**Homework**

By [Allen GInsberg](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/allen-ginsberg)

*Homage Kenneth Koch*

If I were doing my Laundry I’d wash my dirty Iran

I’d throw in my United States, and pour on the Ivory Soap, scrub up Africa, put all the birds and elephants back in the jungle,

I’d wash the Amazon river and clean the oily Carib & Gulf of Mexico,

Rub that smog off the North Pole, wipe up all the pipelines in Alaska,

……..

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: |  |
| Formalistic Properties: |  |

Notes/Questions for You

Ginsberg was an activist on different subjects. He cared about civil rights in an age of great conformism and suppression. He fought against conservatism for gay rights, black rights. “Homework” is another poem by him that is blatantly political.

What social and political issues does Ginsberg address in this poem?

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What elements in the poem take it above a simple didactic poem?

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