

conventions of the Elegy

Lyric

- narrative poem that expresses the thoughts and feelings of a single speaker
- composed in first person

Loss

- expression of mourning for an entity (person, place, object, quality, lifestyle, or time period)
- ***ubi sunt*** convention focuses on the fleeting nature of human existence

Nostalgia

- expression of longing for what once existed through descriptive details
- enhances the sense of loss

other characteristics of Anglo-Saxon poetry

Alliteration

- repetition of initial consonant sounds in proximate words
- creates emphasis and euphony (pleasing sound)

Caesura

- a natural pause or break in the middle of a line of poetry
- divides the line's four stressed syllables and emphasizes rhythm
- usually marked by punctuation or syntax change

Regular Rhythm

- a pattern of four accented (stressed) syllables per line of poetry

Kenning

- a metaphorical phrase used to replace a concrete noun
- emphasizes a specific inherent quality of the concrete noun
- four types of kennings:
 - open compound (*wakeful sleeper* = ghost)
 - hyphenated compound (*gold-friend* = king)
 - possessive (*grave's embrace* = death)
 - prepositional phrase (*Warden of men* = God)