

25 characters (plus 1 bonus character) Old Norse/Viking Fantasy Style

These characters were created for you to use in your RPG campaign, your Vikings fan fiction, or your visual novel about the Norse gods, and anything else, really. Doing a game jam and need a female viking character quickly? Well, here you are!

Feel free to take their stories and place them in your universe, and make them come to life by adding your own details, connections or story lines. Also feel free to change or replace anything you like. Make these characters your own!

If you find them useful, please be so kind to support my work by going back to <https://lanokigames.itch.io> and paying a small fee for this PDF if you haven't done it already.

If you want to acknowledge my contribution, consider adding a line like "Characters inspired by Lanoki" to your work, though it is by no means necessary.

Although well researched, these names are fantasy names. If you need 100% real viking names for your historical novel, please do your own research and be aware that the spelling of names has changed significantly since they were first written down in runes, then passed on to the handwriting in saga manuscripts, which later were transcribed by modern scholars to today's alphabet. Also, there isn't one Scandinavian language today, but several, all having their own special letters. So the name Hervör (as written in today's Icelandic and Swedish) would be written Hervør in Danish and Norwegian. Again: If you need accuracy, you need to do your own research!

While I am an Old Norse scholar, I'm not a runes expert, so please don't ask me how the names would be represented in runes.

Old Norse people have a given name (like Egill), and they often carry a nickname, especially when their given name is very common (like Þorsteinn the White), and there are absolutely no rules in the nickname business. It can be praise, it can be an insult, it can be a joke - just think of something and it'll be fine. Lastly, people are referred to as sons or daughters of their father or mother, more often patronyms (referring to the father) are used, but matronyms were far more common in Old Norse than in today's Iceland, where the system is still in use. Sometimes the father's nickname is taken into the composition as well (like Kolbrún Hjörleifsdóttir ins kvensama = Kolbrún, daughter of Hjörleifr the Womanizer - these names can really kickstart your imagination).

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Kolgrímr, son of Ketill Bloodaxe (♂)

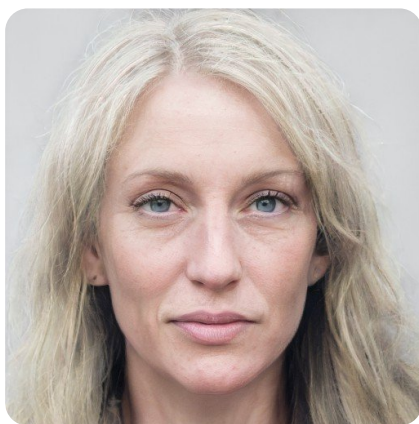
- diplomatic, appeases many conflicts, fair judge when called
- hard to bargain against
- has been having second thoughts about his past as a viking raider and slave trader
- once had a tame puffin which followed him everywhere
- misses his foster-brother and his funny jokes

Likes

- being clean, having his hair and beard well combed
- sitting in hot springs and hot tubs, swimming, alleviating his joint pain
- seeing the lambs run around in spring
- the sea breeze, bringing memories of sailing
- taking care of his foster-brother's children

Dislikes

- not being able to climb in the cliffs for egg-taking anymore
- people seeking his advice when they could have settled things themselves
- having to eat so much soup because of bad teeth



Þórhalla, daughter of Kjartan (♂)

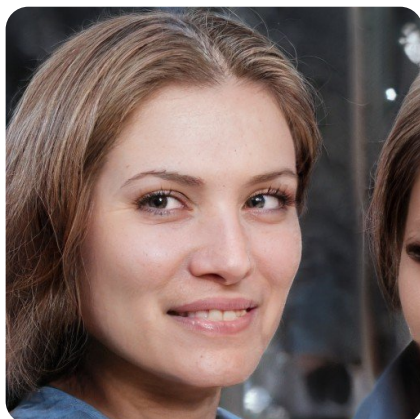
- decisive and opinionated, gets into discussions and arguments frequently
- makes harsh and hurtful remarks about other people
- hardworking, but still thinks it's never enough
- used to be religious, but her own misadventures in spite of all the worship have made her doubtful

Likes

- the few moments in late summer, after haymaking and before gathering the sheep, when there is little to do on the farm and she can sit outside and spin and talk to her children
- repeating the Irish songs and poems her mother taught her, and teaching them to her daughter
- having made winter provisions and knowing that the snowfall will begin any day now and that it's going to be okay

Dislikes

- strong believers in fate
- people who made their fortune on other people's misery, like slave traders
- men who think their opinion is more valuable just because they're men
- the moods her husband gets in when he drinks



Pórbjörg, daughter of King Alrekr

- excellent swordswoman and rider
- excellent swimmer
- knows more laws and facts of her father's kingdom than he does
- friendly and open personality
- very competitive

Likes

- weapons, fighting, battle
- giving orders
- horse riding, wearing armor
- dirty jokes
- being outside with the warriors, defending the realm

Dislikes

- being called a lady
- being disobeyed
- crafting, cooking, baking, art
- her father for not letting her command an army
- men coming to court her with poems instead of duelling



Kormákr, son of Kalman (♂)

- very good at boardgames, although he lacks patience
- is quick to make a denigrating rhyme about his opponents or people he doesn't like
- his love poems are awful
- afraid of bogs, drowning and suffocating

Likes

- poetry
- brawling
- sleeping in late
- watching the foals grow up and giving them names
- fishing
- being outdoors (on land, not on ships)
- making compliments
- women

Dislikes

- magic, but he also dislikes hard or dirty work, so there's a problem
- technical things on ships, sailing
- preparing food, slaughtering, whaling
- dirty people



Eiðr, son of Eyvindr (♂) the Snake

- patient with children and dogs
- tries to mediate when people are fighting
- fluent reader
- has a fear of getting lost when the nights are not starry
- prone to nightmares

Likes

- woodworking
- going into the woods, felling trees
- ship building
- constructing toys for his kids
- singing, telling jokes, rhyming
- the smell of beer and soup

Dislikes

- insects
- religion (trusts in himself)
- going away for long or unknown periods of time
- being alone
- farm work
- horse riding



Valgerðr, daughter of Melkorka (♀)

- would love to find out more about her ancestors who came from Ireland, but they were taken by force and she hasn't had a way of leaving the farm
- widow
- takes care of the farm together with her children and servants
- not a good cook, but nobody dares to tell her

Likes

- cleanliness
- singing
- listening to poetry and stories from abroad

Dislikes

- people bringing in dirt
- slavery, especially men taking slave women
- sleepless nights during lambing season



Hrifla the Seer, daughter of Iron-Skeggi (♂)

- sometimes has visions of things that happen in other places
- knows a lot of religious lore, but is not religious herself, having lost faith after being traumatised by violence
- has no husband

Likes

- her farm
- her daughter
- her independence
- everything involving sheep
- trying new ways to bake, cook, and conserve food

Dislikes

- men
- bulls
- violence, weapons
- slaughtering sheep (gets the neighbors to do it)
- leaving home
- cruelty to horses while breaking them in
- repairing fences



Rannveig, daughter of Hrifla (♀) the Seer

- can recite other people's poems and does so often at parties
- frequently quarrels with her mother
- wants to sail abroad and settle somewhere else
- afraid of large bulls because of an accident as a child
- stillborn lambs make her cry

Likes

- being independent
- poetry and poets
- crafting with wool, spinning, weaving, felting
- wood whittling
- board games
- listening to stories from other places
- baking
- wind

Dislikes

- living with her mother, and that she's not allowed to take over her mother's farm because of her age
- the moments when people sail away
- people talking about things she doesn't know about and not explaining them
- cutting up a stranded whale



Gunnbjörn, son of Gunnsteinn (♂)

- gets depressed in winter and can hardly get up
- his family lacks understanding of his depression
- is very strong and wins most armwrestling competitions
- excellent swimmer
- used to love ice fishing and is sad he can't get himself to do it anymore

Likes

- all sorts of light: sunlight, stars, northern lights, fire, candles
- feats of strength, armwrestling
- seeing his children grow up and and supporting them getting better at things

Dislikes

- darkness, the colour black
- winter (except snow because it is light)
- people singing, dancing and having fun when he is depressed
- when the children don't make an effort to achieve something difficult



Deaf Oddr, son of Helgi (♂)

- is not deaf
- believes evil spirits are at work when people get sick, gets very upset
- doesn't believe the old gods are as powerful as they were before
- heavy drinker

Likes

- making fire, stoking the fire, burning things in the fire
- sailing, rowing, fishing
- snow, skiing, ice skating
- warming up after coming in from the cold
- playing with the boys

Dislikes

- his nickname which he got because he didn't respond when being called for work
- rain, fog, puddles
- being cold
- any kind of sickness



Ásdís, daughter of Deaf Oddr (♂)

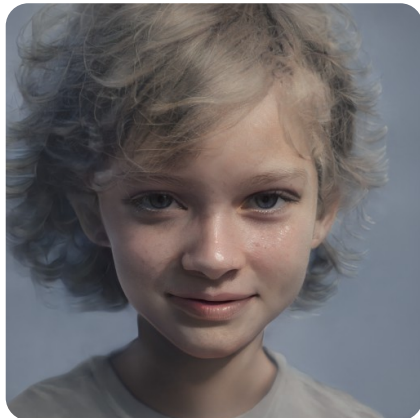
- very curious about the new religion
- has a fear of the house burning down and is very careful with fire
- wants to learn to read and write

Likes

- her little brothers
- walks on the sea shore collecting decorative things
- serving food at parties, entertaining guests and listening to their stories, staying up late
- making toys for the younger children

Dislikes

- having to do household chores when the boys go out hunting
- cruelty against animals
- being in the woods at night



Hallgrímr, son of Deaf Oddr (♂)

- good swimmer
- can identify almost all animals from their footprints in mud or snow, and all birds by their eggs
- excellent sense of orientation, never gets lost
- keeps and trains fighting cocks

Likes

- ice skating
- ball games
- fighting games
- board games
- poetry slams
- cock fights
- hunting birds
- fishing
- winning

Dislikes

- losing (sore loser, but only until the next game)
- horse riding
- farm work, except where it can be made into a contest
- hates when his father gets drunk



Ásmundr, son of Hrómundr (♂)

- deeply religious
- worried about the gods losing strength
- has trouble falling asleep when not at home
- excellent sailor and navigator
- picks up foreign words easily

Likes

- his wife and family
- trading, bargaining, making a good deal
- bringing home great finds

Dislikes

- leaving his wife and family behind
- his brother, suspects him of hitting on his wife in his absence (which he doesn't)
- non-religious people



Ingjaldr, son of Þorkell (♂)

- has not felt joy since his brother was killed in battle by his side
- takes care of his old parents and the family farm
- feels hopeless of ever getting married
- lost faith in all gods

Likes

- used to like singing, hiking and hunting
- being inside with his dog at his feet
- he still thinks sunsets are beautiful

Dislikes

- fighting, weapons, revenge, aggressive behavior of men or animals
- having to talk when he wants to be quiet
- unexpected guests and having to cater for them (but he does it)



Þórarinn, son of Atli (♂)

- used to be a womanizer
- makes harsh judgements about the younger generation
- has trust issues
- thinks ability to read is overrated
- likes to keep his axe sharp, even though he is too old to fight

Likes

- his brothers
- his blood-brother
- dogs
- fist fights, duels, brawling and plundering
- jewellery
- catching birds
- the smell of wet moss and tree bark
- dirty jokes and poems

Dislikes

- being old and crippled
- his sisters and his sisters-in-law
- food preparation (vegetables, cheese, bread)
- poets (calls them snake-tongues)
- cats (calls them thrashers and slashers)



Vésteinn, son of Brynjólfr (♂) the Wind-Drunk

- fears losing his sight like his father and grandfather did
- seeks solace in love affairs, thereby alienating his wife and kids
- deeply religious

Likes

- bow hunting
- wild boars, hunting and eating them
- his friends
- sailing
- raiding, duels, brawling
- telling riddles or solving told riddles
- bringing gifts
- stories of battles or gods

Dislikes

- snakes and other pests that can be expected in foreign parts
- his friends talking about their families
- coming home empty-handed
- long days at sea without events



Kolbrún, daughter of Vésteinn (♂)

- despises her father and gets violently angry at him
- never accepts his gifts
- secretly in love with Rannveig and dreams of running away with her, but does not have the courage to tell her

Likes

- Rannveig

Dislikes

- all male gods, frequently mocking them for being dependent of their wives and daughters
- crafting with wool, but forces herself to do it because Rannveig likes it



Árni, son of Áskell (♂) the Hoarse

- wants to be a blacksmith or a swordsmith when he grows up
- good swimmer
- compassionate when animals are in distress
- grows up with his foster-father Vésteinn

Likes

- leatherworking
- horses
- fire
- ironworking
- weapons
- dragons, snakes
- ships
- stories about all of the above

Dislikes

- not being taken seriously because of his age
- living in a family where nobody can read and having nobody to teach him



Þórunn, daughter of Ari (♂)

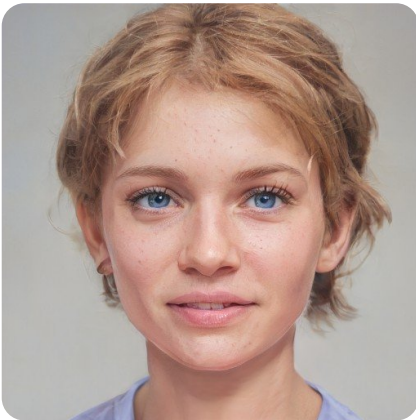
- lost her first husband at sea
- has remarried, but out of economic reasons and is unhappy
- lacks the courage to get a divorce
- very protective of her son Ari, and is glad he is not a warrior type

Likes

- conversations with her servants while doing the household chores, singing together
- spinning, weaving
- her son from the first marriage

Dislikes

- boats, sailing, travelling
- people mocking her son
- sour food, cheese, milk
- her husband's silent way of dealing with issues



Ari, son of Ófeigr (♂)

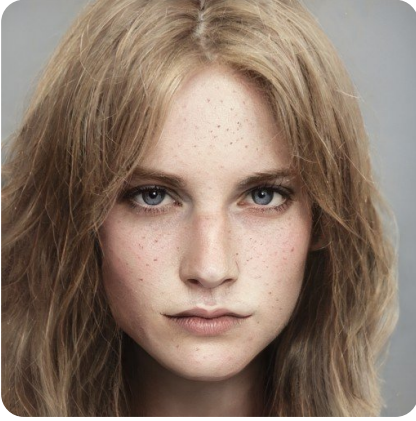
- excellent at making nets and trades them for desirable objects at very good value
- good friends with Rannveig who teaches him a lot about crafting
- afraid of trolls, witches and sea monsters, but enjoys stories of them
- wishes for a tame raven and wants to be called Hrafn

Likes

- birds, especially ravens, but also chicken, geese
- sheep
- sheep shearing, wool crafting
- shiny objects
- listening to stories and retelling them to everyone, regardless of their having heard them before
- eating raw fish and pretending to be a raven
- stories about ravens

Dislikes

- being mocked by boys for his "girly" crafting interests and liking of shiny things
- sailing, the sea, storms, being alone outside (being in the company of sheep or birds is not alone)
- horses
- dogs



Sólrún, daughter of Óspakr (♂)

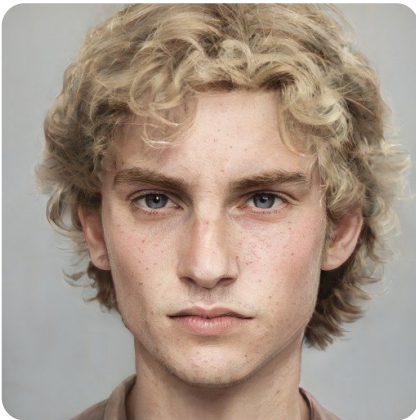
- servant at Högni's and Þórunn's farm
- does her work, but is shy and reclusive
- does not participate in chatting and singing, but listens intently, memorizing everything

Likes

- her brother
- Þórunn, because she understands her grief (but cannot communicate her own traumatic experiences)
- Ari and his crazy raven behaviour

Dislikes

- Hervör
- Hervör's father



Sumarliði, son of Óspakr (♂)

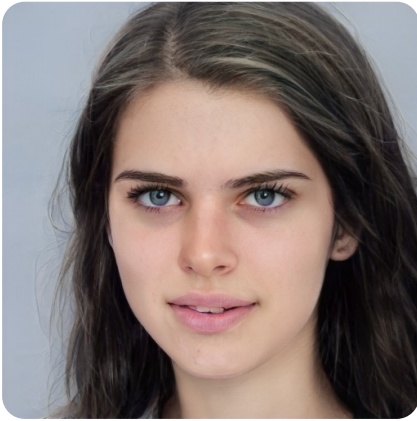
- farmhand at Högni's and Þórunn's farm
- knows Hervör is in love with him, but is unsure of his feelings towards her
- admires Ísleifr and the riches he brought home, while being naive about how he got them

Likes

- his sister
- Ari, although he finds him a bit too weird sometimes
- Hervör

Dislikes

- not being able to be a viking raider
- being poor and dependent
- not being able to go look for his other siblings who could or could not be travelling with his parents, begging for food and shelter
- Signý, because she doesn't appreciate the opportunities she got



Hervör, daughter of Högni (♂)

- step daughter of Þórunn
- in love with Sumarliði, but is too shy to tell him. Also her father would never approve
- steals shiny objects from Ari

Likes

- playing with dogs and training them to do tricks
- combing and braiding her hair, bathing, looking neat
- brushing dogs and horses
- jewellery
- valuable gifts

Dislikes

- Þórunn (most of the time)
- Ari's like of shiny things and his raven obsession
- household work
- Sólrún
- Signý, because she suspects her of being in love with Sumarliði



Signý, daughter of Ísleifr (♂)

- talks really fast, very quick witted
- can impersonate anyone's talking on the farm
- picks up different accents from guest quickly
- mocks everyone, especially Sumarliði, probably because she likes him

Likes

- poetry
- dirty jokes and insults
- stories and songs about warriors
- drinking, dancing, having fun
- the idea of one time sailing away and learning to read and write and foreign languages

Dislikes

- having to fill the role of her mother (who has died) when they receive guests
- love songs and love poems



Ísleifr, son of Höskuldr (♂) the lame

- very proud of his daughter Signý although he rarely shows it
- has nightmares about his time as a viking raider and plunderer
- has trust issues
- doesn't enjoy the riches he got plundering although they make life easy for him

Likes

- poetry
- inviting people to stay for the winter, being kind to guests, giving them valuable gifts

Dislikes

- being a widower
- the idea of dying alone in his sleep, but also the idea of remarrying, or going on raids again
- songs and stories glorifying the deeds of plunderers and warriors

Bonus character:



Naðra

real name is Steinunn, daughter of Torfi (♂)

- her hair turned white after she fell into a hot spring as a child
- rubs her scars from that accident with plant extracts to alleviate the pain, colouring them greenish
- can foresee the future in vague terms, sensing difficulties (but it's mainly because she is very clever)
- ambivalent about seemingly not being able to have children

Likes

- having sex with newly arrived people
- soft, smooth surfaces
- having as few things as possible
- being able to travel
- patterns, in sand, stones, wood; runes
- goats and goat milk products
- iron and metal in general
- herb garden
- plant lore

Dislikes

- dislikes being ordered to foresee the future
- being pitied
- cold, because it hurts her scars
- longterm relationships
- being dependent or perceiving herself as being dependent
- sweet food and sweet things in general
- being called a völva or being presented as one