

Name: _____

Date: _____

Anglo-Saxon Riddles

Answer the following questions about your group's riddle(s). Be sure to use examples from the riddle and write your answers out in complete sentences.

1. What is the subject of your riddle?

2. Now that you have discovered the meaning of your riddle, list at least five facts—textual evidence from the riddle itself—to support your opinion.

3. The objects described in the Anglo-Saxon riddles are often personified. In other words, the poet gives the objects human qualities and characteristics. What words and phrases reveal that the object has been personified?

4. Some literature is passed from one generation to the next by word of mouth. Much of the Anglo-Saxon literature was passed on by this oral tradition. The Anglo-Saxons often gathered in great mead halls to listen to stories, poems, and riddles. Oral literature was meant to entertain, as well as to pass along religious beliefs, rituals, and customs. They may have had other purposes as well. In your opinion, what was the purpose of the Anglo-Saxon riddles? Explain your ideas using specific examples (use the back of the page to continue your answer).