

howl poem analysis

Howl Poem Analysis: Unpacking Allen Ginsberg's Beat Generation Masterpiece

Introduction:

Allen Ginsberg's "Howl," a visceral scream against societal conformity and a celebration of individual experience, remains one of the most iconic and controversial poems in American literature. This in-depth analysis dives deep into the poem's complex layers, exploring its structure, themes, imagery, and lasting impact. We'll dissect the poem's revolutionary language, examine its historical context within the Beat Generation, and unpack its enduring relevance in contemporary society. Whether you're a seasoned literature student or a curious reader encountering "Howl" for the first time, this comprehensive guide will equip you with the tools to appreciate its power and complexity.

I. The Historical Context of "Howl": The Beat Generation and Post-War America

"Howl" wasn't written in a vacuum. It emerged from the post-World War II era, a time of burgeoning anxieties and societal shifts. The Beat Generation, a counter-cultural movement rejecting materialism and embracing spontaneity, provided the fertile ground for Ginsberg's explosive creation. The poem's defiance of traditional poetic forms mirrored the Beats' rejection of established norms. The anxieties surrounding the Cold War, McCarthyism, and the stifling conformity of American society are all subtly – and sometimes overtly – woven into the fabric of the poem. Understanding this historical context is crucial to grasping the poem's true meaning and its rebellious spirit. Ginsberg's contemporaries, like Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs, heavily influenced the style and thematic concerns that are present within the work.

II. Deconstructing "Howl": Structure and Form

Unlike traditional sonnets or structured poems, "Howl" breaks free from conventional forms. Its free verse style reflects the chaotic energy and stream-of-consciousness style central to the poem's themes. The poem is divided into three distinct sections, each with its own unique rhythm and tone. The first section, arguably the most famous, is a powerful indictment of societal pressures and the destruction of the human spirit. It utilizes catalogue listing, a technique that emphasizes the sheer volume of suffering and alienation. The second section shifts to a more personal and intimate tone, exploring Ginsberg's own experiences and relationships. The final section offers a glimmer of hope and resilience amidst the chaos, hinting at the possibility of transcendence and spiritual liberation. Examining this structural breakdown is key to understanding the poem's narrative arc and its emotional impact.

III. Key Themes in "Howl": Rebellion, Conformity, and the Human Spirit

Several interconnected themes weave through "Howl." The central theme is undoubtedly rebellion against societal norms and expectations. Ginsberg challenges the homogenizing forces of conformity, celebrating the individuality and unconventional lives of marginalized groups. The poem fiercely

critiques the destructive consequences of societal pressures, highlighting how they crush creativity and authenticity. Closely linked to rebellion is the theme of suffering, both physical and emotional. Ginsberg vividly portrays the pain and alienation experienced by individuals struggling against societal constraints. Furthermore, the poem explores the complex relationship between sexuality and identity, challenging the moral restrictions of the time. Ultimately, "Howl" is a testament to the enduring power of the human spirit, its capacity for resilience, and its defiant pursuit of freedom and self-expression.

IV. Imagery and Language in "Howl": A Sensory Experience

Ginsberg masterfully employs vivid imagery and raw language to create a powerful sensory experience for the reader. The poem is filled with jarring juxtapositions, unexpected metaphors, and visceral descriptions. The use of slang, colloquialisms, and even obscenities reflects the unfiltered nature of the Beat Generation's ethos. Analyzing specific images and their symbolic meaning is crucial to understanding the poem's deeper layers. For example, the recurring motif of "Moloch" – a symbol of industrial society and its dehumanizing effects – underscores the poem's central critique. By examining the poem's language closely, we can appreciate Ginsberg's innovative style and its impact on subsequent generations of poets.

V. The Lasting Legacy of "Howl": Its Influence and Continued Relevance

"Howl" continues to resonate with readers decades after its publication. Its impact on American poetry is undeniable, paving the way for a more open and experimental approach to poetic form and content. The poem's unflinching portrayal of social injustice and its celebration of marginalized voices remain deeply relevant in contemporary society. Its challenges to conformity and its celebration of individual expression continues to inspire activists and artists. The ongoing legal battles surrounding the poem's obscenity charges further cemented its place in literary history and highlighted the power of art to challenge societal norms. Its enduring relevance underscores the timeless nature of its themes and its ability to speak to the human condition across generations.

VI. Analyzing "Howl" Through Different Lenses: Feminist, Queer, and Marxist Perspectives

A comprehensive analysis of "Howl" requires engaging with diverse critical perspectives. A feminist reading might examine how the poem represents female voices and experiences, potentially highlighting both its inclusivity and its limitations. A queer reading could delve into its representation of homosexuality and its challenge to heteronormative structures. A Marxist analysis might focus on its critique of capitalism and its exploration of class inequality. By employing these diverse perspectives, we gain a richer and more nuanced understanding of the poem's complexities and its multifaceted engagement with social and political issues.

VII. Conclusion: The Enduring Power of "Howl"

"Howl" is not merely a poem; it is a cultural phenomenon. Its enduring power lies in its ability to capture the anxieties and aspirations of a generation while simultaneously speaking to universal human experiences. Through its revolutionary language, its unflinching honesty, and its powerful imagery, the poem continues to challenge, provoke, and inspire. It serves as a potent reminder of the importance of individual expression, the fight against societal oppression, and the enduring strength

of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

Sample Outline for a Longer "Howl" Analysis Essay:

- I. Introduction: Briefly introduce Allen Ginsberg and "Howl," outlining the essay's purpose.
- II. Historical Context: Explore the Beat Generation, post-war America, and the social and political climate that shaped the poem.
- III. Structural Analysis: Examine the three sections of "Howl," focusing on its free verse style and the use of cataloging and other poetic devices.
- IV. Thematic Exploration: Analyze key themes such as rebellion, conformity, sexuality, mental illness, and the search for spiritual liberation.
- V. Imagery and Symbolism: Discuss the poem's vivid imagery, focusing on key symbols like Moloch and the recurring motifs of suffering and alienation.
- VI. Critical Perspectives: Explore different critical interpretations of "Howl" (feminist, queer, Marxist, etc.).
- VII. Conclusion: Summarize the key findings and emphasize the poem's lasting legacy and continued relevance.

(Detailed explanation of each point in the outline would follow, mirroring the content already present in the blog post above.)

FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of "Howl"? The central theme is rebellion against societal norms and the celebration of individual experience, often in the face of suffering and alienation.
1. What is the significance of the three sections in "Howl"? Each section develops different aspects of the poem's themes, moving from a broad critique of society to a more personal exploration of experience and finally a suggestion of hope.
1. What literary devices does Ginsberg use in "Howl"? Ginsberg uses free verse, catalogs, stream-of-consciousness, vivid imagery, and jarring juxtapositions.
1. Who is Moloch in "Howl"? Moloch is a symbol of industrial society and its destructive influence on the human spirit.

1. Why was "Howl" controversial upon its publication? Its explicit language and its unconventional themes challenged the moral standards of the time.
1. How did "Howl" impact the American literary landscape? It helped to usher in a new era of experimental poetry, liberating poets from rigid forms and encouraging greater openness in subject matter.
1. What is the significance of the poem's title, "Howl"? The title suggests a primal scream against societal constraints and a cry for liberation.
1. What is the relationship between "Howl" and the Beat Generation? "Howl" is a quintessential expression of the Beat Generation's rebellious spirit and its rejection of societal norms.
1. How is "Howl" relevant today? Its themes of social injustice, conformity, and the search for authenticity continue to resonate with contemporary readers.

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1. Comparing "Howl" to other Beat Poems: A comparative study of "Howl" and other works by Ginsberg and other Beat poets.
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1. Feminist Interpretations of "Howl": A Critical Analysis: A focus on feminist critical approaches to the poem and its representation of women.
1. The Influence of "Howl" on Contemporary Poetry: An analysis of "Howl"'s lasting influence on contemporary poetic styles and themes.

howl poem analysis: Analysis of the poem "Howl" by Allen Ginsberg Caroline Piontek, 2014-10-21 Seminar paper from the year 2014 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, , language: English, abstract: Howl was written by Allen Ginsberg in 1955 and is probably the most important, most discussed and one of the best known poems of the 20th century. Even its first public reading represents one of the major events on modern literary history (Gaughan 124). Ginsberg was intensely influenced by people and events that surrounded him when writing Howl. Howl is in a way what its title says: A howl of a young man that is disgusted by the culture he finds himself in. Ginsberg provided a counter culture, in circles of like-minded friends. They framed the anger of a whole generation in their literature and formed a rebellious movement, the so called Beat Movement ("Beat writers" 39). When Howl was published a fierce discussion started because the poem was different from the common poetry of the 1950s concerning the content, the form and the language. Howl was also adapted in a 2010 experimental movie by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, which shows there is still an interest and a fascination for Ginsberg's poem, maybe because the topic Ginsberg howls about is still relevant (Epstein).

howl poem analysis: *Howl and Other Poems* Allen Ginsberg, 1956-06-01 The epigraph for Howl is from Walt Whitman: Unscrew the locks from the doors!/Unscrew the doors themselves from their jambs! Announcing his intentions with this ringing motto, Allen Ginsberg published a volume of poetry which broke so many social...

howl poem analysis: American Scream Jonah Raskin, 2004-04-07 Written as a cultural weapon and a call to arms, Howl touched a raw nerve in Cold War America and has been

controversial from the day it was first read aloud nearly fifty years ago. This first full critical and historical study of Howl brilliantly elucidates the nexus of politics and literature in which it was written and gives striking new portraits of Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, and William Burroughs. Drawing from newly released psychiatric reports on Ginsberg, from interviews with his psychiatrist, Dr. Philip Hicks, and from the poet's journals, *American Scream* shows how Howl brought Ginsberg and the world out of the closet of a repressive society. It also gives the first full accounting of the literary figures—Eliot, Rimbaud, and Whitman—who influenced Howl, definitively placing it in the tradition of twentieth-century American poetry for the first time. As he follows the genesis and the evolution of Howl, Jonah Raskin constructs a vivid picture of a poet and an era. He illuminates the development of Beat poetry in New York and San Francisco in the 1950s—focusing on historic occasions such as the first reading of Howl at Six Gallery in San Francisco in 1955 and the obscenity trial over the poem's publication. He looks closely at Ginsberg's life, including his relationships with his parents, friends, and mentors, while he was writing the poem and uses this material to illuminate the themes of madness, nakedness, and secrecy that pervade Howl. A captivating look at the cultural climate of the Cold War and at a great American poet, *American Scream* finally tells the full story of Howl—a rousing manifesto for a generation and a classic of twentieth-century literature.

howl poem analysis: Howl Allen Ginsberg, 2006-10-10 First published in 1956, Allen Ginsberg's *Howl* is a prophetic masterpiece—an epic raging against dehumanizing society that overcame censorship trials and obscenity charges to become one of the most widely read poems of the century. This annotated version of Ginsberg's classic is the poet's own re-creation of the revolutionary work's composition process—as well as a treasure trove of anecdotes, an intimate look at the poet's writing techniques, and a veritable social history of the 1950s.

howl poem analysis: Howl Allen Ginsberg, Eric Drooker, 2010-01-01 Beat movement icon and visionary poet, Allen Ginsberg was one of the most influential poets of the twentieth century, and broke boundaries with his fearless, pyrotechnic verse. The apocalyptic 'Howl', originally written as a performance piece, became the subject of an obscenity trial when it was first published in 1956. It is considered to be one of the defining works of the Beat Generation, standing alongside that of Burroughs, Kerouac, and Corso. In it, Ginsberg attacks what he saw as the destructive forces of materialism and conformity in the United States at the time, and takes on issues of sex, drugs and race, simultaneously creating what would become the poetic anthem for US counterculture.

howl poem analysis: **The Poem that Changed America** Jason Shinder, 2006 Reflections from America's prominent writers on the seminal poem *Howl* by Allen Ginsberg, on the eve of its fiftieth anniversary.

howl poem analysis: **Howl on Trial** Bill Morgan, 2021-01-06 To celebrate the 50th anniversary of *Howl* and *Other Poems*, with nearly one million copies in print, City Lights presents the story of editing, publishing and defending Allen Ginsberg's landmark poem within a broader context of obscenity issues and censorship of literary works. This collection begins with an introduction by publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who shares his memories of hearing *Howl* first read at the 6 Gallery, of his arrest and of the subsequent legal defense of *Howl*'s publication.

Never-before-published correspondence of Ginsberg, Ferlinghetti, Kerouac, Gregory Corso, John Hollander, Richard Eberhart and others provides an in-depth commentary on the poem's ethical intent and its social significance to the author and his contemporaries. A section on the public reaction to the trial includes newspaper reportage, op-ed pieces by Ginsberg and Ferlinghetti and letters to the editor from the public, which provide fascinating background material on the cultural climate of the mid-1950s. A timeline of literary censorship in the United States places this battle for free expression in a historical context. Also included are photographs, transcripts of relevant trial testimony, Judge Clayton Horn's decision and its ramifications and a long essay by Albert Bendich, the ACLU attorney who defended *Howl* on constitutional grounds. Editor Bill Morgan discusses more recent challenges to *Howl* in the late 1980s and how the fight against censorship continues today in new guises.

howl poem analysis: *The Best Minds of My Generation* Allen Ginsberg, 2018 In the summer of

1977, Allen Ginsberg decided it was time to teach a course on the literary history of the Beat Generation. This was twenty years after the publication of his landmark poem *Howl*, and Jack Kerouac's seminal book *On the Road*. Through the creation of this course, which he ended up teaching five times, first at the Naropa Institute and later at Brooklyn College, Ginsberg saw an opportunity to make a record of the history of Beat Literature. Compiled and edited by renowned Beat scholar Bill Morgan, and with an introduction by Anne Waldman, *The Best Minds of My Generation* presents the lectures in edited form, complete with notes, and paints a portrait of the Beats as Ginsberg knew them: friends, confidantes, literary mentors, and fellow revolutionaries. Ginsberg was seminal to the creation of a public perception of Beat writers and knew all of the major figures personally, making him uniquely qualified to be the historian of the movement. In *The Best Minds of My Generation*, Ginsberg shares anecdotes of meeting Kerouac, Burroughs, and other writers for the first time, explains his own poetics, elucidates the importance of music to Beat writing, discusses visual influences and the cut-up method, and paints a portrait of a group who were leading a literary revolution. For academics and Beat neophytes alike, *The Best Minds of My Generation* is a personal and yet critical look at one of the most important literary movements of the twentieth century--

howl poem analysis: Incendiary Art Patricia Smith, 2017-02-15 Winner, 2017 Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist, 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry Winner, NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in the Poetry category Winner, 2018 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award Winner, 2018 BCALA Best Poetry Award Winner, Abel Meeropol Award for Social Justice Finalist, Neustadt International Prize for Literature Winner, 2021 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize One of the most magnetic and esteemed poets in today's literary landscape, Patricia Smith fearlessly confronts the tyranny against the black male body and the tenacious grief of mothers in her compelling new collection, *Incendiary Art*. She writes an exhaustive lament for mothers of the dark magicians, and revisits the devastating murder of Emmett Till. These dynamic sequences serve as a backdrop for present-day racial calamities and calls for resistance. Smith embraces elaborate and eloquent language— her gorgeous fallen son a horrid hidden / rot. Her tiny hand starts crushing roses—one by one / by one she wrecks the casket's spray. It's how she / mourns—a mother, still, despite the roar of thorns— as she sharpens her unerring focus on incidents of national mayhem and mourning. Smith envisions, reenvisions, and ultimately reinvents the role of witness with an incendiary fusion of forms, including prose poems, ghazals, sestinas, and sonnets. With poems impossible to turn away from, one of America's most electrifying writers reveals what is frightening, and what is revelatory, about history.

howl poem analysis: The Picture of the individual and of society in Allen Ginsberg's "Howl" and the Beat Generation's impact on democracy in America Patrick Wedekind, 2008-10-28 Seminar paper from the year 2008 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,3, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, course: Democratic Vistas in American Cultural History, language: English, abstract: Allen Ginsberg's poem "Howl", considered one of the most influential works of the Beat Generation, was published in 1956. At that time, American society was shaped by the Korean War, the Cold War, and of course McCarthyism, which was a result of the Cold War. These events led to a very conservative and intolerant society, and thus to the development of a counterculture, including the Beat Generation writers as well as other people protesting against this society. In "Howl", Ginsberg focuses primarily on different individuals, and on society's impact on them. These individuals whom he calls "the best minds of [his] generation" are people at the edges of society, for example drug addicts, homosexuals, and the mentally ill. Their life and suffering is intensively portrayed in part I of the poem, while part II is mainly dedicated to the "Moloch" (Howl, 221), i.e. the society these people as well as Ginsberg live in. However, part II not only portrays the "Moloch" but also describes its influence on the individuals Ginsberg mentions in part I. The third and last part of "Howl" is dedicated to Ginsberg's friend Carl Solomon living in a mental institution. Due to this clear focus, "Howl" is particularly useful to get an insight of the way the Beats used to see the individual, American society, and the connection between the two. That is why a detailed

analysis of "Howl" is very helpful to get a better understanding of the Beat Movement, and the way American society used to be in the 1950s and 1960s. Moreover, it is interesting how closely connected the Beat Generation was to the concept of democracy although it seemed to be a rather anarchistic movement rejecting all of society's values. Such democratic aspects within the movement can also be found in "Howl".

howl poem analysis: *Calling a Wolf a Wolf* Kaveh Akbar, 2017-09-25 The struggle from late youth on, with and without God, agony, narcotics and love is a torment rarely recorded with such sustained eloquence and passion as you will find in this collection. --Fanny Howe This highly-anticipated debut boldly confronts addiction and courses the strenuous path of recovery, beginning in the wilds of the mind. Poems confront craving, control, the constant battle of alcoholism and sobriety, and the questioning of the self and its instincts within the context of this never-ending fight. From Stop Me If You've Heard This One Before Sometimes you just have to leave whatever's real to you, you have to clomp through fields and kick the caps off all the toadstools. Sometimes you have to march all the way to Galilee or the literal foot of God himself before you realize you've already passed the place where you were supposed to die. I can no longer remember the being afraid, only that it came to an end. Kaveh Akbar is the founding editor of Divedapper. His poems appear recently or soon in The New Yorker, Poetry, APR, Tin House, Ploughshares, PBS NewsHour, and elsewhere. The recipient of a 2016 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation and the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, Akbar was born in Tehran, Iran, and currently lives and teaches in Florida.

howl poem analysis: *Collected Poems 1947-1997* Allen Ginsberg, 2013-09-26 This is the only volume to bring together all of Allen Ginsberg's published verse in its entirety, celebrating half a century of brilliant work from one of America's greatest poets. Presented chronologically, it sets Ginsberg's verse against the story of his extraordinary life: from his most famous landmark works 'Howl' and 'Kaddish' to the poems of White Shroud and Cosmopolitan Greetings, and on to his later writings such as the caustically funny 'Death and Fame', the provocative 'New Democracy Wish List' and the elegiac 'Things I'll Not Do (Nostalgia)'. Ginsberg, as chief figure among the Beats, fomented a social and political revolution, yet his groundbreaking verse also changed the course of American poetry with its freewheeling spontaneity, rawness, honesty and energy. Also containing illustrations by Ginsberg's artist friends, illuminating notes to the poems, original prefaces and photographs, this is the essential record of one of the most influential voices in twentieth century poetry.

howl poem analysis: *American Writers* Elizabeth H. Oakes, 2004 American Writers focuses on the rich diversity of American novelists

howl poem analysis: *The Book of Frank* CAConrad, 2010-11-01 A portrait equal parts hope and cruelty, this searing, compelling book is an enduring fan favorite by Philadelphia-based poet CAConrad.

howl poem analysis: *Fire and Hemlock* Diana Wynne Jones, 2012-04-12 A fantastic tale by the legendary Diana Wynne Jones—with an introduction by Garth Nix. Polly Whittacker has two sets of memories. In the first, things are boringly normal; in the second, her life is entangled with the mysterious, complicated cellist Thomas Lynn. One day, the second set of memories overpowers the first, and Polly knows something is very wrong. Someone has been trying to make her forget Tom - whose life, she realizes, is at supernatural risk. Fire and Hemlock is a fantasy filled with sorcery and intrigue, magic and mystery - and a most unusual and satisfying love story. Widely considered to be one of Diana Wynne Jones's best novels, the Firebird edition of Fire and Hemlock features an introduction by the acclaimed Garth Nix - and an essay about the writing of the book by Jones herself.

howl poem analysis: *Christabel...* Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 1905

howl poem analysis: *Reality Sandwiches* Allen Ginsberg, 2012-03-09 Reality Sandwiches is a book of poetry by Allen Ginsberg published in 1963. The title comes from one of the included poems, On Burroughs' Work: A naked lunch is natural to us,/we eat reality sandwiches. The book is dedicated to friend and fellow Beat poet Gregory Corso. Despite Ginsberg's feeling that this

collection was not his most significant, the poems still represent Ginsberg at a peak period of his craft. Contents: My Alba Sakyamuni Coming Out From The Mountain The Green Automobile Havana 1953 Siesta In Xbalba And Return To The States On Burroughs' Work Love Poem On Theme By Whitman Over Kansas Malest Cornifici Tuo Catullo Dream Record: June 8, 1955 Fragment 1956 A Strange New Cottage In Berkeley Sather Gate Illumination Scribble Afternoon Seattle Psalm III Tears Ready To Roll Wrote This Last Night Squeal American Change 'Back On Times Square, Dreaming Of Times Square' My Sad Self Battleship Newsreel I Beg You Come Back & Be Cheerful To An Old Poet In Peru Aether Fearfully Waiting Answer, A Magic Universe Have Felt Same Before Soundy Time, I Hear Again! Einstein Books' edition of Reality Sandwiches contains supplementary texts: * Selected Poems From Empty Mirror, By Allen Ginsberg. * Howl, By Allen Ginsberg. * A Few Selected Quotes Of Allen Ginsberg.

howl poem analysis: Overheard on a Saltmarsh Marcia Santore, 2018-04-03 A goblin is happily making salt-crystal bling for himself, until he spots the nymph's green glass beads and is overwhelmed by desire for them. He asks for the beads, he demands the beads, he whines and begs for the beads. But the nymph has her own purpose for the beads, using them to do her science-magic ... Marcia Santore's colorful pictures retell the story of Overheard on a Saltmarsh, introducing Harold Monro's beloved poem to a new generation of children, while raising an important question: Just because some guy asks you for something, does that mean you have to give it him? Children (and adults!) will identify with the envy and desire of the tantruming goblin on the one hand, and with the serious-minded work of the gentle but firm nymph. The book also provides an opportunity to talk with children about when sharing is important and when maintaining personal boundaries is important, as well as the difference between want and need. And that sometimes the right answer is No. Don't miss the salt crystal-making activity in the back!

howl poem analysis: Howling at the Moon Sakutarō Hagiwara, 2002 Two major works by one of the most noted Japanese poets of the 20th century.

howl poem analysis: A Light in the Attic Shel Silverstein, 2020-04-07 NOW AVAILABLE AS AN EBOOK! From New York Times bestselling author Shel Silverstein, the creator of the beloved poetry collections Where the Sidewalk Ends, Falling Up, and Every Thing On It, comes an imaginative book of poems and drawings—a favorite of Shel Silverstein fans young and old. This digital edition also includes twelve poems previously only available in the special edition hardcover. A Light in the Attic delights with remarkable characters and hilariously profound poems in a collection readers will return to again and again. Here in the attic you will find Backward Bill, Sour Face Ann, the Meehoo with an Exactlywatt, and the Polar Bear in the Frigidaire. You will talk with Broiled Face, and find out what happens when Somebody steals your knees, you get caught by the Quick-Digesting Gink, a Mountain snores, and They Put a Brassiere on the Camel. Come on up to the attic of Shel Silverstein and let the light bring you home. And don't miss these other Shel Silverstein ebooks, The Giving Tree, Where the Sidewalk Ends, and Falling Up!

howl poem analysis: From “Song of Myself” to “Howl”. Walt Whitman as pioneer to the Beat Generation Marina Küffner, 2019-02-18 Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,3, University of Frankfurt (Main) (Institut für England- und Amerikastudien), course: Life and Letters in the 19th Century, language: English, abstract: Allen Ginsberg was deeply influenced by Walt Whitman, especially by Whitman's major work Song of Myself. They both were poets who tried to be a voice for the people, and who wanted to experience closeness in a time of growing distance between the people. This paper will compare Walt Whitman's Song of Myself with Allen Ginsberg's Howl concerning their intention as well as their big similarities of style and themes, even though there is nearly a century between their works. The lack of regularity and the many sexual metaphores in Whitmans lyric can also be seen in Ginsberg's poem about his experiences with drug use and its consequences. Like Whitman broke with the traditional rules of his time, Ginsberg and several of his writer friends did in the midth of the twentieth century. Pieces like “Howl”, Kerouac's “On the Road” or William Burroughs's “Naked Lunch” were a wake-up call for the American people to think about the development of the American society. Whitman, on

his account, gave an overview about the diversity of the American people and wanted to support the Democratic beliefs with his epic poem. Thus, both wanted to change the traditional, conformist paths of American politics and human interaction. Both works shocked their surroundings profoundly. This paper will place the analysis of the two poems in the historic content and focus on criterias like style, intention and political background. Ginsberg and Whitman both used non-metric verses to support their cry for political and sexual freedom, and their main focus was the 'male comradeship' or 'ahesiveness', the love they seeked and could not find in their environment. For that reason this paper will first concentrate on Whitman and Ginsberg's perspectives and surroundings to see why these two poets share a special bond.

howl poem analysis: *The Portable Sixties Reader* Various, 2002-12-31 From civil rights to free love, JFK to LSD, Woodstock to the Moonwalk, the Sixties was a time of change, political unrest, and radical experiments in the arts, sexuality, and personal identity. In this anthology of more than one hundred selections of essays, poetry, and fiction by some of America's most gifted writers, Ann Charters sketches the unfolding of this most turbulent decade. The *Portable Sixties Reader* is organized into thematic chapters, from the Civil Rights movement to the Anti-Vietnam movement, the Free Speech movement, the Counterculture movement, drugs and the movement into Inner Space, the Beats and other fringe literary movements, the Black Arts movement, the Women's movement, and the Environmental movement. The concluding chapter, "Elegies for the Sixties," offers tributes to ten figures whose lives—and deaths—captured the spirit of the decade. Contributors include: Edward Abbey, Sherman Alexie, James Baldwin, Richard Brautigan, Lenny Bruce, Charles Bukowski, William Burroughs, Jim Carroll, Rachel Carson, Carlos Castenada, Bob Dylan, Betty Friedan, Nikki Giovanni, Michael Herr, Abbie Hoffman, Robert Hunter, Ken Kesey, Martin Luther King, Jr., Timothy Leary, Denise Levertov, Norman Mailer, Malcolm X, Country Joe McDonald, Kate Millet, Tim O'Brien, Sylvia Plath, Susan Sontag, Gloria Steinem, Hunter S. Thompson, Calvin Trillin, Alice Walker, Eudora Welty and more. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

howl poem analysis: Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, 2010-07-08 The first collection of letters between the two leading figures of the Beat movement Writers and cultural icons Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg are the most celebrated names of the Beat Generation, linked together not only by their shared artistic sensibility but also by a deep and abiding friendship, one that colored their lives and greatly influenced their writing. Editors Bill Morgan and David Stanford shed new light on this intimate and influential friendship in this fascinating exchange of letters between Kerouac and Ginsberg, two thirds of which have never been published before. Commencing in 1944 while Ginsberg was a student at Columbia University and continuing until shortly before Kerouac's death in 1969, the two hundred letters included in this book provide astonishing insight into their lives and their writing. While not always in agreement, Ginsberg and Kerouac inspired each other spiritually and creatively, and their letters became a vital workshop for their art. Vivid, engaging, and enthralling, *Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg: The Letters* provides an unparalleled portrait of the two men who led the cultural and artistic movement that defined their generation.

howl poem analysis: I Hear America Singing Walt Whitman, 1991 Whitman's famous poem, accompanied by linoleum-cut illustrations, depicts people at work all over an earlier America.

howl poem analysis: Don't Read Poetry Stephanie Burt, 2019-05-21 An award-winning poet offers a brilliant introduction to the joys--and challenges--of the genre In *Don't Read Poetry*, award-winning poet and literary critic Stephanie Burt offers an accessible introduction to the seemingly daunting task of reading, understanding, and appreciating poetry. Burt dispels preconceptions about poetry and explains how poems speak to one another--and how they can speak

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end up in such a mess, and how will she get herself out of it? All fans of classic fantasy books deserve the pleasure of reading those by Diana Wynne Jones, whose acclaim included the World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement. As Neil Gaiman stated, she was quite simply the best writer for children of her generation. The three books in the World of Howl are: Howl's Moving Castle Castle in the Air House of Many Ways Other beloved series from Dianna Wynne Jones include the Chronicles of Chrestomanci and the Dalemark Quartet.

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