**America by Allen Ginsberg**

America I’ve given you all and now I’m nothing.

America two dollars and twentyseven cents January 17, 1956.

I can’t stand my own mind.

America when will we end the human war?

Go fuck yourself with your atom bomb.

I don’t feel good don’t bother me.

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Please find the rest of the poem in the internet or an anthology and read the rest of the poem. Read at least three times and provide following information for the poem:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Persona: |  |
| Tone: |  |
| Mood: |  |
| Figures of Speech: |  |
| Most striking images: |  |
| Meter/ Rhyme Pattern: |  |

Notes/Questions for You

Needless to say, this, like many works of the Beat Generation and Ginsberg himself, is a political statement. What is the message of the poem?

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Political poems can easily turn into crude propaganda. What aspects of this poem protect it from being mere propaganda?

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Diction changes in the following part. Why? What does Ginsberg intent to do through this?

America its them bad Russians.

Them Russians them Russians and them Chinamen. And them

Russians.

The Russia wants to eat us alive. The Russia’s power mad. She

wants to take our cars from out our garages.

Her wants to grab Chicago. Her needs a Red *Reader’s Digest.* Her

wants our auto plants in Siberia. Him big bureaucracy

running our fillingstations.

That no good. Ugh. Him make Indians learn read. Him need big

black niggers. Hah. Her make us all work sixteen hours a day.

Help.

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