

We're going to do a little old-fashioned chest-thumping Anglo-Saxon style. Your boast should include the following:

- A. Self-identification (I am . . .)
- B. Your immediate ancestry and something about your lineage
- C. Boasts of at least three past achievements and/or hobbies
- D. Boast of an achievement to come
- E. Include at least three identifiable kennings (identify and define them in footnotes or margins)
- F. Include at least three identifiable alliterative phrases (monster-mashing, Grendel-grater)

Requirements:

- at least 26 lines in verse form (no need to rhyme, unless you want to).
- Each line of poetry should be around 10 words each (avoid short lines that stretch your content thin).
- Have fun with this! Be creative! Be humorous!
- Use the graphic organizer to guide your writing.

Two boasting examples in *Beowulf* can be found in lines 258-285) and lines 407-455, but here is an example. Please note that I: (1) do not rhyme, (2) follow the form: state my ancestry, boast of my (and my ancestry's) previous accomplishments, then state an accomplishment to come, (3) use frequent alliteration, (4) reference fate, which is very Anglo-Saxon, (5) use hyperbole, or extreme exaggeration, and (6) use frequent metaphors, including the Anglo-Saxon kenning.

I am Joseph Catalfano, son of Leo,
Who slew hundreds on the football fields
Of Roxborough, Pennsylvania and thus won renown
And became a trophy-god of legend and local lore.
5 I am the only son of Nancy, school secretary,
Talky tapper of typewriters and school-mother to
Hoads of young elementary rabble-rousers.
It was I who settled many scores on soccer fields
And, like-lightning, raced past many a defender
10 And shot the ball like a bullet launched from my foot.
It was I who, at the still-ripe age of eighteen, led
A teenage-team of soccer-worthies to victory
On the green battlefields marked by sweat, tears,
And the occasional blood-thirst of battles well fought.
15 But fate would choose a different path for me,
And I would hang up those cleats and arm myself
With book and pen for another battle.
Book-reader, essay-writer, German-speaker,
Stage-actor, story-teller, published near and far,
20 I spent four arduous, eye-aching and honor-worthy years
Preparing for the most honorable battlefield of all:
The high-school classroom of teenage tyros,
Being a model to the malleable minds of my desk-sitters,
Instilling the virtues of education, responsibility, respect,
25 And effective, clear communication while battling
The mutating monster of MCAS and the Satanic scourge of SATs.
Leaving no more red-ink in my wake, I will prove to thousands
That the pen is indeed mightier than any sword.