

## **“Howl,” by Allen Ginsberg**

1. What structural and linguistic patterns do you notice in this poem? (Cite lines)
2. How do these structural and linguistic patterns capture the essence of the poem? (Cite lines)
3. In what way are these structural and linguistic patterns reminiscent of other works and/or authors you have studied? (Cite lines)
4. In what way does the title of the poem reflect the content of the poem?
5. Who is Carl Solomon and why is the poem dedicated to him?
6. Which topics does the author address? (Cite lines)
7. Which themes arise from these topics? (Cite lines)
8. What is Ginsberg’s message about each of these themes? (Cite lines)
9. In what way are these themes reminiscent of other works and/or authors you have studied?
10. What is ironic about the 1956 obscenity trial surrounding the publication and reading of this poem?

11. Why do you think this poem was censored?
12. What is the tone of the poem? (Cite lines)
13. Does the tone change throughout the poem? If so, at which points, how, and why? (Cite lines)
14. What allusions (biblical, historical, literary) does the author make? (Cite lines)
15. How do these allusions illuminate the topics and themes? (Cite lines)
16. What symbols does the author use to further his themes? (Cite lines)
17. What is significant about the imagery in the poem? (Cite lines)
18. Which passages demonstrating use of diction, allusion(s), symbol(s), and/or irony remain unclear for you?
19. What else, if anything, confuses you?
20. Which is(are) the most powerful passage(s) for you? Why?