

A Checklist of Common Characters in the Ulster Cycle

Conchobur mac Nessa – The Ri of the Ulaid.

Deichtine – Usually Conchobur's sister; in some stories his daughter.

Sualtaim mac Roech – The husband of Deichtine

Cu Chulaind (Cu Chulainn – the Hound of Chulaind), **Setanta** (his birth name) – The son of Deichtine (and of Lug or Sualtaim); the greatest warrior of the Ulaid; Ireland's greatest warrior

Emer – The wife of Cu Chulaind

Loeg mac Riagabur – The charioteer and friend of Cu Chulaind

Nessa – The mother of Conchobur, sometime wife of Fergus

Cathub (Cathbad) – A druid, the father of Conchobur

Fergus mac Roech – The deposed Ri of the Ulaid, sometimes described as foster father of Cu Chulaind

Conall Cernach – A great Ulaid warrior; sometimes described as foster brother of Cu Chulaind

Bricriu Nemthenga – An Ulaid warrior who loves troublemaking

Dubthac Doeltenga – An Ulaid warrior with a dark disposition

Cormac Conde Longes – Son of Conchobur

Loegure Buadach – A great Ulaid warrior

Cu Rui son of Dare – A warrior king from Mumu; a magical, unearthly figure

Eogan mac Durthacht – A warlord who does not always accept the authority of Conchobur

Senchae son of Aillil – A druid; normally shown as a judge figure

Scathach – Woman warrior teacher; usually located in Northern Scotland, the Hebrides

Aife – Described as enemy of Scathach but also as her sister; she has a child by Cu Chulaind

Condlac – Son of Aife and Cu Chulaind

Derdriu – Daughter of Fedlimid; fated to bring great trouble to the Ulaid

Noisiu mac Uisliu – Derdriu's chosen lover

Medb (Maeve) – The Queen of Connachta; one of the most powerful figures in the Ulster Cycle

Ailill – Married to Medb; the Ri of Connachta

Findabair – The daughter of Medb and Ailill

Mane – the seven sons of Medb and Ailill

Ferdiad (Ferdia) – A great warrior of Connachta; described as Cu Chulaind's foster brother

Tuatha De Danand – The People of the Goddess Danu; people of the otherworld, the Side

Badb – One form of the triple goddess of death

Morrigan – Another form of the triple goddess of death

Nemuin – The third, disembodied form of the triple goddess of death; little more than a terrifying scream in the night

PLACES

Albu – Usually Scotland; sometimes all of Scotland, Wales, and England

Bruig na Boinde – Newgrange; a 5000-year old burial mound in the Boyne River Valley; one entrance to the Side

Cuailnge – Cooley, a location in South Eastern Ulster; home of the great Brown Bull of Cooley

Connachta – The people of Connaught, ruled by Medb and Ailill and mortal enemies of the Ulaid; the province itself

Cruachu – The rath (royal compound) of Medb and Ailill and the Connachta

Emuin Machae – The rath (royal compound) of Conchubur and the Ulaid

Eriu - Ireland

Lagin – The people of Leinster; the province itself.

Mag Muirthemni – *Mag* means plain, thus the Plain of Muirthemni, where Cu Chulaind grew up and lived

Mumu – The people of Munster; the province itself.

Side – The *shee*; the other world of the Tuatha De Danand; often refers to the people themselves; often used in conjunction with place names to identify burial mounds, thus Sid Ban Find, Sid Breg, etc.

Sliab Fuait (Slieve) – *Sliab* means mountain, thus the Mountain of Fuait; often described as a wilderness area in the southwest portion of Ulster

Temuir – Tara; often considered the seat of the mythological high kings (Ard Ri) of Ireland

Ulaid – The people of Ulster; the province itself