

kennings Teaching

An informative PowerPoint
about identifying the features of kenning poems



Aim

- to recognise the features of kenning poems

Success Criteria

- I know that a kenning can consist of either noun-noun phrases or noun-verb phrases;
- I understand that kennings do not name the theme of the poem;
- I use the language in the poem to work out the theme;
- I understand that kennings are understood best when they are read aloud.

What is a kenning?

Kennings are like riddles.
They describe something without ever saying what it is.



Read these phrases out loud.
What could they be describing?

lip-licking

sauce-swirling

chin-dripping

cone-filling

flake-holding

tongue-freezing

What is a kenning?

How about these?



tail-wagger

face-licker

ball-catcher

house-guardian

furry-friend

cat-chaser

What is a kenning?

What did you notice about the poems?

tail-wager

face-licker

ball-catcher

house-guardian

furry-friend

cat-chaser



lip-licking

chin-dripping

sauce-swirling

cone-filling

flake-holding

tongue-freezing



What is a kenning?

What did you notice about the phrases in each poem?

Each line of the poem is made of a two-word phrase.

house-guardian

furry-friend

Here the phrases are made up of a noun + a noun.



The words are joined by a hyphen.

lip-licking

chin-dripping

Here the phrases are made up of a noun + a verb (the verb usually ends in -ing).



Did you know?

The two-word format for a kenning relates to the Old Norse tradition of naming things like weapons, e.g. **Skull-Splitter** or **Blood-Taker**.

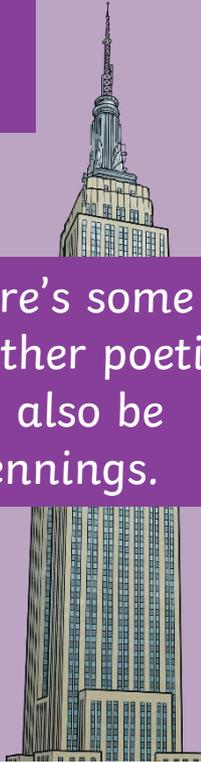


The word 'kenning' derives from the Old Norse word 'kenna eitt við', which means 'to express a thing in terms of another'.

Kennings came into our language via the Anglo-Saxon and Norse cultures. These people came from what is now Scandinavia and northern Germany.

We even use them in everyday language!

How do we
describe a very
tall building?



Oh look – here's some
alliteration! Other poetic
devices can also be
found in kennings.

sky-scraper

A really sad film
or story is often
called a...



tear-jerker

Let's have a go!

How can we write a kenning?

First, we need to choose a theme.
(It doesn't have to be gory, like the Vikings!)



cat

Then, we brainstorm lots of words or phrases associated with that theme...

mice drinks milk nuzzle
stalk sleeps a lot fur scratch
hunter hates dogs rubs ankles purr night

Let's have a go!

How can we write a kenning?

To start creating your kenning, try and make a noun + noun phrase or a noun + verb phrase using your words.

night

stalk

drinks milk

sleeps a lot

hunter

hates dogs

rubs ankles

mice

lick

fur

nose

nuzzle

purr

ear

scratch

night

Let's have a go!

How can we write a kenning?

Finally, put them together in your two-word phrases.
Don't forget the hyphens!

mouse-hunter
milk-drinker
night-stalker
fur-licker
ankle-rubber
dog-hater
nose-nuzzler
ear-scratcher
loud-purrer



Plenary

What have we learned about Kennings?

Kennings are like riddles – they describe a thing but don't tell you its name.

They usually have only two words- a noun plus a noun
OR a noun plus a verb.

Poetic devices like alliteration can be used.

They're great when you read them out loud so you can imagine the thing being describe.