

Version 3: Ginsberg

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Allen Ginsberg's Story

Ginsberg romanticizes the party, and for a good reason. [Thompson](#) and [Wolfe](#) were removed from the action at the party. Their role was to record it as accurately as possible. However, Ginsberg hobnobbed with the Angels and performed his poetry for the party's guests. Thus he was more personally invested in the events.

In his poem, "First Party at Ken Kesey's with Hell's Angels," the incident becomes a metaphor for peace between two very different sets of people, juxtaposed by the presence of the authorities outside. His poem suggests that the police who were waiting outside of Kesey's gate that night were actually in the wrong, and they are portrayed as judgmental. Ginsberg's language evokes the tranquility of the Angels: "a few tired souls hunched over / in black leather jackets" (5-6); "children sleeping softly" (17). He portrays the party as perfectly calm, revealing no mischief of any kind.



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