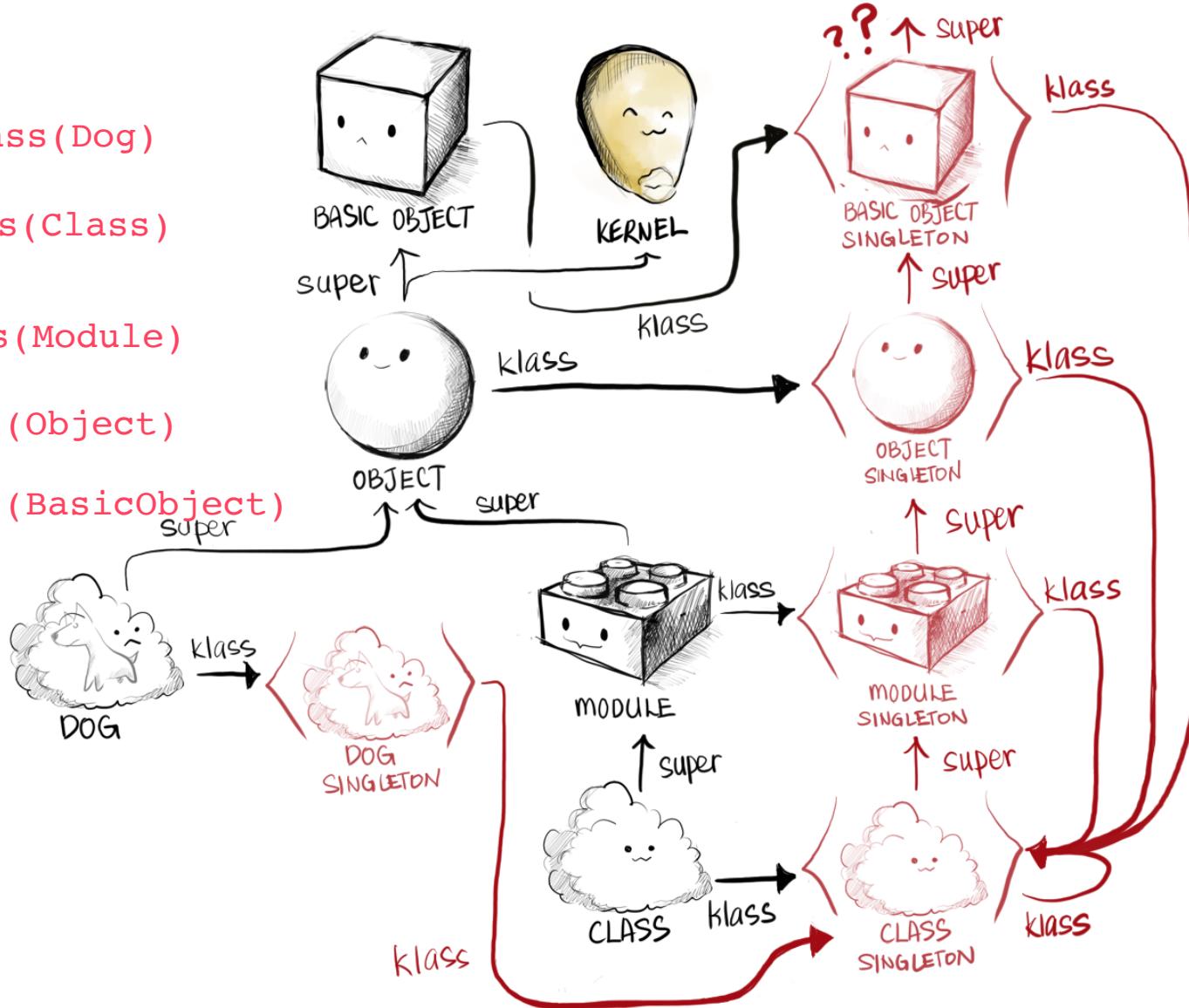
```
make_metaclass(Dog)  
↓  
make_metaclass(Class)  
↓  
make_metaclass(Module)
```



```
make_metaclass(Dog)  
↓  
make_metaclass(Class)  
↓  
make_metaclass(Module)  
↓  
make_metaclass(Object)
```



```
make_metaclass(Dog)  
↓  
make_metaclass(Class)  
↓  
make_metaclass(Module)  
↓  
make_metaclass(Object)  
↓  
make_metaclass(BasicObject)
```



# super of <BasicObject>?

```
static inline VALUE make_metaclass(VALUE klass)
{
    VALUE super;
    VALUE metaclass = rb_class_boot(Qundef);

    FL_SET(metaclass, FL_SINGLETON);
    rb_singleton_class_attached(metaclass, klass);

    if (META_CLASS_OF_CLASS_CLASS_P(klass)) {
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, metaclass);
    }
    else {
        VALUE tmp = METACLASS_OF(klass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(tmp));
    }

    super = RCLASS_SUPER(klass);
    while (RB_TYPE_P(super, T_ICLASS)) super = RCLASS_SUPER(super);
    RCLASS_SET_SUPER(metaclass, super ? ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(super) : rb_cClass);

    OBJ_INFLICT(metaclass, RCLASS_SUPER(metaclass));

    return metaclass;
}
```

The **superclass** of the BasicObject metaclass is *Class*

3

# super of <Dog>?

```
static inline VALUE make_metaclass(VALUE klass)
{
    VALUE super;
    VALUE metaclass = rb_class_boot(Qundef);

    FL_SET(metaclass, FL_SINGLETON);
    rb_singleton_class_attached(metaclass, klass);

    if (META_CLASS_OF_CLASS_CLASS_P(klass)) {
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, metaclass);
    }
    else {
        VALUE tmp = METACLASS_OF(klass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, metaclass);
        SET_METACLASS_OF(metaclass, ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(tmp));
    }

    super = RCLASS_SUPER(klass);
    while (RB_TYPE_P(super, T_ICLASS)) super = RCLASS_SUPER(super);
    RCLASS_SET_SUPER(metaclass, super ? ENSURE_EIGENCLASS(super) : rb_cClass);

    OBJ_INFECTION(metaclass, RCLASS_SUPER(metaclass));

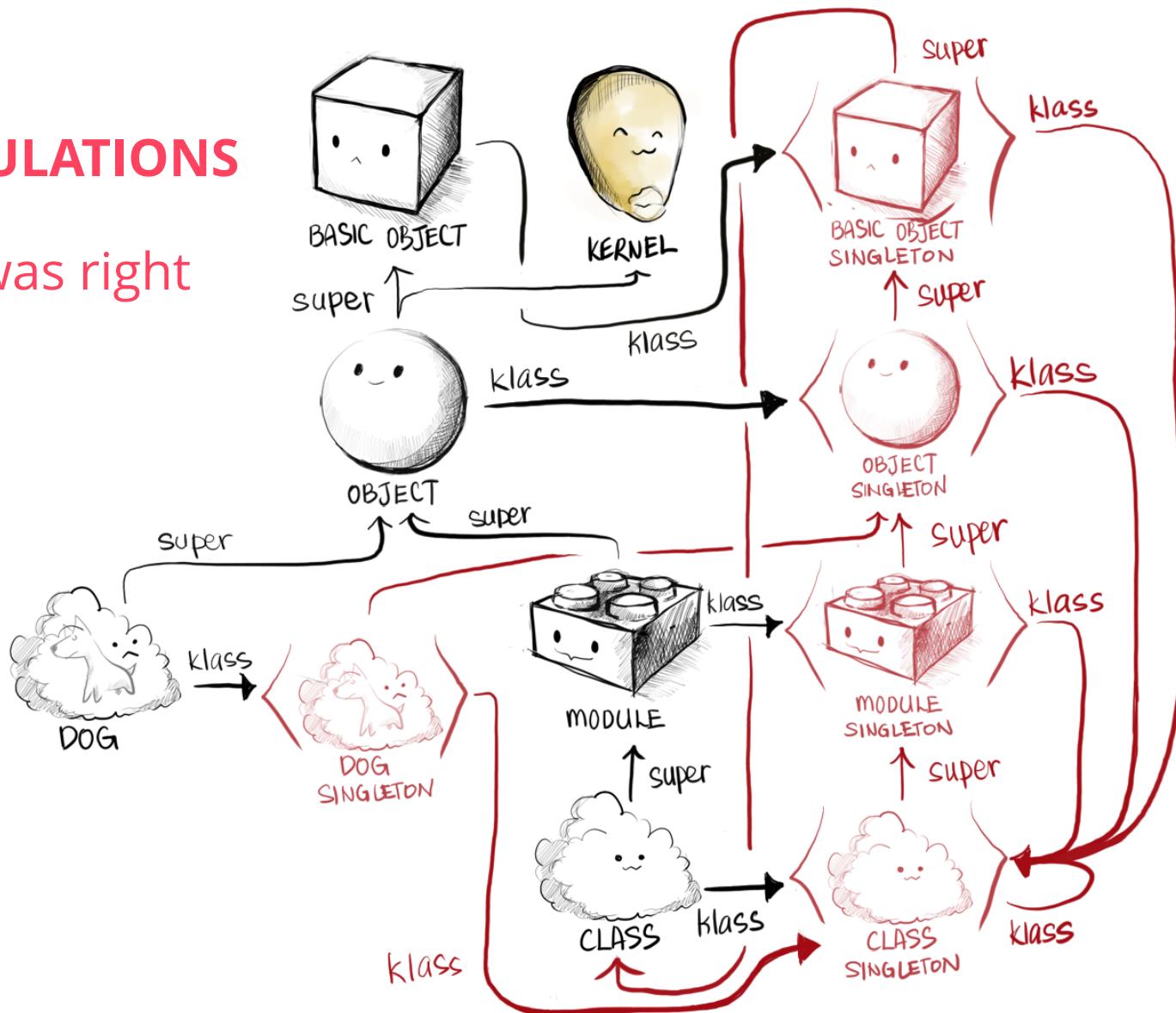
    return metaclass;
}
```

The **superclass** of the Dog  
metaclass is the **metaclass** of  
*Dog's superclass*

3

# CONGRATULATIONS

Boromir was right



**BUT YES, WE CAN SIMPLY**

**MAKE A SINGLETON CLASS**

# Make me a <doge>

```
static inline VALUE make_singleton_class(VALUE obj)
{
    VALUE orig_class = RBASIC(obj)->klass;
    VALUE klass = rb_class_boot(orig_class);
    FL_SET(klass, FL_SINGLETON);

    RBASIC_SET_CLASS(obj, klass);
    rb_singleton_class_attached(klass, obj);

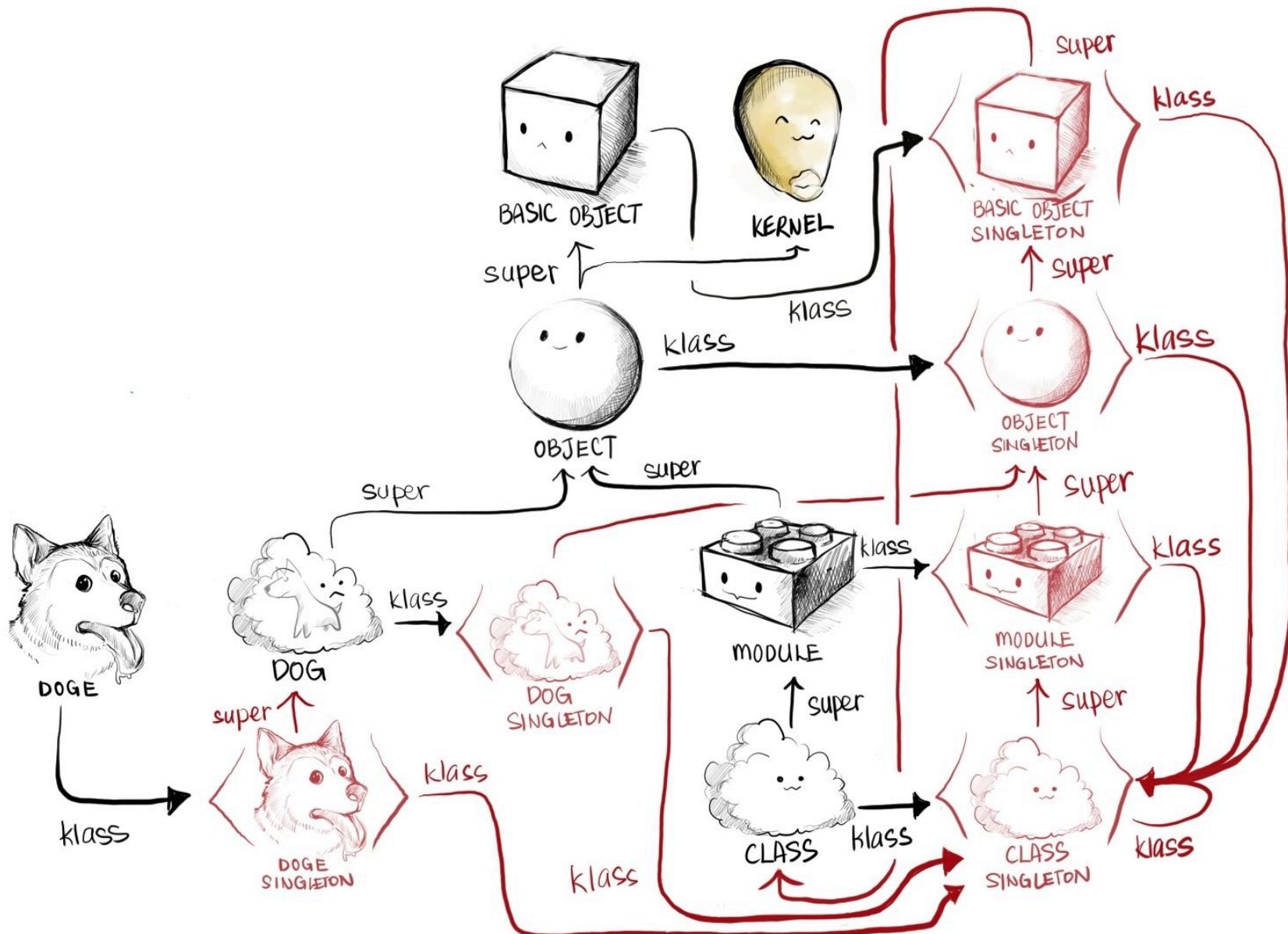
    SET_METACLASS_OF(klass, METACLASS_OF(rb_class_rear(orig_class)));
    return klass;
}
```

1 Initialize singleton class as new RClass struct whose super is the original class; set singleton flag

2 Set doge's **klass** to point to the new singleton class

3 Set the doge singleton class's **klass** to point to the *Class metaclass*

(**class.c**)

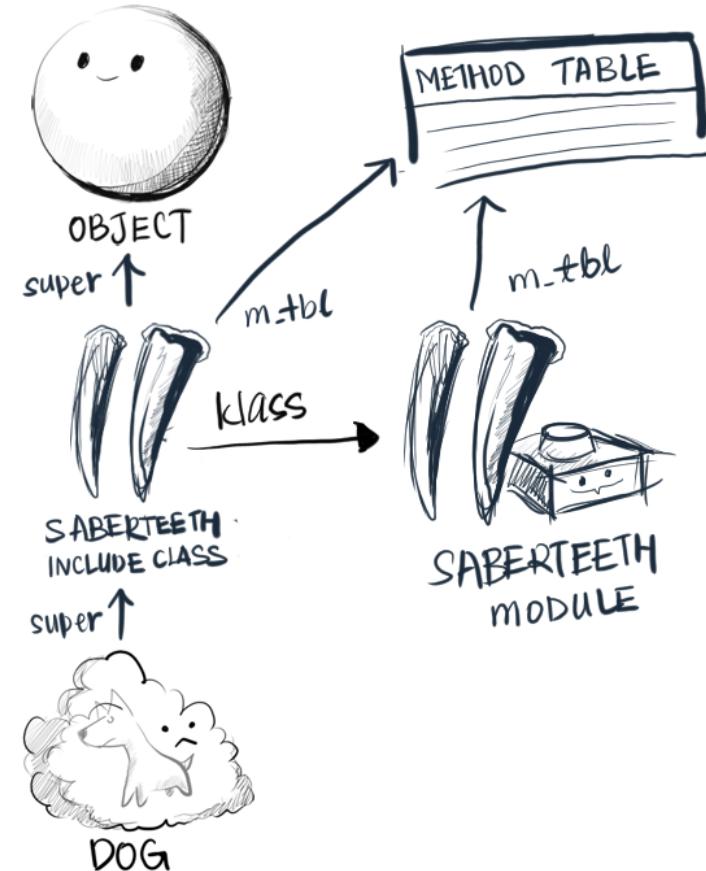


**Wait, what about  
modules?**

**Include Classes**

# Saberdoge

```
class Dog
  include Saberteeth
  # ...
end
```



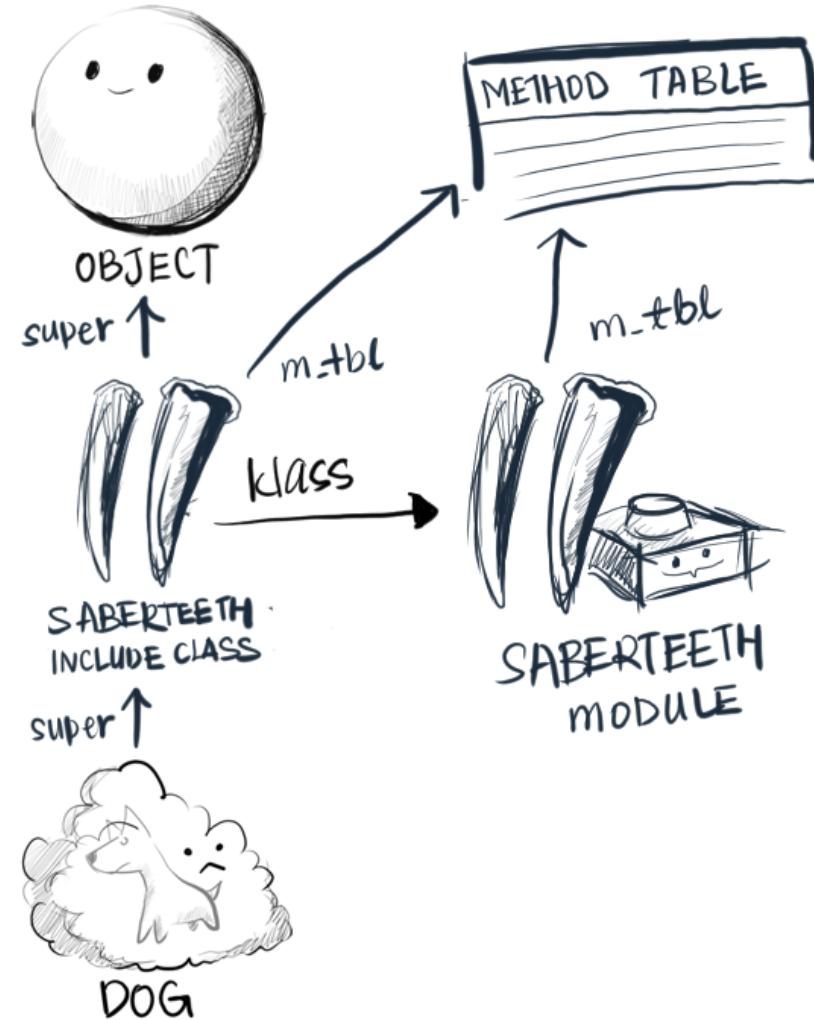
# Make me an include class

```
static int
include_modules_at(const VALUE klass, VALUE c, VALUE module, int search_super)
{
    // check for duplicate includes, cyclic includes,
    // modules included in modules, modules included in refinements...

    iclass = rb_include_class_new(module, RCLASS_SUPER(c));
    c = RCLASS_SET_SUPER(c, iclass);

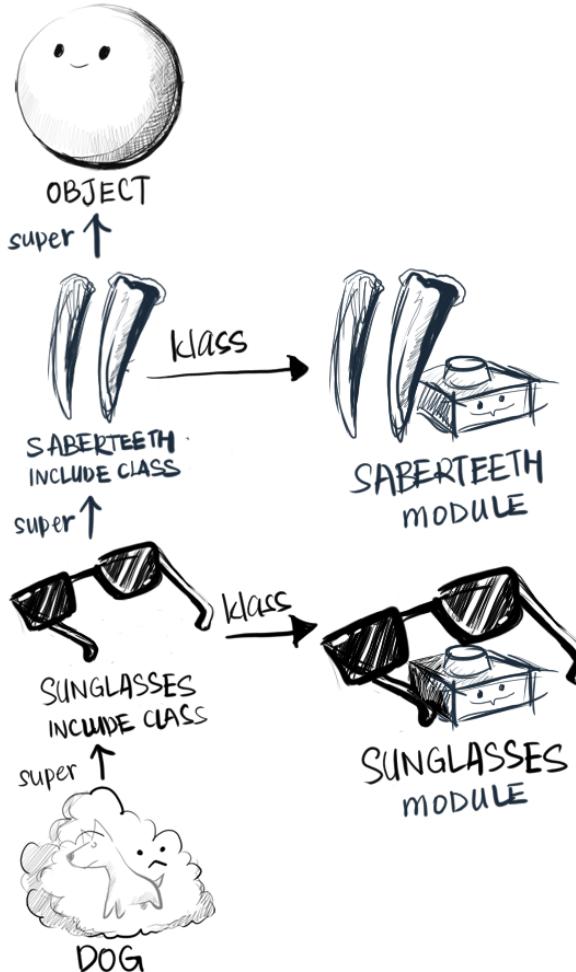
    // ...
}
```

(`class.c`)



# Multiple Include Classes

```
class Dog
  include Saberteeth
  include Sunglasses
  # ...
end
```



# Make me an include class

```
static int
include_modules_at(const VALUE klass, VALUE c, VALUE module, int search_super)
{
    // check for duplicate includes, cyclic includes,
    // modules included in modules modules included in refinements...
    iclass = rb_include_class_new(module, RCLASS_SUPER(c));
    c = RCLASS_SET_SUPER(c, iclass);

    // ...
}
```

(class.c)

Including modules in  
modules?

Modules and  
Include  
Classes are  
also *RClass*  
*structs*

```
struct RClass {
    struct RBasic basic;
    VALUE super;
    rb_classext_t *ptr;
    struct rb_id_table *m_tbl;
};
```

# Can modules have a **super?**

Yes, but not by default

**super** comes in handy when we include  
modules in modules

# Sabersunglass Doge

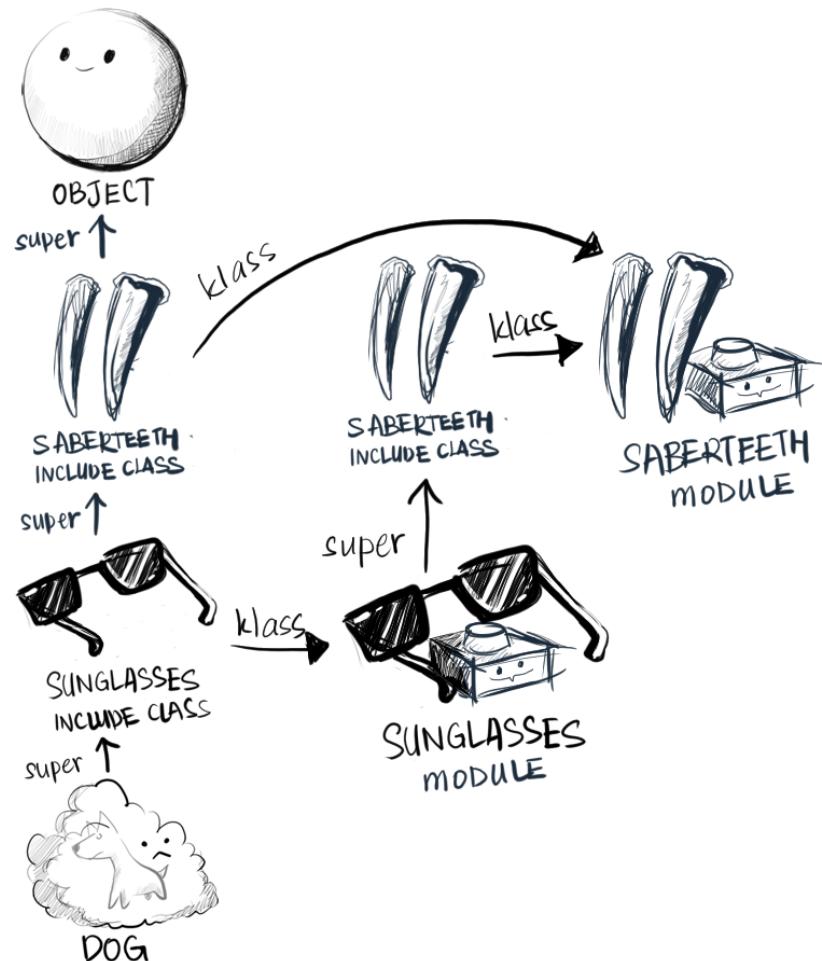
```
module Sunglasses
  include Saberteeth
end

class Dog
  include Sunglasses
end
```



# Module in a module

```
module Sunglasses
  include Saberteeth
end
```





how objects and classes  
are represented

singleton class and  
metaclass creation

how modules work

# Just to clarify...

C

klass

super

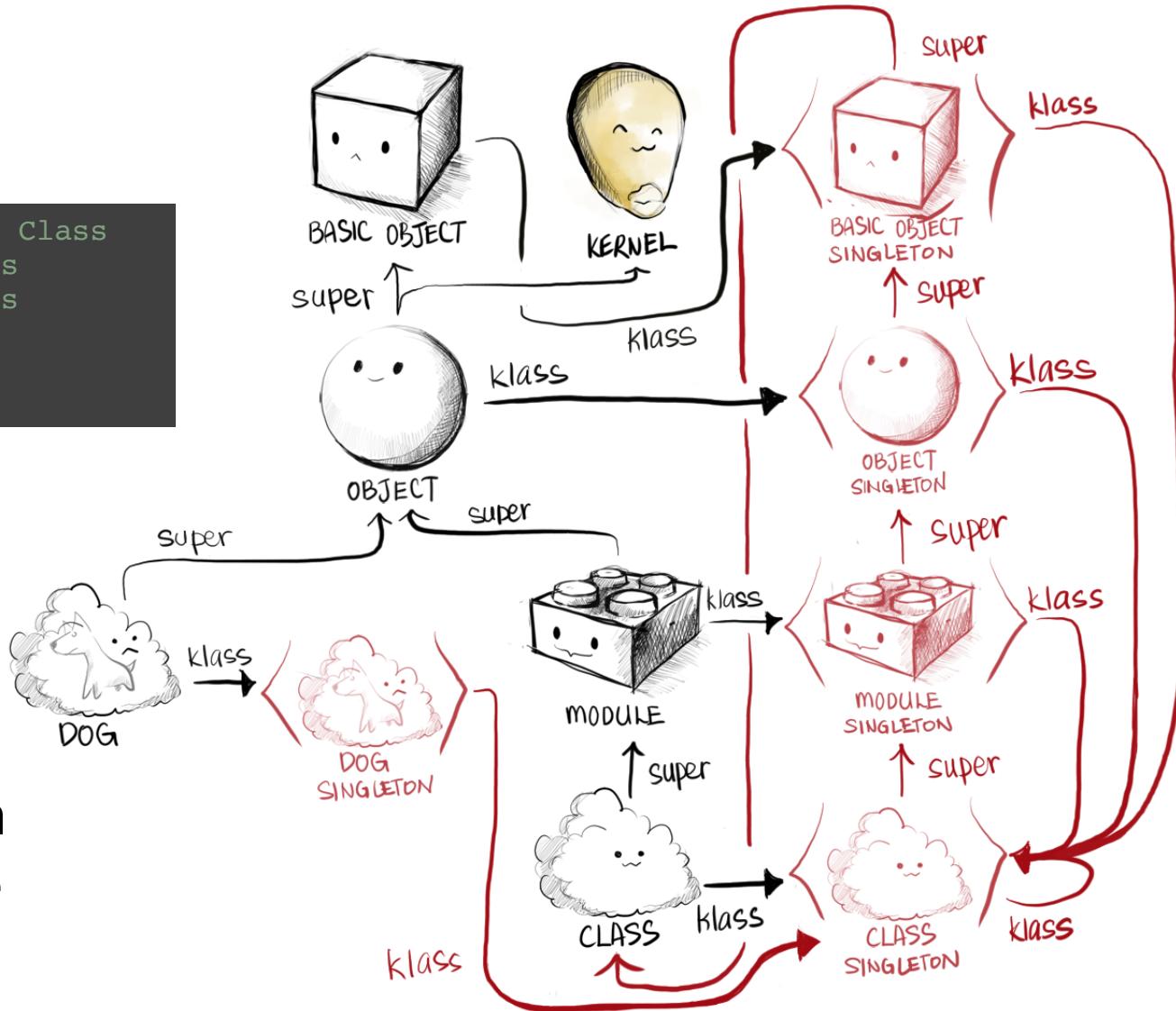
Ruby

class

superclass

```
BasicObject.class # => Class  
Object.class # => Class  
Module.class # => Class  
Class.class # => Class  
Dog.class # => Class
```

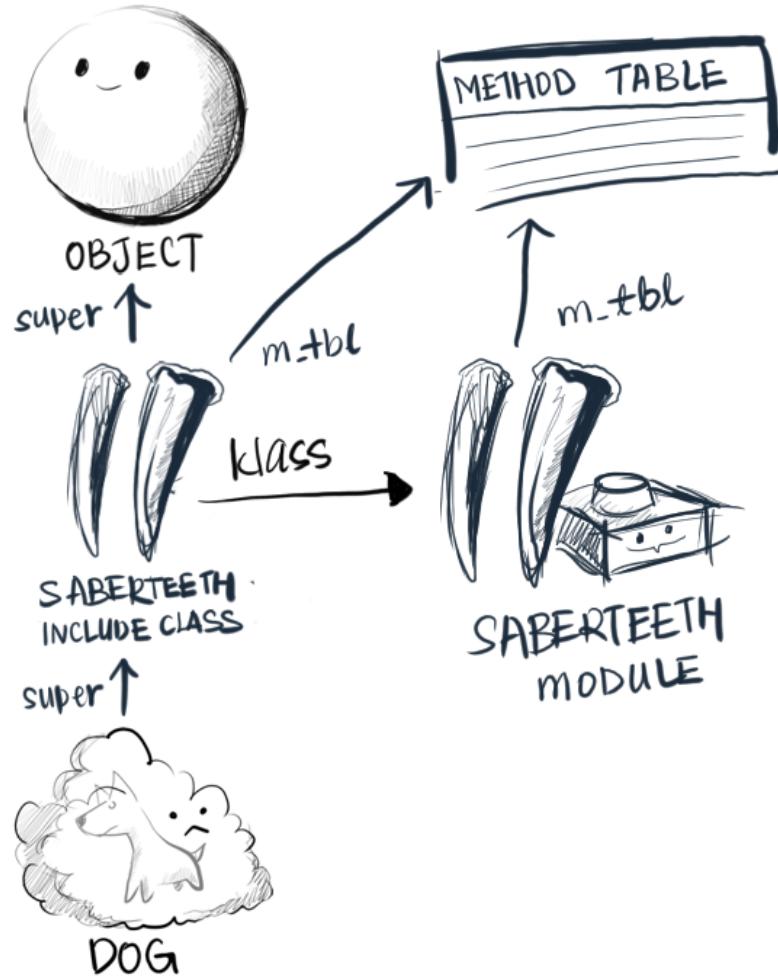
Ruby's **class**  
ignores singleton  
classes & include  
classes



```
class Dog
  include Saberteeth
end

Dog.superclass # => Object
```

Ruby's **superclass**  
ignores **include**  
**classes**





## class\_eval vs instance\_eval

include vs extend  
(vs prepend)

class << self; end

```
module Sunglasses
  include Saberteeth
end

class Dog
  include Sunglasses
end
```

VS

```
class Dog
  include Sunglasses
end

module Sunglasses
  include Saberteeth
end
```

## class variables vs class instance variables

```
module A
  def a_method; end
end
```

```
module B
  extend A
end
```

```
module C
  extend B
end
```

```
# should I expect this to work??
C.a_method
```



ALL I'D WANTED TO  
KNOW ABOUT RUBY'S  
OBJECT MODEL



