


Story-reader
Problem-solver
Board-writer
Homework-setter
Red pen-ticker
Playground-whistler
Register-taker
Paper towel-issuer
Knowledge-sharer

Hmm... I wonder who this may be
describing.  Can you guess?

LO: Can I 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

sofa-hogger

door-scratcher

cat-chaser

What is a Kenning?

What did you notice about the poems?

tail-wagger

face-licker

ball-catcher

sofa-hogger

door-scratcher

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.

tail-wagger
face-licker

Here the phrases are made up of a noun + a noun (by adding -er to the second noun).



The words are joined by a hyphen.

lip-licking
chin-dripping

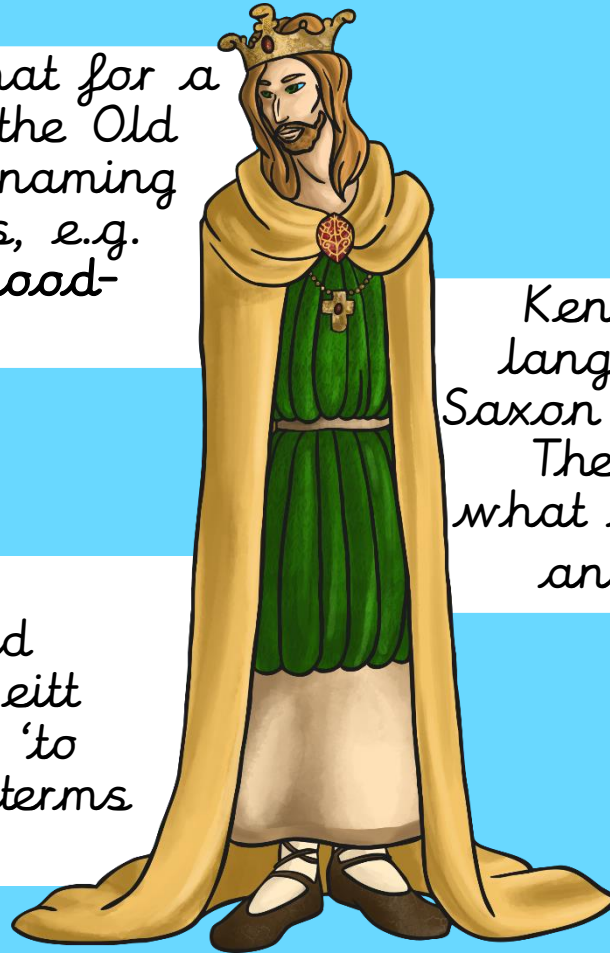
Here the phrases are made up of a noun + a verb (the verb usually ends in -ing).



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.

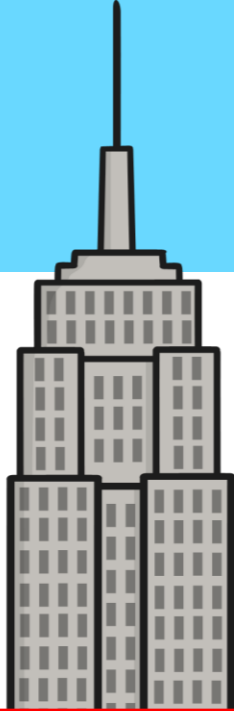
The word 'Kenning' derives from the Old Norse word 'kenna eitt við', which means 'to express a thing in terms of another'.



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!)



eat

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

mice

drinks milk

nuzzle

scratch

stalk

sleeps a lot

fur

night

hunter

hates

rubbs ankles

purr

dogs

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.

mice

drinks milk

nose

ear

nuzzle

scratch

night

lick

stalk

sleeps a lot

fur

night

hunter

hates

rub

ankles

purr

dogs

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



Optional – Let's have a go!

You could write a kenning about all sorts of things. Here are a few ideas...

sport

favourite toys

family
members

transport

seasons

pets/animals

favourite foods

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 described.



I would love to see your examples of
Kenning poems. You could share
them with me via the class email 😊