Kennings

A kenning is a figurative, usually compound expression used in place of a name or noun, especially in Old English and Old Norse poetry; for example, *storm of swords* is a kenning for *battle.*

Examples of modern day kennings: *headhunter* and *gas guzzler*

Kennings can come in 3 forms. Look at the examples in the chart below and write down the name or noun represented beside each example of a kenning.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Compound Words | **Prepositional Phrases** | **Possessives** |
| Sky-candle (sun)Whale-road (ocean)Ring-giver (king)Gold-ringed (king’s followers)Battle dew (blood)Sea stallion (ship) | Wolf of wounds (warrior)Winters of grief (mourning)Shepherd of evil (Grendel or devil)Storm of swords (battle)Guardian of the people (king)Path of the sea (river) | Seabird’s bath (ocean)Ocean’s face (waves or shore)Heaven’s joy (morning)Arrow’s storm (attack)Water’s chain (frost)Battle’s torch (sword) |

Once you have the idea, develop a sentence of your own that contains 5 kennings and then create a picture or cartoon that illustrates your sentence. We will share these sentences and illustrations in class, so be creative!

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**Part One: Consider carefully how you could creatively rename each of the following through the use of the kenning technique.**

**1. a teacher

2. a bus driver

3. firemen

4. television

5. meatloaf

6. police

7. pop tarts

8. music

9. love

10. computer**

**Part Two: Create a kenning that renames you.**