**Lanval**

Genre/ Literary tradition:

Romance; 8-syllable line structure; Arthurian fable

Themes:

Envy; lack of courtly virtue (largesse); slandering

Answer the following questions:

1/ Plot and theme:

Consider the plotline of "Lanval" . Can you describe it? What is the treatment of love? Does the *lai* represent conventional, Church-sanctioned morality? If not, what values does it represent? Note the Arthurian elements present in this story (the only one of the *lais* with an Arthurian setting). How are Guenevere and Arthur portrayed? What are their shortcomings? Who or what is Lanval's sweetheart? How does the story end? Are you surprised by this ending? Is it justified? What are the implications for the target audience? Is there a more serious message here? More importantly, are there "serious messages" that are clearly *not* intended by this sort of fairy-tale like fantasy?

2/ Literary tradition and theme:

So find out what we’re talking about. Where do you see Romance elements in Lanval?

How is Lanval’s Anglo-Norman world different from/similar to the Anglo-Saxon contexts we’ve looked at earlier? You might think about things like the structure of the court; differing gender roles; the status of violence & warfare; the characteristics of a “hero”; riches/wealth.