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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)

æþeling
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 brecan (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)
Ecglafl
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; eofor (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 Folcwald, Hnæf’s brother in law, king of the Frisians (1095)

Fitela
Nephew of Sigmund (878)

Folcwald
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)

Frefawaru
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)
**Glossary of Characters and Terms**

**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, Hreþel, 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, Ongenđeow, 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
Wælings (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 Ecglaef (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)
**Welond**
The famous smith of the gods (454)

**Wendels**
A people, perhaps inhabitants of what is now Upland 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)

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

**wyrd**
Fate, destiny (1235)