

Anglo-Saxon Elegies and Lyrics

Anglo-Saxon Elegies

ELEGY

a poem mourning the loss of someone or something such as the passing of life, a way of life, beauty, or anything of intrinsic or spiritual value

Anglo-Saxon Lyrics

LYRIC POETRY

Brief, melodic poems that focus on expressing personal emotions or thoughts, rather than telling a story.

Anglo-Saxon Lyrics



In ancient Greece, lyrics were recited or sung to the accompaniment of a lyre, thus the name lyric.

Anglo-Saxon Lyrics

Anglo-Saxon lyrics usually have some or all of the following elements:

- ⌘ Regular beat, usually four stressed or accented syllables or beats per line, often called “Anglo-Saxon meter.”

Anglo-Saxon Lyrics

⌘ **Caesura:** pause within a line of poetry, sometimes indicated by a punctuation mark like a period or a semi-colon

Anglo-Saxon Lyrics

⌘ **Kenning:** a specialized metaphor made of compound words or a phrase used to name a person, place, thing, or event indirectly.

Example: “whale road” for sea.

Refer to class handout on kennings.

Anglo-Saxon Lyrics, Epics

⌘ **Assonance**: repetition of similar vowel sounds followed by different consonant sounds in words that are close together

Anglo-Saxon Lyrics

* **Alliteration**: repeated sounds at the beginnings of words in close proximity (within two or three lines of each other).

Anglo-Saxon Lyrics

* **Hyperbole**: exaggeration used for effect