

A Kenning About Me!

A kenning is a great way to talk yourself in poem-form. If your friends and family had to describe you, what would they say about your personality, your hobbies, your favourite things and your dislikes?

Fill this table with words and phrases about yourself.

| My Personality | My Hobbies | My Favourite Things | Things I Dislike |
|----------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
| E.g. Smile | E.g. Cycling | E.g. Horses | E.g. Cabbage |

Try to think of nouns or verbs to go with the words you've collected, so that you have phrases. For example, you could have...

sun + smile, cycle + race, horse + groom, cabbage + hate

Finally, write your kenning! Remember each line has only 2 words (either a noun + a verb or a noun + a noun) and they're joined with a hyphen.

The examples above could give you...

Horse-grooming

Cabbage-hater

Cycle-racing

Sun-smiler

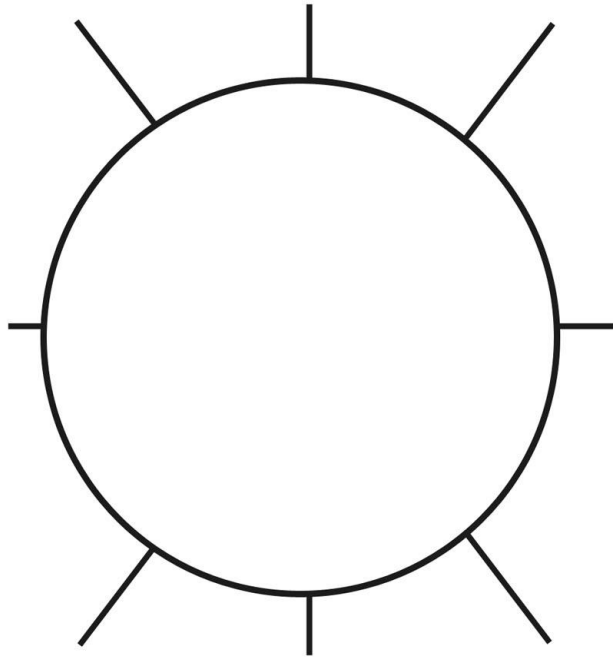
A Kenning About Me!

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Draw a picture of yourself in the circle, then brainstorm lots of words and phrases about yourself around your portrait.

Try and connect words that link together:

Finally, write your kenning! Remember each line has only 2 words (either a noun + a verb or a noun + a noun) and they're joined with a hyphen.



Challenge

See if you can include some poetic devices in your kenning, such as alliteration or metaphor:

Kenning

What is this poem all about?



kennings describe what a **person, idea or object** is or does.

Sun-stealing
Night-stretch
Cold-maker
Snow-faller
Face-freeze
Christmas-b

Each line is a simple phrase of either a noun + a noun OR a noun + a verb.

If you
phras
noun,



gs Rules



They work like a **riddle** - you have to guess what it's all about!



We use kennings in our everyday language, such as 'sky-scraper' for a very tall building.

If you are creating a noun + a verb phrase, your verb may end in -ing, e.g. milkshake-drinking.

If you are creating a noun + a noun phrase, try adding -er to the second noun, e.g. cheese-eater.



Kennings Rules

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**Story-reader
Problem-solver
Board-writer
Homework-setter
Playground-whistler
Register-taker**



I don't know – it's beyond my ken!

An informative PowerPoint about identifying the features of kenning poems



LO: 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

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**.

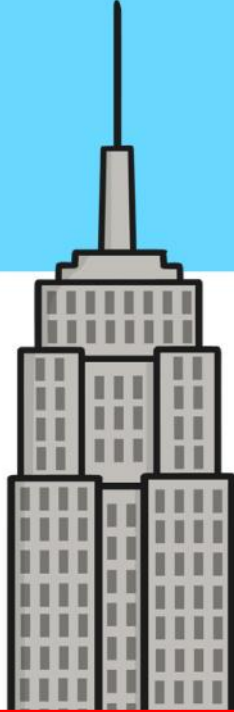
The word 'kenning' derives from the Old Norse word 'kenna eitt við', which means 'to express a thing in terms of another'.



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

rubs 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

rubs 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



Let's have a go!

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

football

mums or dads

teachers

car

winter

pets

pizza

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.



The End