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)