Anglo-Saxon Literature

Angles, Saxons are Germans who conquer the British Celtic-speaking tribes (around the 5th- 6th Century CE)—and then are conquered themselves by Norman French in 1066 (so that middle English is a mix of Romance and Germanic languages—a mutt, a hybrid).

Anglo-Saxon is west Germanic Indo-European language that relies on alliteration rather than rhyme as key structural device in poetry.

“Caedmon’s Hymn”

Kenning—for of metaphor “hwal-rod=whale road” (metaphor for “sea”)

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| Nu we sculon herigean heofonrices weard, Meotodes meahte ond his modgeþance, Weorc wuldorfæder, swa he wundra gehwæs, Ece drihten, or onstealde. He ærest sceop eorðan bearnum heofon to hrofe, halig scyppend; Þa middangeard moncynnes weard, ece drihten, æfter teode firum foldan, frea ælmihtig.  | *Now [we] must honour the guardian of heaven,* *the might of the architect, and his purpose,* *the work of the father of glory*[[36]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%A6dmon#cite_note-35) *— as he, the eternal lord, established the beginning of wonders.* *He, the holy creator,* *first created heaven as a roof for the children of men.*[[37]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%A6dmon#cite_note-36) *Then the guardian of mankind, the eternal lord,* *the lord almighty, afterwards appointed the middle earth,* *the lands, for men.*[[38]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C%C3%A6dmon#cite_note-37) |

Creation of world – came in dream to Caedmon

Pretty sorry in modern English

Heofonrices=heaven’s riches weard=Ward/Guard

Weorc=work wuldorfaeder=wonder father

Modgethanc (mind-plan)

Alliterative [X X] [X ] four beats per line; beats fall on alliterative words (not a number of syllables per line)