

ENGLISH 201  
FINAL PAPER: OPTION TWO, VARIANT ONE

---

*Follow the directions carefully. Use complete sentences—no bullet points.*

1. Print out a copy of Marie de France, *Lanval*. You can find it here:

<http://users.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/marie/lanval.pdf>

2. Number the lines. (It is usual to number every 5<sup>th</sup> line, so write 5 in the margin near line 5, then do 10, 15, etc.) Every citation from the poem should have a line number: Lanval was “nice” (line 3).

3. Use different colored hi-lighters to hi-light the following:

- a. in one color, hi-light every adjective that Marie uses to describe Lanval directly (for example, in line 3, “**nice**”). You are looking for adjectives that are near the name Lanval, the word “knight,” “him,” and so forth and are usually used with the verb *to be*. For example, *he is tall, he is nice*.
- b. in another color, hi-light every word or phrase that describes Lanval indirectly (for example, in line 24, it tells us that Lanval was **envied**, and in line 28 that he had a **noble lineage**). These are nouns, adjectives, verbs, or adverbs that tell you something about Lanval without describing him directly. For example, *he was noble* would belong to 3a (because *noble* is an adjective and it uses the verb *to be*), but *he had a noble lineage* belongs here. It matters because with 3a-words, Marie is telling you what Lanval is like; with 3b-words, you are making assumptions about Lanval’s character.
- c. in a third color, hi-light major plot points that relate to him (for example, line 19 tells us that Lanval **got no treasure from Arthur**).

Note: if a word isn’t immediately clear to you, look it up. Use the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED): <http://www.library.umass.edu/collections/azlist/oxford-english-dictionary/>

4.     Make a list of all the words from 3a. This is List 3a.  
       Make a list of all the words & phrases from 3b. This is List 3b.  
       Make a list of all the plot points from 3c. This is List 3c.

5. Now you have three sets of data. The first set contains direct descriptions of Lanval. The second contains indirect descriptions of Lanval. And the third contains his role in the plot. Now you can subcategorize these. Some categories may overlap. One category is **physical description**. In all three data sets, after every word or phrase that deals with Lanval’s body, put a \*. The next category is **abstract qualities**. After every word or phrase that deals with Lanval’s emotions, desires, or intellect, put a —. Finally, the last category is **other characters**. After every word or phrase that deals with the thoughts or bodies of other characters, put an “O”. You may have some entries with two or more marks after them, like “\* — O” and other entries may not fit at all.

6. Now it’s time to put it all together.

**Paragraph 1.** Leave this alone. Don’t write it yet.

**Paragraphs 2–4.** Describe how Marie de France describes Lanval **directly**. Use the evidence that you have gathered in List 3a. Begin with the physical (\*), then move to the abstract (—), then describe what other people think of him (O). Try to stay away from all value judgments. Just the facts.

**Paragraph 5.** Describe your personal reactions to the direct description of Lanval. What *precisely* does Marie say? To put it another way, what evidence do you have and what assumptions do you make? What value judgments do you infer? For example, when Marie tells you that Lanval is *nice*, what does that mean to you? Polite? Generous? Friendly?

**Paragraphs 6–8.** Describe how Marie de France describes Lanval **indirectly**. Use the evidence that you have gathered in List 3b. Begin with the physical (\*), then move to the abstract (—), then describe what other people think of him (O).

**Paragraph 9.** Describe your personal reactions to the indirect description of Lanval. For example, when you read that Arthur gave Lanval no treasure, are you assuming that Lanval thought that was unfair? Are you putting yourself in Lanval's shoes? (Later in the paper, you will use these assumptions to develop themes.)

**Paragraphs 10–12.** Describe how Lanval responds to plot points. He leaves his horse. Is he sad? Does he respond at all? Use the evidence that you have gathered in List 3c. Begin with the physical (\*), then move to the abstract (—), then describe what other people think of him (O).

**Paragraph 13.** Try to explain how the plot reveals different aspects of Lanval's inner thoughts. What does the introduction reveal? What does the meeting with the Fairy Queen reveal? Go in order and be very brief.

**Paragraphs 14–16.** Assemble a list of your assumptions about Lanval's character. Use the data from Paragraph 9 (which is your response to List 3b). Since you've identified the facts, now identify the assumptions that make Lanval "real."

**Optional paragraph.** Review Lists 3a–3c. Are there any adjectives, nouns, or phrases that you couldn't categorize? If so, list them. Do they reveal anything about Lanval's character?

**Final paragraph(s).** Try to sum up what you know about Lanval from Marie's direct description, from indirect descriptions, and from the plot. See if you can sum up what you had to assume in order to make Lanval "real." When it comes to the character of Lanval, what did Marie make and what did you make?

Now it's time to write a brief **introductory paragraph**. Start with your thesis statement (which is modified from your conclusion). Describe the categories of evidence you look at in paragraphs 1–16. Lastly, list very, very briefly, what each one tells you about the character of Lanval.

7. Turn in your paper. Good luck! —sh