

Chapter 15. Minitext J: *Maxims I*.

In poetry as in prose, you need to be able to identify the subject, object and verb (including auxiliaries and verbals) in any clause if you are to make sense of it. In the following extract from *Maxims I*, on the proper conduct of a queen, bracket each clause and mark all subjects (S), objects (O), finite verbs (F) and verbals (V).

Cyning sceal mid cēape cwēne gebicgan,
bunum ond bēagum; bū sceolon ārest
geofum gōd wesan. Gūð sceal in eorle,
wīg geweaxan, ond wif geþēon
lēof mid hyre lēodum, lēohtmōd wesan,
rūne healdan, rūmheort bēon
mēarum ond mǣpmum, meodorādenne,
for gesiðmægen symle āghwær
eodor æþelinga ārest gegrētan,
forman fulle to frēan hond
ricene gerācan, ond him rād witan
boldāgendum bām ætsomne.