



YEAR 4 - Kennings

Overview

-Kennings are poems that use two-word phrases, called Kennings, throughout.

-Kennings were used often in Anglo-Saxon and Viking/ Norse poetry.

-Kennings are when you take two words and use them as a metaphor or translation for something else.

-Examples of Kennings may include 'wave-floater' (boat), 'face-licker' (dog) or 'book-worm' (an avid reader).

-Kennings add imagination and inspiration to a piece of poetry. They look at objects and ideas in different ways and require the reader to think.

a worm-eater
a fast-flier
a noisy-singer
a colourful-tweeter
a land-scanner
a nest-maker
a window-messer
a crop-ruiner
a seed-eater
a creature-stalker
a high-glider

put these together,
I'm a bird!



Features of the genre - What words and techniques should I use?

You should consider your word choices, in order to create a vivid picture in the mind of the reader. This will help them to imagine what you are writing your poem about. You can do this by carefully using:

Nouns (things): e.g. rather than 'man', be more exact, e.g. 'explorer' or 'pensioner.'

Adjectives (describing words): e.g. rather than the big ocean, the 'huge ocean.'

Verbs (actions): e.g. rather than 'runner', you could use 'sprinter' or 'jogger.'



Rhyme can be used to give your poems a rhythm and make them sound good.

-Rhyming words sound the same at the end.

-For example, snow and go, door and more, grass and pass, and belly and jelly.

Remember, poems do not have to rhyme.



Metaphors are when you state that one thing is another thing for effect, e.g. 'you are my sunshine.' Kennings poems are filled with metaphors- e.g. a mother could be presented as a 'peace maker' or a 'lie detector!'

Alliteration is using the same sound at the beginning of words, e.g. 'Battering beast' or 'Toothed Terroriser.'



Onomatopoeia is when the sound of the word is the same as the sound being described, e.g. bang, crash. These are useful in kennings poems, for example 'wave crasher' (whale) or 'water dripper' (tap).

Kennings phrases normally have a hyphen, e.g. meat-eater, fire-breather, etc.

Content - What am I writing about?

-Kennings are a figure of speech. They use two-word phrases to present ideas and objects in interesting and different ways.

In order for your reader to understand what your Kenning is about, you should always aim to appeal to the reader's five senses.

-Think: what does the thing you are writing about look, smell, sound, feel and taste (if you can eat it) like?

Some important questions to consider

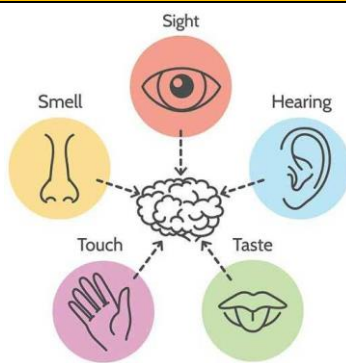
-Where does it live? How would you describe its habitat?

-Where in the world can you find it?

-How does it make you feel? How do you imagine it feels?

-What objects does it use? What things does it eat?

-What do other people think of it?



Punctuation Checklist

-Punctuation should be used for effect and to make things clear. You should use these punctuation marks accurately.

Full Stop At the end of a sentence	Comma To separate items in a series	Question Mark To show that it is a question	Exclamation After an exclamation	Apostrophe To show when a letter or a number has been left out
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Structure - How do I set my poem out?

Kennings poems can be presented in lots of different ways.

Here are some things to think about:

Poem Length: Your poem can be as long or as short as you choose. But remember, it needs to be long enough to get your main ideas across to the reader.

Line Length: Lines can be as long or as short as you choose. You do not need to have a set number of syllables (beats) in each line and you do not need to rhyme your poem.

Stanzas: Stanzas are paragraphs in poetry. They often group similar ideas, or things that have happened at the same time or place. However, the poet may choose to insert a stanza break after an important idea, to give the reader time to think before they move onto the next idea.

- Quiet prowler
- Night howler
- Free mealer
- Chicken stealer
- Rusty splasher
- Hunter dasher
- What am I/?



Example: Crocodile Kennings

swamp-dweller
thick-skinned
cold-blooded

bone-cruncher
snappy-jawed
sharp-toothed



Example: Vikings

fair-haired
muscle-bound
leather-booted

blood-thirsty
axe-wielding
ship-rider



Key Vocabulary

Anglo-Saxon

Viking

Norse

Onomatopoeia

Alliteration

Phrase

Metaphors

Syllables

Rhyme