



Riddles In Literature: Old English Riddle

By Katharina Fischer

GRIN Verlag Jul 2010, 2010. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, University of Kassel (Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik), 16 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: Riddles and rhymes are very common in English speaking countries; they are even part of oral lore among children and students. True riddles or punning ones with a word of two uses are very popular, i.e. 'What runs but never walks - A river.'¹ Although they are regarded as special forms funny puzzles, enigmas and sayings were also an important element of poetic diction throughout the history of literature. Old English prose and verse are considered to be the oldest literature written in vernacular, although Latin and Germanic influence is apparent in the Old English language. During the Anglo-Saxon Period and especially under Alfred, King of Wessex, Old English language and poetry reached its highpoint. At this time the clergy was considered as the intellectual elite and so poetry was composed in monasteries and the so called 'writing-rooms'. The surviving manuscripts include heroic,...



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