

name: class: date:

kennings in Early British Literature



Kennings, a distinctive feature of early British literature, are _____ that describe something in a metaphorical and indirect way. Originating from Old Norse and Old English poetry, kennings consist of two words, often hyphenated, creating a compound expression with a new meaning. For example, a "whale-road" refers to the _____. This unique style was prevalent in epic poems like "Beowulf," where warriors and battles were common themes. A kenning for a warrior might be "battle-sweeper," implying someone who clears the _____. These poetic devices added depth and _____ to the language, allowing poets to express familiar concepts in creative ways.

Kennings also served as mnemonic aids for _____. Since these works were often recited orally, memorable and rhythmic kennings helped in the retention and recitation of long _____. The use of kennings in literature diminished as the English language evolved, but their influence can still be seen in modern-day _____ and idioms. These linguistic constructions not only enriched the vocabulary but also reflected the culture and _____ of the society that created them.

The structure of a kenning typically involves a base word and a modifier. The base _____ is the topic being described, while the modifier adds an extra layer of meaning, often through a _____. For instance, "bone-house" was used to describe the _____, illustrating the way early British poets viewed the physical form. This metaphoric language offered a deeper, more reflective way of _____ about everyday objects and concepts, turning simple descriptions into vivid and imaginative phrases. Kennings were a testament to the linguistic _____ of the time, showing how language can be used to paint pictures and evoke emotions in the _____ or listener.

body	poets	creativity	metaphor	thinking	sea	reader	word	poems
battlefield	expressions	expressions	beauty	values				