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:
  open compound (*wakeful sleeper* = ghost)
  hyphenated compound (*gold-friend* = king)
  possessive (*grave's embrace* = death)
  prepositional phrase (*Warden of men* = God)

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

conventions of the Epic

- recounts adventures of a nationally-significant hero
- great valor and superhuman courage of hero
- involvement of supernatural forces
- vast setting, spanning nations, worlds, and/or the universe
- catalogs of lineage (relationship to ancestors)
- extended, formal speeches (often boasting)