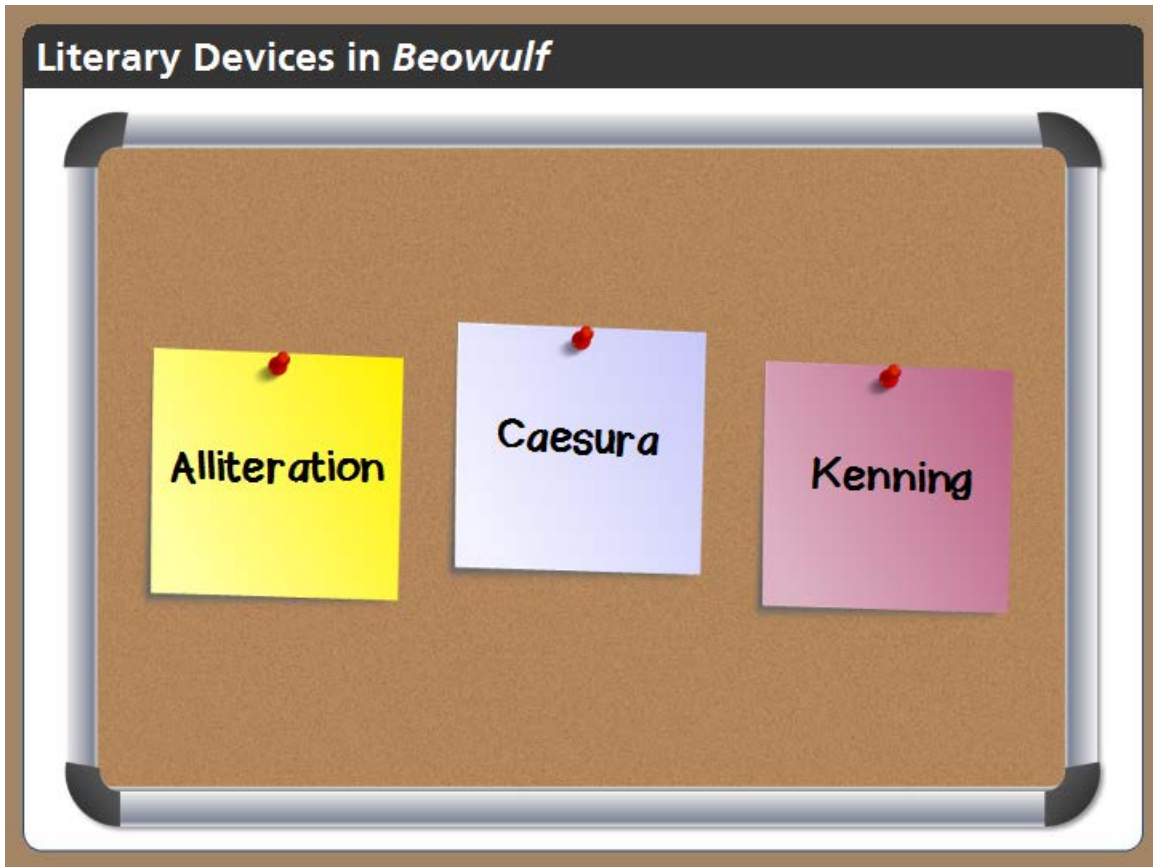


Module 3: Exploring Good, Evil, and Noble Sacrifice

Topic 2 Content: Literary Devices in *Beowulf*

Introduction



Anglo-Saxon scopos relied on certain poetic devices to aid their memory and give their poems structure and impact. Take a moment to explore three types of literary devices found in *Beowulf*. In this interactivity, click each note on the bulletin board to learn more about alliteration, caesuras, and kennings.

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Topic 2 Content: Literary Devices in *Beowulf*

Alliteration


Literary Devices in *Beowulf*

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Alliteration is the repetition of a consonant sound in the beginning of words. Normally there are at least three repetitions per line of poetry.

Observe the two examples of alliteration from *Beowulf* in the lines below. Note the repetition of the "h" sound in the first example and the "b" sound in the second example.

hardy-hearted heroes of war
by that bloody battle the boon had come



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Caesura

Literary Devices in *Beowulf*

Caesura

A caesura is a pause that divides a line of poetry into two parts. In Old English poetry, the pause usually comes in the middle of the line, and each half consists of two stressed syllables.

Examples of caesuras in *Beowulf* can be found in the lines below. The pauses are indicated by the (//) symbols, and the stressed syllables are marked in bold.

Then **let** from his **breast**, // for he **burst** with **rage**,
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Kenning


Literary Devices in *Beowulf*

Kenning

A kenning is a compound word or phrase that substitutes for a noun or name. Kennings add richness and enhance meaning in Old English poetry.

Below are two examples of kennings found in *Beowulf* along with their corresponding meanings.

light-of-battle = sword
whale-path = sea



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