

Reading Strategy

READING OLD ENGLISH POETRY

Special techniques are used in Old English poems to create a strong rhythm that is easy to chant or sing. Poets used **alliteration**, the repetition of initial sounds; **caesurae**, pauses that divide lines; and **kenning**, a metaphorical compound word or phrase that takes the place of a noun or name.

Directions: As you read this section of *Beowulf*, record examples of the special techniques listed in the first column of the chart. Think about how each one adds to the rhythm of the poem.

Examples of Alliteration	
Examples of Caesurae	
Examples of Kenning	