

# **LO:** to recognise the features of kenning poems

## **Success Criteria:**

- I know that a kenning can consist of either noun-noun phrases or noun-verb phrases;
- I understand that kennings do not name the theme of the poem;
- I use the language in the poem to work out the theme;
- I understand that kennings are understood best when they are read aloud.

# What is a kenning?

kennings are like riddles.  
 They describe something without ever saying what it is.

Read these phrases out loud. What could they be describing?

lip-licking

chin-dripping

sauce-swirling

tongue-freezing

cone-filling

flake-holding

# What is a kenning?

These word pairs are describing an ice-cream!



lip-licking

sauce-swirling

chin-dripping

cone-filling

flake-holding

tongue-freezing

# What is a kenning?

Look at each word pair more carefully.

What is the **first part** of the word pair? Noun, adjective or verb?



lip-licking

sauce-swirling

chin-dripping

cone-filling

flake-holding

tongue-freezing

# What is a kenning?

Look at each word pair more carefully.

What is the second part of the word pair? Noun, adjective or verb?



lip-licking

sauce-swirling

chin-dripping

cone-filling

flake-holding

tongue-freezing

# What is a kenning?

In the example of the ice-cream the word pairs were

noun – verb

The verbs all ended in -ing



lip-licking

sauce-swirling

chin-dripping

cone-filling

flake-holding

tongue-freezing

# What is a kenning?

How about these? What could they be describing?

ball-catcher

face-licker

tail-wagger

door-scratcher

sofa-hogger

cat-chaser

# What is a kenning?

The word pairs are describing a dog!  
Again, they are **noun** - **verb** word pairs.

How is the verb different in the dog Kenning to the ice-cream Kenning?



**tail**-wagger

**face**-licker

**ball**-catcher

**sofa**-hogger

**door**-scratcher

**cat**-chaser

# What is a kenning?

In the dog example, the verbs ended in -er rather than -ing



tail-wagger

face-licker

ball-catcher

sofa-hogger

door-scratcher

cat-chaser

# What is a kenning?

What did you notice about the poems?

tail-wagger

face-licker

ball-catcher

sofa-hogger

door-scratcher

cat-chaser



lip-licking

chin-dripping

sauce-swirling

cone-filling

flake-holding

tongue-freezing



# What is a kenning?

What did you notice about the phrases in each poem?

Each line of the poem is made of a two-word phrase.

tail-wagger

face-licker

Here the phrases are made up of a noun + a verb (by adding -er)



The words are joined by a hyphen.

lip-licking

chin-dripping

Here the phrases are made up of a noun + a verb (the verb usually ends in -ing).



# We use Kennings in everyday language!

How do we describe a very tall building?



sky-scra-per

A really sad film or story is often called a...



tear-jerker

# Let's have a go!

How can we write a kenning?

First, we need to choose a theme.



**eat**

Then, we brainstorm lots of words or phrases associated with that theme...

**mice** drinks milk nuzzle scratch

stalk **sleeps a lot** fur night

hunter hates **rubs ankles** purr  
dogs

# Let's have a go!

For each of these brainstormed words about cats, can you think of a noun – verb word pair? A couple of ideas have been done for you.

**mice**

drinks milk

nose - nuzzler

nuzzle

scratch

night-stalker

**stalk**

**sleeps a lot**

fur

**night**

**hunter**

hates

**rubs ankles**

purr-maker

purr

dogs

# Let's have a go!

How can we write a kenning?

Finally, put them together in your two-word phrases.

Don't forget the hyphens!

mouse-hunter

milk-drinker

night-stalker

fur-licker

ankle-rubber

dog-hater

nose-nuzzler

ear-scratcher

loud-purrer

