Literary Elements Terms for *Beowulf*

**Alliteration**- the repetition of stressed sounds, particularly consonants at the beginning of words or syllables.

**Boast**- statement praising oneself.

**Compounding**-Old English poetry makes use of compounding, the combining of two words to make a new word. An example is foerhseoc, literally "life-sick" ( feorh=life, seoc=sick).

**Kennings**-a special form of compounding that are metaphoric in nature and meaning. For example, the kenning banhaus (ban+haus), literally "bonehouse, refers to the human body.

**Riddles**- a puzzling question, statement, or problem, etc. Example-When is a door not a door? When it is ajar.

**wyrd**- fate

**in media res**- in the middle of things

**caesura**- a pause or break in a line or verse

**didactic**-intended to instruct

**fitt**- a division of a poem or song; a canto or similar division.