

Anglo-Saxon Literature Introduction Notes

Epic – a long, narrative poem that relates the great deeds of a larger-than life hero who embodies the values of a particular society.

There are five characteristics of a heroic epic. They are ...

1. Supernatural element
2. Quest element
3. “En medias res”
4. Grand speeches
5. Warriors and battles

There are four characteristics of Anglo-Saxon Poetry. They are...

1. No rhyme
2. Strong rhythm with Caesura pause in middle of the line
3. Alliteration
4. Kennings – a metaphorical phrase or compound; the putting together of two words not normally used together; whale road

What is a **scop**? In the Anglo-Saxon society it wasn't just the warriors and kings who were respected. It was also the scops. Anglo-Saxon poetry was an oral art form and the scops were professional poets and historians of the time.