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Examples of epithets in beowulf with line numbers

The Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse traditions have a word for a compound expression with a metaphorical meaning: kenning is when you take two words and combine them as a mild translation or metaphor for something else. So, as you're sitting by the fire one night, enjoying an anthology of Scandinavian poetry, you might come across poem about five brave men aboard a wave-floater (a ship). Kennings were often used to describe everyday people, animals, and objects. To no surprise, they were used to brighten up an author's prose. Why say "a ship" when you can use something more illustrious like "wave floater"? Let's enjoy further examples of kenning. boy reading a book - bookworm Similar to how we incorporate similes and metaphors in our prose, kennings can provide an added layer of intrigue and beauty. Let's take a look at some modern expressions that have their roots in kennings. Ankle biter = a very young childBean counter = a bookkeeper or accountantBookworm = someone who reads a lotBrown noser = a person who does anything to gain approvalFender bender = a car accidentFirst Lady - the wife of the presidentFour-eyes = someone who wears glassesHead twister = an owlHot potato = something no one wantsMind reader = a person who knows what you are thinkingMotor mouth = a person who talks a lot and/or quicklyPencil pusher = a person with a clerical jobPigskin = a footballPostman chaser = a dogRugrat = a toddler or crawling babyShowstopper = a person with a clerical jobPigskin = a footballPostman chaser = a dogRugrat = a monkeyTummy slider = a person with a clerical jobPigskin = a footballPostman chaser = a dogRugrat = a footballPostman chaser = a dogRugrat = a footballPostman chaser = a footba time you're calling your little niece or nephew an "ankle biter," know you have something in common with the Vikings of long ago. Given its origins in poetry, let's take a look at two poetic samples of kennings in action. Anytime we create a two-word construct for a singular noun, we're approaching kenning territory. Take a look at this sample children's poem from Bic Kids, made almost entirely of kennings:a worm-eatera nest-makera cushion-fillera seed-munchera fish-guzzlera fast-fliera cat-escapera tree-liveran acrobatic-glideran adventurous-swoopera tweeting-singerPut these together,I'm a bird! Now, onto the classics. The epic poem Beowulf is chock full of kennings. It's penned by an unknown author, although we do know it has its origins in Anglo-Saxon literature. One of the most prominent scenes details Beowulf's fight against the monster Grendel. Perhaps to fully illuminate it, the author leaned heavily on kennings to paint a graphic picture. Here are some kennings pulled from that fight scene, as well as the rest of the epic poem:Battle-adornèd = armor (for battle-adornèd = armor (for battle-adorned."Battle-adorned."Battle-adorned and armored (for battle-adorned."Battle-ado bright blade, when the blood gushes o'er it, battle-sweat hot; but the hilt I brought back from my foes." Giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of host in haughtier throng more graciously gathered round giver-of-rings = king"Ne'er heard I of h Grendel"Soon then saw that shepherd-of-evils that never he met in this middle-world, in the ways of earth, another wight within as when from the sky there shines unclouded heaven's candle."Whale-path = sea or ocean"For he waxed under welkin, in wealth he throve, till before him the folk, both far and near, who house by the whale-path, heard his mandate, gave him gifts: a good king he!" Nature and poetry have been lovers since the dawn of time. As such, you won't be surprised to learn there are many kennings which relate to nature. Ancestor's watch = a stone circleBane of wood = fireBoreas's burning = snow blindnessBranches of fjord, Wave-swine = shipDragon's bile = poisonFeather's fall = falling snowFrozen road = ice-covered riverGreen clearing = a shaman's gathering placeNorthern kiss = cold windRibs of Ull = skisSerpent's lair = goldShip of night = the moonSky's black cloak = nightfallSky candle = the sunThor's laughter = thunderWeather of wolves = harsh winterWhite death = killed by an avalancheWind racers = horsesWinter's blanket = snowWinter spear = icicle The author of Beowulf turned to kennings for good reason. He wanted to describe the horrible loss of life and torturous scars of battle with bright imagery. Simple language would never do to describe the horrors of war. As such, here are some battle kennings that might strike up a bold image. Battle metal = weaponsBlack song = war cryBlood ember = axeDew of slaughter = bloodFeeding the eagle = killing enemiesMind's worth = honorTraveling the Hell road = dyingWar needles = arrowsWeather of weapons = large-scale battle People are, perhaps, the most baffling of all. The next time you're trying to describe a complex character in your short story or poem consider creating a kenning. Here's some inspiration to kick things off:Bear shirt = Norse warriorBringer of rings = chieftain or kingChildren of battle = soldiersFeller of life-webs = slaverFeeder of eagles/ravens = warriorLord of laughter = composer, poetRing rich = a generous personRune caller = wizardSlayer of giants = ThorWolf's joint = wrist Then, of course, there are all the abstract components of life. We have our thoughts, emotions, fears, and wonderings that can't be seen or touched. Still, that doesn't preclude them from a clever kenning or two. Draught of giants = sudden realization Forseti's failure = unjust decisions Mimir's warning = prophecy of doomUncut thread = destiny to be fulfilled Wind of troll wives = thought Go for it! Be bold and add a clever kenning or two to your next body of work. It would be difficult to label a unique kenning a cliché. So, have some fun and insert one or two in your next piece of literature or poem. For some inspiration, enjoy these examples of free verse poems. Then, let your hair down while you dip your latest poem in clever kennings from the past. Home Language | Technology Health 🖗 the Law & Legal Issues 🗐 Business & Finance 💯 All Topics 🛪 Random 🖞 Leaderboard Related Topics 🗯 Poetry Epic Po Heorot Heorot is an example of an allegory because the city symbolizes a civilization, power, and unity. Heorot is the place where the kings create riches. A stylistic device in which a number of words (that occur close together) have the same first consonant sound. ex: "Then out of the night came the shadow-stalker, stealthy," "swift," and "slack." An indirect reference to a person, place, thing, or idea that relates to history, literature, cultures, or politics. ex: "In misery among the banished monsters, Cain's clan, whom the creator had outlawed and condemned as outcasts. For the killing of Abel The Eternal Lord had exacted a price." (lines 105-108) This quote is a reference to a biblical story. the story of Cain and Abel. The author does not explain the entire story of Cain and Abel - he just refers to it and expects the reader to already be familiar with the story. The author includes this reference in order to create a deeper understanding of the Grendel's background. An intentional repetition of the first part of a sentence over a group of sentences. Used to create emphasis of certain words or phrases. ex: "I guarantee you:she will not get away, not to dens under ground nor upland groves nor the ocean floor." (lines 1392-1394) This quote is an anaphora because the word "nor" is repeated three times in the phrases in this sentence. A statement of truth and/or opinion that is phrased in a simplistic and witty manner, ex: "Behavior that's admired is the path to power among people everywhere." (lines 24-25) This guote is an example of aphorism because it represents how people must develop a sense of respect and gratitude for a person, in order for that person to rise to power one day. This statement is phrased in a short, witty manner in the quote and still manages to get the message across. A figure of speech in which a writer or speaker detaches themselves from reality by addressing an imaginary character or object in their speech. ex: "So arise, my lord, and let us immediately set forth on the trail of this troll-dam." (lines 1390-1391) This quote is an example of an apostrophe because Beowulf is detaching from the subject of death by speaking to God, a powerful deity that the Geats and Danes believe in. A typical character, action, or situation that represent a universal pattern of human nature. ex: Beowulf as a heroic archetype Beowulf is an example of a heroic archetype because he exemplifies an ample amount of courage (with his fight with Grendel), is admired for his courageous deeds with rewards, and dies a hero (with the dragon). A specific dialect spoken by specific hereditary classes in a society. ex: The West Saxon and Anglican dialects of Old EnglishBeowulf was originally written in Old English and was then later translated into the modern English language. This is an example of a caste because Old English was used back then as the language spoken by the tribes described in the poem. A literary scheme in which words or concepts are introduced in a specific order and are then those terms (or terms similar to those) are repeated again in reverse order. ex: "Fate spare the man it has not already marked." (line 573) This is an example of a chiasmus because there is a rearranging in the order of ideas in this quote. In the first part of the sentence the noun "man" occurs toward the end of the clause, while in the second part of the sentence the pronoun "it" comes toward the beginning of the clause. A comparison that is unusual or complex. Usually involves unlikely metaphors, similes, hyperbole, and contradictions. ex: "Haunting the marches, marauding round the heath and the desolate fens; he had dwelt for a time in misery among the banished monsters, Cain's clan, whom the Creator had outlawed and condemned as outcasts." (lines 103-107) This is an example of a conceit because through the use of detailed figurative language (imagery and metaphors) the author is able to describe the area where Grendel lives and how he lives in misery. A poem that mourns or laments over the death of someone.ex: "They extolled his heroic nature and exploits and gave thanks for his greatness, which was the proper thing, for a man should praise whom he hold dear and cherish his memory when that moment comes when he has to be convoyed from his bodily home. So the Geat people, his hearth companions, sorrowed for the lord who had been laid low." (lines 3173-3179) At the end of the poem, the Geats all gather up and lament over the loss of their king, Beowulf, who died because of the dragon. In his honor, they build a mound for Beowulf and have twelve warriors circle around it. A genre of classical poetry. It is a poem that: is a long narrative about a serious topic; told in a high-leveled style of language; focuses on the characteristics of a hero who represents the cultural, religious, national, and ethnic elements of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; the hero's success or failure determines the fate of the people of a society; poet; contains a long history of kingsex: The entire poem of Beowulf is an epic. The poem is an epic because it focuses on one hero, which in this case is Beowulf then fights three monsters: Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon. His superhuman strength allows him to defeat Grendel and Grendel's mother. Unfortunately, Beowulf tragic death occurs during his fight with the dragon at the end of the poem. Nevertheless, Beowulf is still an inspirational representation of society because of his courage, strength, and confidence. A short, poetic nickname that usually contains one to two adjectives attached to a name.ex: "The Lord of Life" (line 16)This epithet used in the poem is used as another name for God. The epithet, "The Lord is Life" is more descriptive than just saying God but they both still mean the same thing. A sermon (or a short encouraging literary work) that is read to instruct a group of listeners spiritually or morally.ex: "Heremod was different, The way he behaved to Ecgwala's sons. His rise in the world brought little joy to the Danish people, only death and destruction. He vented his rage on people he caroused with, Killed his own kind, Even though God Almighty had made him eminent and powerful and marked him from the start for a happy life. But a change happened, He grew bloodthirsty, gave no more rings to honor the Danes. He suffered in the end for having plagued his people for so long: His life lost happiness. So learn from this and understand true values. I who tell you have wintered into wisdom." (lines 1709-1725) After Beowulf is victorious over the battles between Grendel and Grendel's mother, he is caught up in pride and fame. However, through a short story about Ecgwala, Hrothgar warns Beowulf about the dangers of fame. Therefore, this is an example of a homily because Hrothgar is informing Beowulf about the dangers of fame. Therefore, this is an example of a homily because Hrothgar warns Beowulf about the dangers of fame. pride and arrogance in a character that ultimately leads to the character's downfall (such as death or defeat). ex: "I risked my life often when I was young. Now I am old, but as king of the people I shall pursue this fight for the glory of winning, if the evil one will only abandon his earth-fort and face me in the open." (lines 2511-2115) After Beowulf was victorious in the battles against Grendel and Grendel's mother, Beowulf became very prideful. Beowulf believed that he would be able to handle fighting the dragon (that now disturbed his city) alone with only his mail-shirt and shield. However, the dragon was more powerful than Beowulf thought. The dragon ends up biting Beowulf's neck, which kills Beowulf because of the venom that infected him.

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