

GLOSSARY OF CHARACTERS AND TERMS

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Abel

A biblical figure; brother of **Cain**, son of Adam and Eve. Slain by his brother, see Genesis 4:1–16. (108)

Ælfhere

A kinsman of **Wiglaf**; ælf- (elf) and here (army). (2604)

Æschere

A follower and warrior of **Hrothgar**; aesc- (ash or spear) and here (army) (1323)

æpeling

A prince, a man of royal blood, a hero (3)

Beanstan

The father of **Breca**; (perh.) from Icelandic bauni- (shark) or OE bēan (bean?) (524)

Beow

Danish king, the son of **Scyld** (18)

Beowulf

The hero of the poem (343)

Breca

A friend of Beowulf, chieftain of the **Brondings**; (perh.) from breca (rush, storm) (583)

Brondings

A tribe; (perh.) from brond (sword) or Old Norse brandr (prow) (521)

Brosings

Legendary tribe of dwarves who were supposed to make a necklace for goddess Freya (1201)

Cain

A biblical figure; brother of **Abel**, son of Adam and Eve. Killed his brother **Abel**, see Genesis 4:1–16. (107)

Dæghræfn

A warrior of the **Hugas**; dæg (day) and hrefn (raven) (2508)

(Dene) Danes

A people inhabiting what is now Southern Scandinavia, including modern Denmark and Scania (242)
Bright-Danes (426)
East-Danes (828)
North-Danes (783)
Ring-Danes (1281)
South-Danes (1998)
Spear-Danes (1)
West-Danes (383)

Eadgils

Son of **Ohthere**, brother of **Eanmund**, prince of **Sweden**; ead (wealth) and gisel (hostage) (2393)

Eanmund

Son of **Ohthere**, brother of **Eadgils** (2614)

Earnanæs

(Eagles') promontory in the land of the **Getas** (3033)

Ecglaf

Father of **Unferth**; ecg (sword) and laf (remnant) (498)

Ecgtheow, Ecgtheow

Father of **Beowulf** from the tribe of **Wæmundings**; ecg (sword) and theow (servant) (263)

Eofer, Iofor

A **Geat** warrior, killed **Ongentheow**; efor (boar) (2483)

Eomer

Son of **Offa**, king of the Angles; eoh (horse) and mære (famous) (1960)

Eormanric

King of the East Goths; eormen (immense) and rice (powerful) (1203)

Finn

Son of **Folcwalda**, Hnæf's brother in law, king of the **Frisians** (1095)

Fitela

Nephew of Sigmund (878)

Folcwalda

Father of **Finn** (1088)

Franks

A collective term for tribes first associated with Lower and Middle Rhine. They are attacked by **Hygelac**; (perh.) (spear-men), cf. franca (spear) (1212)

Freawaru

The daughter of **Hrothgar**; waru (watchful care) (2026)

Friesland

Land of the **Frisians** (2358)

Frisians

A people living in what is now the northern coast of the Netherlands and Germany (2913)

Garmund

Father of **Offa**; gar (spear) and mund (protection) (1965)

Geats

A people in what is now southern Sweden (195)

Battle-Geats (1540)

Hreðlingas (2961)

Sea-Geats (1853)

Weather-Geats (2381)

Weder-Geats (225)

Windloving, the (2706)

Gifthas

A people, possibly to be identified with the Gepids (2495)

Grendel

A being killed by **Beowulf** (102)

Guðlaf

A Danish warrior (1147)

Hæreth

The father of **Hygd** (1932)

Hæthcyn

A prince of the **Geats**; heathu (war) (2434)

Halga

A prince of the **Danes**, the younger brother of Hrothgar; derived from hal (hale, uninjured) (61)

Hama

A warrior who stole the **Brosings** necklace (1200)

Healfdene

A king of the **Danes**, son of **Beow** (57)

Heardred

A king of the **Geats**, son of **Hygelac** (2195)

Heatho-Bards

A people, enemies of the Danes; heatho- (war) and beard (beard) (2070)

Heatho-Raemas

A people, living in what is now southern Norway (518)

Heapolaf

A warrior of the **Wylfings** (459)

Hemming

A kinsman of **Offa** and **Eomer** (1944)

Hengest

A retainer of **Hnaef**, after **Hnaef's** death leader of the **Danes** in the battle of Finnsburgh; hengest (horse) (1082)

Heorogar

A king of the **Danes**, brother of **Hrothgar** and son of **Healfdene**; heoro (sword) or here (army) and gar (spear) (61)

Herebeald

A prince of the **Geats**; here (army) and beald (bold) (2434)

Heorot, Heort

The hall of **Hrothgar**, king of the **Danes**; heorot (stag) (78)

Heremod

A king of the **Danes**; here (army) and mod (courage) (900)

Hetware

A people, part of the **Franks**, inhabiting probably the Lower Rhine (2364)

Higelac, Hygelac

A king of the **Geats**, sometimes identified as Chlochilaicus, a king fighting with the **Franks** according to Gregory of Tours (434)

Hildeburh

The queen of **Finn**, king of the **Frisians**; hild (battle) and burg (a fortified place) (1070)

Hnæf, Hnaef

A chief of the **Danes**, son of **Hoc** and brother to **Hildeburh** (1068)

Hoc

The father of **Hildeburh** and **Hnæf** (1075)

Hondscio

A warrior of the **Geats**, a follower of **Beowulf** (2079)

Hrethel, Hrepel, Hreðel

A king of the **Geats**, father of **Hygelac** and grandfather of **Beowulf** (374)

Hrethric

A son of **Hrothgar**, brother of **Hrothmund**; hreth (glory) (1191)

Hrothgar

A king of the **Danes**, **Heorot** is his hall (61)

Hrothmund

A son of **Hrothgar**, brother of **Hrethric** (1191)

Hrothulf

A son of **Halga** (1016)

Hrunting

The sword of **Unferth**; hrindan (to push, to thrust) (1459)

Hugas

A people, part of the **Franks** (2505)

Hygd

The queen of **Higelac**; gehygd (thought, deliberation) (1929)

Merovingian, the

The king of the **Franks** (2922)

Modthryth

The queen of **Offa**; her name is actually a manuscript emendation and could be also read as Thryth (1934)

Nægling

The sword of **Beowulf** (2681)

Offa

A king of the Angles, husband of **Modthryth** (1951)

Ohthere, Ohtere

A son of **Ongentheow**; oht (pursuit) and here (army) (2381)

Onela

A king of the **Swedes**, son of **Ongentheow** (2618)

Ongentheow, Ongenðeow, Ongenthio

A king of the Swedes, father of **Ohthere** and **Onela** (1971)

Oslaf

A warrior of the **Danes** (1147)

Ravenswood

A forest in Sweden (2926)

Scyld

The founder of the **Scyldings** dynasty (4)

Scyldings, Shieldings

Descendants of **Scyld**, but also generally **Danes** (53)
People-Scyldings (1017)
Honor-Scyldings (Ar-Scyldings)(1713)
Victory-Scyldings (596)
War-Scyldings (1107)

Sigmund

Wælsing (876)
A son of **Wæls**, uncle of **Fitela** (874)

Swedes

A people, inhabiting the central part of what is today Sweden (2472)

Unferth

A follower of **Hrothgar**, son of **Ecglaf** (498)

Wægmund

The forefather of **Wæmundings** (2815)

Wæls

The father of **Sigmund** (896)

Wæmundings

The family of **Beowulf**, **Weohstan** and **Wiglaf** (2611)

Wealtheow

The queen of **Hrothgar**; (perh.) wealh (foreign) and theow (captive) (611)

Weland

The famous smith of the gods (454)

Wendels

A people, perhaps inhabitants of what is now Uppland in Sweden and northern Jutland; perhaps to be identified with the Vandals (348)

Wiglaf

A kinsman of Beowulf, member of the **Wæmundings**, son of **Wiglaf** (2606)

Wihstan, Weohstan

The father of **Wiglaf** (2606)

Wonred

A warrior of the **Geats**, father of **Wulf** and **Eofer** (2971)

Wulf

A warrior of the **Geats**, and a son of **Wonred** (2966)

Wulfgar

A member of the court of **Hrothgar** (348)

Wylfings, Wilfingas

A people, living probably on the southern coast of the Baltic sea (471)

wyrd

Fate, destiny (1235)

