

**Allen Ginsberg**  
1926-1997



Allen Ginsberg was one of the best-known American poets of the “Beat Generation.” The Beats experimented with poetry and other forms of writing and often pushed the boundaries of expression in their work. Like many other Beat poets, Ginsberg wrote in free verse, rejecting such traditional conventions as rhyme and meter, although there is still a rhythmic quality to the text. He is best known for his poem “Howl,” published in 1956. Ginsberg and other Beat poets were closely associated with the 1960s “counterculture” and expressed discontent with materialism and conformity in American society. Bob Dylan met Ginsberg in 1963 and the two developed a close friendship until Ginsberg’s death in 1997.