

British Literature: The Anglo-Saxon Period

Essential Questions

- How did the English language evolve?
- How did cultural invasions affect the language and literature of England?
- How do a culture's songs (poems) reflect its values and beliefs?

Literary Terms

- alliteration
- appositive
- archetype
- Caesura
- elegy
- epic poetry
- epic hero
- fatalism
- foot (and types—iamb, trochee, etc.)
- genre (and poetry genres)
 - lyric poetry
 - narrative poetry
 - dramatic poetry
- hero quest archetype
- kenning
- meter (and types—monometer, dimeter, etc.)
- motif
- mood
- oral tradition
- *planctus*
- scansion
- speaker
- story
- theme
- tone

Major Literary Works

- *Beowulf*
- "The Seafarer"
- "The Wanderer"
- excerpt from Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (*Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum*)
- Selected riddles

Historical Elements

- Celtic invasion
- Roman invasion
- Angles, Saxons, Jutes invasions
- Norman invasion
- Viking invasion
- Christian influence (Augustine)
- Language evolution