

Anglo-Saxon Literature Terms

alliteration	-	repetition of consonant sounds within or at the end of words
caesura	-	a strong pause used in poetry
dialogue	-	literary work in the form of a conversation
diction	-	a writer's choice of words for clarity, effectiveness or precision
digression	-	to wander away from the main subject in talking or writing
Fate	-	destiny, or personification of destiny
heroic/elegiac tradition	-	types of Anglo-Saxon poetry
(heroic) epic	-	a long narrative poem telling about the deeds of a great hero; reflects culture
kenning	-	a metaphorical phrase or compound word used instead of a person or thing
metaphor	-	a figure of speech that implies or states a comparison between two unlike things
narrative literature-	-	writings that are used both to entertain and to tell a story
oral literature	-	stories told out loud
pagan	-	belief in many gods
riddle	-	a light, witty, puzzle
rhythm	-	arrangement of stressed and unstressed syllables
scop	-	a wandering professional poet or minstrel who chanted poems in a meadhall
theme	-	the general idea or insight about life that the writer wishes to present
tone	-	attitude of the writer towards the subject, character, or audience
translation	-	to turn into one's own or another language
understatement-	-	to make a weaker statement than what is warranted by truth... usually for irony