



## Week 1 Notes

### History

- I. 4500 BC
  - a. Hunter-gatherers turn to agriculture
  - b. 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC >> Iron Work.
  - c. Early Celtic Britain, Druids
- II. Roman Invasions
  - a. 54 > 55 BC – Julius Caesar failed invasion
  - b. 43 AD → Claudius Invades Britain
  - c. 60 AD → Roman Generals defeat local tribes
  - d. 78 AD → All of England under Roman Rule
  - e. 409 AD → Romano Britains are left to themselves
  - f. 500 AD → Romano-Britains win major battle under a general named Artorius against Saxons. Artorius thought to be legendary King Arthur (Camelot).
- III. 597 – Augustine Arrives to convert Saxons
- IV. 6<sup>th</sup> > 7<sup>th</sup> Century → Coalescence of numerous small kingdoms into three major kingdoms
  - a. Northumbria
  - b. Wessex (King Alfred)
  - c. Mercia
  - d. All *Christian* kingdoms (essentially)
- V. 9<sup>th</sup> Century → Viking Raids
  - a. Defeated by King Alfred (supposedly)
  - b. Strengthened Wessex.
  - c. First king of all England (“King of English”) 871 → 899 AD
- VI. Danish Rule → Cnut (1016 > 1035)
- VII. English Power restored → Edward the Confessor (1042 – 1066)
- VIII. Norman Conquest (1066). Ends “Old English” culture.

### Old English

- I. Old English
  - a. German-like, rather than Latin-like.
  - b. Saxon-tribes from Germany populated England, provided the basis for the language.
  - c. Large manuscripts published with animal-skin pages -- very hard to produce (difficult to write on animal skin)
- II. Poetry
  - a. Topics
    - i. Kinship
    - ii. Relationship between chief and thanes
    - iii. Royal Generosity
    - iv. Battle & Heroic Behavior (chronics)
    - v. Anglo-Saxon Heroines
      1. St. Helena
      2. St. Judith
      3. Aethelflaed, Lady of Mercia (took husband's armies into battle after his death)
      4. St. Juliana
      5. Wealtheow, Queen
    - vi. Not about affections. Very grim
  - b. Traits / Devices
    - i. Synecdoche → Metaphor where part of the object represents the whole. [Hilt = Sword, Keel = Ship]

- ii. Metonymy → Metaphor where the properties of an object represents the whole.  
[Iron = Sword]
- iii. Kenning → Two words joined to form a third. [whale-road = ocean, life-house = body, sky-candle = sun]
- iv. Apposition → Use of appositives. [God, Holy creator, mankind's guardian]
- v. Litotes → Ironical understatement. [They cared not much for battle.]
- vi. Alliteration → Beginning several words with the same consonant sounds.  
[Foeman fled]
- vii. Poetic Line → Two Half-Lines separated by a break called "Caesura" [Oft scyld  
scefing sce\_ena \_reatum] (where \_ is the "thorn" symbol, being a "th" sound)

## **Dream of the Rood**

- I. Dreamer → Cross → Christ
- II. Scandinavian Vision
  - a. Odin, Norse God, sacrificed on tree.
  - b. Easy to adopt Christ's story, assuming Christ was the same person as Odin.
  - c. Shamans = Healers. Asked to enter dream world (dream time, soul leaves body), and come back with information. [How to end a plague]
- III. Monastic View
  - a. Per Crucem ad Lucem (Through the Cross to the Light)