

Task 1: GUESS THE KENNING

Below is a list of some Old English kennings. An approximation of the pronunciation is given in italics. Try saying them out loud and sometimes you will recognise the Modern English words that they have become. A literal translation of the two halves of the compound is then given below. Can you guess what each kenning means?

hilde-leoma
hilda-lemer
battle-light

wæg-hengest
way-hengest
wave-stallion

ban-hus
barn-hoos
bone-house

hilde-nædre
hilda-nadra
battle-adder/snake

heofen-candel
heven-kandel
heaven-candle

mod-hord
mowd-hoard
thought-hoard

boc-hord
bowk-hoard
book-hoard

deað-helle
deth-hella
death-hall

sumeres-weard
sumeres-werd
summer's-guardian

heafdes-gimmas
hevdes-yimmas
head's-jewels

